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## **What is Confirmation?**

Confirmation, together with Baptism and Eucharist, form the Sacraments of Initiation that are all intimately connected. Catholics believe the Sacrament of Confirmation is the spiritual equivalent of the growth process on the natural level. It builds on what was begun in Baptism and what was nourished in Holy Eucharist. It completes the process of initiation into the Christian community, and it matures the soul for the work ahead. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ and the greater Church community. Confirmation calls us to a greater participation in the life of Christ and the Church. Through Confirmation and preparation, our relationship with God is deepened. Through our Confirmation, we are called to be true witnesses and disciples of Christ, to spread and live the Catholic faith in word and action.

## **Why Be Confirmed?**

Baptism, the Eucharist, and Confirmation together are the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation completes the grace received in baptism. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed" (CCC 1285).

In Confirmation the Holy Spirit comes to us to strengthen us, to increase and deepen the grace of our baptism, and to make us disciples for Christ. Confirmation and the reception of the Holy Spirit equips us to spread and defend the Catholic faith. When taking the step of Confirmation, it indicates that a person has reached a level of Spiritual maturity that has little to do with chronological age. St. Thomas Aquinas reminds us that "age of the body does not determine age of the soul." A child can mature in faith, just as an adult can remain in spiritual childhood.

## **Requirements of the Catholic Church**

The Catholic Church requires that a person meet certain requirements or be in a certain state of readiness before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. These requirements are stated in the Code of Canon Law §§ 889-891 and the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1306-1311. They are:

**Faith:** The person must be baptized. Candidates for Confirmation must profess their faith with the Church.

**Grace:** Candidates must be in the state of grace when receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Will or Choice:** The candidate needs to have a clear and deliberate intention to receive the sacrament. They must be open to accept the responsibilities of being a witness for Christ.

**Sponsor:** Candidates are to seek the spiritual help of a sponsor.

## **Confirmation Readiness**

We will not confirm anyone who doesn't want to be confirmed. A person shows they want to be confirmed by manifesting their intentions in their actions and preparing to the best of their abilities. To help candidates grow and prepare for the grace of Confirmation, as well as give them a chance to show they are willing and ready, they will need to fulfill the check list provided. Completing the check list will help them prepare for Confirmation, grow in faith, build a spiritual relationship with their sponsor, and begin to become active in the life of the parish community.

It may arise that the Confirmation candidate is not ready to be confirmed by the date of Confirmation. In this case, they will not be denied Confirmation, we will instead help them complete their preparation and find a Confirmation date once they have manifested in their actions that they are ready, whether it be a few weeks, a few months, or a year later. They will be confirmed, if it is their desire.

## **The Role of the Parent**

Parents and guardians are the primary educators of their children. Parents should pray with, teach, and lead their children by example of Christian lifestyle. What is important to you will be important to your child. The family's role is to share weekly experiences of Mass, prayer, and with the youth preparing for Confirmation. This includes the parents/guardians and siblings praying together and sharing their own faith journeys. Youth learn what they live, but first and foremost, they learn what their parent lives.

## **Role of the Parish**

The role of the parish is to journey with the youth and parents. In addition to celebrating Mass on Sunday, providing parent support and informational meetings, we will also assist you in whatever ways possible. The parish also prepares youth and families through the Religious Education program. Through Religious Education, we provide ways to learn and live out their faith, opportunities for service to the community and church, and also opportunities for spiritual growth – Reconciliation, Prayer Services, and teaching about the life of faith.

## **Commitment Form**

At the beginning of formal Confirmation Preparation, a commitment form between the student and parents/guardians is to be signed and turned in to the office. This document is a commitment between the candidate, the parents/guardians, and the Confirmation staff /team of what is expected in the year of preparation. We ask you to read, agree with, and sign the Commitment form. Each one of us is responsible to make this time of preparation and reflection on faith a great experience, and a signed form agreements help us to strengthen our commitments and accountability to each other.

## **Confirmation Registration Sheet**

Each student is required to register for the Sacrament of Confirmation and fill out the general information on the form. This information is required to record the Sacrament, to verify baptism, and to keep parent and family information up to date. In order to record Confirmation in the sacramental records we need the date and location of your baptism, if you were not baptized at St. Catherine, please provide a copy of your baptismal certificate.

## Service Hours

Serving others is a rich part of the Catholic Faith; it is also the center of what confirmation is about. As a part of preparation for Confirmation, candidates will be required to complete 20 service hours – 10 in the church and 10 in the greater community.

### 1) Church Community

- a. Examples: Help with the liturgical ministries at Mass (song-leader, usher, lector with one practice before mass or server), Help with parish fundraisers (bazaars, festivals, dinners, coffee & rolls, etc), Assist in the Religious Education Office by making copies or help clean, Help decorate the church for the different seasons, Help by bringing someone to Mass with you, Help fundraise for our Mission in Guatemala, Write a letter of encouragement and support to a diocesan seminarian, a young woman in formation in a religious community, Help with the elementary Religious Education on Wednesdays, Going on a Catholic Heart work camp or a Mission trip, helping with Vacation Bible school, etc.

