

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Role of Those to Be Confirmed

Those to be confirmed must be suitably instructed and properly disposed. They must be willing to be involved in the preparation program **with the intention of remaining faithful to Christ and his Church.**

The Role of Parents

As parents, you play a primary role in the sacramental preparation program. You help your son or daughter grow in faith as you prepare him or her for fruitful reception of the sacrament. Your attendance at required meetings and the Sunday parish celebrations of the Eucharist is vital. There is, and can be, no substitute for your actual presence at such moments. Your interest, involvement, and concern make a difference in your son's or daughter's perception of what this sacrament and the Christian life are all about.

The Role of the Sponsor

Jesus uses ordinary people to manifest His Presence. Therefore, each candidate, with the help of his or her parents, is responsible for choosing a sponsor. It is recommended that, if possible, the Baptismal sponsor also be the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express, more clearly, the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and make the function of the sponsor more effective. There is no regulation determining that men be sponsors for boys and women be sponsor for girls.

Qualifications:

- Is a baptized Catholic and has received the Eucharist and has been confirmed.
- Is a practicing Catholic who participates in the Eucharistic celebration every Sunday.
- Lives a good Catholic life.
- Is at least 16 years of age.
- The sponsor may not be the mother or father of the one who is to be confirmed.
- It is the responsibility of the sponsor to give assurance of his or her qualifications.
- Completes the Sponsor Form and has it signed by the Pastor of his/her Parish

Sponsors take on a lifelong commitment to help their candidates fulfill the obligations of this sacrament. During the time of preparation, the sponsors are expected to take an active role in the confirmation program and meet with their candidates on a regular basis. Sponsors must be present at the confirmation practice and ceremony. Their immediate role demands time, commitment, and a willingness to engage in faith-sharing activities with their candidates. Persons, who are too young, live too far away, or who are too busy to devote proper time and care to the candidates, may not be able to fulfill this role.

Confirmation Name

All Confirmandi have been asked to select a Confirmation Name. This Name is to be a Saint's Name, one who will be a model for them of the Christian Life. It can be one's Baptismal name (since Confirmation is a completion of the initiation into the church begun at Baptism) or the name of another Saint, male or female. The students will be required to complete a report about the Saint whose name they have selected for their Confirmation Name.

Letter to the Bishop

All Candidates are to write a letter to the bishop requesting Confirmation. Directives for this letter described in the Confirmation packet are meant to assist the Candidate in articulating what this Sacrament has come to mean for them, and how the Candidate plans to live out one's witness of Jesus Christ in his/her daily life.

Stewardship

Confirmation is the Sacrament of Christian Service. As Christians, we are called to reach out to others in need. This is the purpose of emphasizing **stewardship** in preparation for Confirmation. It is a time when we try to become aware of others' needs, when we look around and see the poor, the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the elderly, the weak, the helpless-----THE NEEDY. It is a consciousness-raising time.

Stewardship activities are to be recorded on the Service Form that has been provided to you and turned in periodically during the year so that the hours can be recorded.

Seminars and Retreats

Confirmandi are required to participate in all Confirmation Retreats and meetings during the year. A schedule will be provided with specific meeting dates. Parents & Confirmandi are also required to attend Family Honor in February and all Confirmandi are required to participate in the Retreat, this date is to be determined.

Confirmation Penance Service

All Confirmandi are to receive the Sacrament of Penance prior to the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. A special service for all candidates will be scheduled. More information related to this service will be forwarded at a future date.

Confirmation Practice

A practice will be held for BOTH SPONSORS AND CANDIDATE prior to Confirmation. As soon as the Confirmation date is known, the date and time of the practice will also be communicated. If a sponsor is coming in from out of town, a parent will need to fill in at the practice.

Confirmation Day

The exact day is not known at this time. As soon as we are informed, we will pass this information along to you so that you can let your sponsors know.

Confirmation Dress

BOYS

- **Suit or dress pants with sports jacket**
- **White shirt**
- **Solid color tie (red is recommended, but not mandatory)**
- **Dress shoes (no sneakers or sandals)**

GIRLS

- **Dress or skirt with a nice blouse**
- **Modest neckline**
- **Tops must have sleeves; short sleeves are alright, but no sleeveless tops**
- **If top is sleeveless or has spaghetti straps, a jacket or sweater needs to be worn with it**
- **Skirts and dresses should be knee length or longer**
- **Dressy shoes (no sneakers or flip-flops)**