### 2) Greater Community

- a. Examples: Send cards or letters, or bring small gifts to a resident in a care center or Nursing Home, Volunteer to baby sit for someone, Volunteer to help senior members of the parish with yard work, cleaning or snow removal, Visit an elderly person (play games with them), Volunteer to help at the county fair, Learn how to play a game such as chess and teach someone else how to play it, too, Volunteer at the local food shelf or form a food drive, Volunteer at school (mentoring, helping teachers or in classrooms)

NOTE: All candidates must fulfill these service hours respectfully and with dignity as any Christian should. All forms must be signed by the service leader upon completion of each service opportunity. There are forms in your Confirmation Binder, on the website, and in the faith formation office.

# Confirmation Sponsor

## Sponsor Information

- Each candidate must have a sponsor to be confirmed.
- These sponsors bring the candidate to receive the Sacrament, present them to the minister for anointing, and later will help them to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received.
- A sponsor should be someone the candidate can look up to and see as a role model of how to live out the faith life.
- Candidates are asked to pray about and choose a sponsor who will walk with them at the Confirmation day as well as during the preparation time.
- A sponsor should be a person who is willing to discuss faith issues with the young person they sponsor and should be available for sponsor/candidate events.
- We ask that candidates try to choose a sponsor who a life in the area, as their full support and participation is important to the experience. Sponsors and candidates are expected to spend time together and complete some written activities.
- Sponsors are encouraged to interact with the candidate, sharing faith and service during the time or preparation. Ideally, the sharing of faith would continue between the sponsor and the confirmed person as he or she grows older.
- To sponsor someone in a Sacrament is both an honor and a challenge.
- The expectations the Church has for a sponsor are serious and important. Your presence as a faithful adult makes a difference.

## Sponsors must...

- Be **16 or older** and sufficiently mature for this responsibility.
- Be a **confirmed Catholic**
- Lead a life in harmony with the faith and be in good standing with the church. A sponsor in good standing participates in Sunday Mass. They also celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly, as well as serve in their parish.
- Be willing to help their candidate in their faith journey.
- Be involved in the process of catechesis.
- Not be one of your parents (the sponsor may be a parent of another candidate, however.)
- Be able to take the role of sponsor and participate in events through the year. This includes meeting with the candidate to discuss faith at Confirmation classes. It also includes Confirmation practices and the Mass of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## Candidate Sponsor Faith Sharing

All candidates are asked to complete the faith sharing program. The purpose of this program is to have the sponsors and mentors assist the parents in leading their children to love and serve God in daily life. There are 5 faith sharing activity sheets that the candidates should complete with their sponsor. **Due 4 times throughout the year; see attached check list for dates.**

## Retreat

Confirmation candidates will participate in a retreat day. **The retreat schedule will be announced at a later time.** This will be announced at least two months before the retreat date so you can plan ahead. You will be considered absent if you do not attend the whole time.

Students may choose to attend a **TEC Retreat** in addition to the local retreat. TEC applications are available in the office and gathering space. If you choose to attend a TEC retreat please see Katie before the TEC retreat and for more information. I highly recommend these retreats. [www.riverbendtec.org](http://www.riverbendtec.org)

## Confirmation Class and Attendance

If you are seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is an expectation that you will attend each class and experience offered during the time of preparation. Attendance is taken each week. Excused absences include illness and family emergencies. Excessive tardiness and absences are a concern, and may lead to a discussion about your commitment to being confirmed at this time. Each student is allowed 2 absences, excused or unexcused, any additional absences will be required to be made up as continually missing classes will result in inadequate formation and preparation.

## Weekly Mass Attendance

The Mass and the Eucharist are central in the life of a Catholic, thus it is an essential part of the Confirmation preparation. We want to help our Confirmation students to become more involved in Mass and come to appreciate the beauty and the depth of the Mass. The first step to appreciating the beauty of the Mass is being present at Mass. For this reason we ask all Confirmation students to come to Mass on weekends. To keep students accountable, they will be required to attend Mass and fill out Mass Notes at least 15 times from now until Confirmation. Although 15 Masses is less than half the weekends, we highly encourage everyone to attend every weekend. The Mass Notes will help confirmation students learn more about Mass, pay better attention, and work to apply what they hear and see in Mass to their daily lives.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days is a responsibility for all Catholics, and we expect our candidates and families to understand, accept, and adhere to this teaching. There are Mass Notes sheets in this folder and in the St. Catherine Library. If you attend Mass at another parish or area community, please bring your own Mass sheet with, and attach a bulletin from the parish you attended.

## Area Mass Times

**When attending a different parish, please check ahead of time, as Mass times change and rotate often.**

Any city in the United States Mass times can be found at [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) (It is always good to call ahead and double check)

### **St. Catherine, Redwood Falls**

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:30am

### **St. John, Morton**

Sunday 8:00am

### **Light of the World Area**

St. Anne – Wabasso

Sunday 10am

St. Mathias – Wanda\*

Sunday 8am

St. Mary – Seaforth\*

Saturday 5pm

Our Lady of Victory – Lucan\*

Saturday 7pm

St. Catherine – Redwood Falls

Saturday 5pm

Sunday 9:30am

St. John – Morton

Sunday 8am

\*These Churches rotate Mass times

### **Divine Mercy Area**

St. Paul - Comfrey

Sunday 9:30am

St. Michael – Morgan

Saturday 4pm

Sunday 9:30am

Sunday 11:30am - Latin

Japanese Martyrs – Leavenworth

Saturday 8pm

St. Mary - Sleepy Eye

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8am

Sunday 10am

Sunday 11:30am - Spanish

Sunday 6:15pm

### **Holy Cross Area**

St. Gregory the Great – Lafayette

Sunday 10:30am

Cathedral of the Holy Trinity - New Ulm

Saturday 5pm

Sunday 8am

Sunday 10am

Sunday 6:30pm

St. John the Baptist – Searles

Sunday 10:30am

St. George - West Newton Township

Sunday 8:30am

St. Mary – New Ulm

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 9am

### **Bread of Life Faith Community**

Holy Redeemer – Marshall

Saturday 5pm

Sunday 8am

Sunday 10am

Sunday 12pm - Spanish

SMSU Campus Religious Center – Marshall

Sunday 6:30pm

St. Mary – Cottonwood

Saturday 5pm

Sunday 9am

St. Clotilde – Green Valley

Saturday 7pm

## **Confirmation Saint Name**

It is customary for the candidates to choose a saint's name for Confirmation, to guide their journey and be a source of spiritual strength. Care should be taken to help the candidate choose a name of a saint whose life and gifts he or she can identify with or admire. You may wish to choose the patron saint of your favorite hobby, skill or vocation; or choose a saint whose life story you relate to or admire. All Confirmation names must be submitted and approved before you complete your saint story. A list of saints can be found at [www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints).

## **Letter to Bishop LeVoi**

Each candidate will write a letter to our Bishop requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation and indicating why they would like to be confirmed and their commitment to live as an active Catholic. You may wish to include the name you have chosen and why you chose that saint. More direction about this letter can be found in the How-To Sheet.

## **Confirmation Interview**

Prior to Confirmation, each candidate will meet with Fr Mark to discuss their experience and preparations for Confirmation, and ways they can continue their Catholic faith journey after Confirmation. These will be in the weeks before Confirmation. You can see a sample of interview questions attached.

## **Confirmation and Practice**

The date of Confirmation is April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the 5pm Mass at St. Catherine Church. The Saturday of Confirmation, practice will be held at 10am at St. Catherine Church. It is required that all confirmation candidates and sponsors attend.

## **Confirmation Dress Code**

All candidates and sponsors are expected to dress appropriately. This means young men – a pair of dress pants (no jeans), dress shoes, a dress shirt, and a tie. Suit coats are optional. For young ladies – a nice dress or dress pants/shirt, dresses should be at least knee length or longer, not low-cut, must have sleeves or a sweater.

Remember: This is a very special, holy, sacred, and sacramental time, so please dress accordingly.

# Confirmation 2018 Check List

- August 1, 2017—Learning Center 1
- September 27, 2017—Session with Fr Steffl (1hr) – parent meeting during
- October 11, 2017 – Learning Center 2
- December 2017—Advent Reconciliation Service
- December 6, 2017 – Learning Center 3
- February 7, 2018—Saint Poster Due
- February 28, 2018 – Learning Center 4
- February 14, 2018—Ash Wednesday Service
- Feb/March 2018—Lenten Reconciliation Service
- Sponsor/Candidate Faith Sharing
  - Activity 1—November 22, 2017
  - Activity 2—January 3, 2018
  - Activity 3—March 7, 2018
  - Activity 4—April 11, 2018
- April 2018—Retreat
- April 2018—Interview
- March 31, 2018—Bishop Letter Due
- April 14, 2018, 10am—Confirmation Practice
- April 14, 2018, 5pm Mass—Confirmation
- April 11, 2018—Service hours due (20 hours; 10 Church 10 Community)  
\_\_ out of 20 turned in as of \_\_\_\_\_
- Attend all classes (any absences more than 2 classes will be made up)  
Class attendance \_\_\_\_\_ out of \_\_\_\_\_ classes as of \_\_\_\_\_
- Mass Notes (15 total – attach bulletin if attend different Parish)  
Mass Notes \_\_\_\_\_ out of 15 notes as of \_\_\_\_\_