

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE EXPECTATIONS- at a glance

- Participate in weekly Mass including the monthly Confirmation Candidate masses. Dates can be found on the Parish Website.
- Participate in classes
- Choose a qualified sponsor and meet regularly with him/her.
- Choose a saint's name as your Confirmation name and write a biography about that saint.
- Participate in Rite of Commitment Mass on October 1st, 2017 during the 6:00 pm liturgy.
- Participate in Confirmation retreat
- Be regularly involved in social justice activities and perform *at least* 15 hours of service in the areas of Parish, Community and Family.
- Attend Blessed Sacrament Youth Center with your class.
- Perform or attend at least one additional spiritual activity.
- Write a letter to the Bishop.
- Participate in Confirmation Service Fair.
- Participate in Confirmation Priest Interviews.
- Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Participate in the Confirmation rehearsal.
- Participate in the Confirmation liturgy.

EXPECTATIONS IN DETAIL

The following explains each of the Confirmation expectations in detail and in some cases, the reasons the requirements are important to the formation of the candidate. Please remember that while in many cases we list a minimum requirement for Confirmation, the candidates should be encouraged to make many of these activities a regular part of their religious practices.

Participate in Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday each week

The Confirmation candidate and his or her parents (along with the rest of the family) must have a sincere intention of participating in Mass every week. Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of Confirmed Catholics. This is also an important way that parents demonstrate to their children the importance they place on the faith they are handing on to their children. Worshipping as a community we build up the Body of Christ. If your family has not been attending Mass regularly in the past, we are confident that by doing so you will notice many benefits by the time Confirmation approaches.

Participate in Confirmation classes

Attendance at the Confirmation classes is extremely important in preparing the candidates for reception of the sacrament. When a class is missed, the candidate loses time for fellowship and prayer as well as the material covered that day. We expect that you will make these gatherings a priority and therefore make a sincere effort to adjust your other obligations accordingly. Students are expected to be prepared for the classes, which includes completing any assigned readings or homework. Contact your catechist immediately if critical circumstances will not allow you to attend a class. The catechist will determine an appropriate at-home assignment so that he/she

doesn't fall behind in the lessons. Excessive absenteeism can affect the candidate's ability to enter fully into this important period of preparation.

Choose a qualified sponsor and meet regularly with your sponsor

The confirmation sponsor should be a person who has been a strong role- model as a faith-filled Catholic. This person will be a companion in your faith journey and will vouch for your readiness to receive the sacrament. The sponsor should therefore be able to meet regularly with the candidate, spend time building a bond with the teen, help him/her prepare for the sacrament through prayer, study, service and discussion and be in physical attendance at the rehearsal and the confirmation. Attendance by proxy is allowed in certain situations, such as the sponsor living out-of-town and being unable to travel to the celebration.

The sponsor:

- Must be a practicing Roman Catholic who attends Mass regularly (Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation) and is living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church and at least 16 years of age.
- Supports the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- Must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- Must be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- Should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment
- May be either male or female for any candidate
- May assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service project commitment
- Must be reasonably informed on current church teachings
- May accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs
- May not be the parents of the candidate
- Assists in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament

Choose a Confirmation name and write a biography about that saint

In both the Old and New Testament, when God had a new mission for someone, He often gave them a new name. Even without a new name, your name has always told others who you are. God calls on each of us to fulfill a special mission. It may be converting nonbelievers, helping the poor, being a peacemaker or one of many other callings. Confirmation may be the continuation of a mission you began at Baptism, or the beginning of a new mission.

Therefore there are two options when deciding on a Confirmation name:

First- Because Confirmation is the strengthening of the work that God began in your life at your Baptism; it is recommended that you give first preference to using your Baptismal name for Confirmation. This shows the integral link between Baptism and Confirmation (note: this applies only if your Baptismal name was a Saint's name.)

Second- Perhaps you see Confirmation as the beginning of a new mission for you and a fresh beginning in your faith journey. Then you may choose a new name for Confirmation. Your

Confirmation name should be that of a saint you admire or the saint name of someone you know and look up to as a Christian role-model.

There are many helpful websites available to assist you in gathering information about the saints. Just a few are:

www.catholicforum.com/saints

www.catholic.org/saints

www.catholic-pages.com/dir/saints.asp

www.theworkofgod.org/saints

Once the candidate has chosen his/her Confirmation name, they must complete a biography of that saint using the form found with this guide. The saint biography is due to the Catechist and the Religious Education Office by January.

Participate in the Rite of Commitment Mass

All candidates, parents and if available, sponsors, should plan to attend the Rite of Commitment, celebrated at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on **October 1st, 2017 during the 6:00 pm Liturgy.** During the Mass the candidates will declare their intent to seek the Sacrament of Confirmation with the parish community as witness. In return the community agrees to support and pray for all those involved in this faith journey.

Participate in the Confirmation retreat

Retreats provide a unique opportunity for the candidates to spend an extended time in discernment and reflect on the gifts of the Spirit and reflect on their relationship with God and their faith life. It is therefore required that each candidate attend the Confirmation Retreat which will be held on **Sunday, December 17th, 2017 from 1:30 to 7:00 pm in McDonnell Hall** lead by Terry Nelson Johnson. More information will be available closer to the date.

Be regularly involved in social justice activities

An awareness of the importance of and vital need for performing service to others is critical in preparing the candidates for Confirmation. Throughout Scripture we are called to love our neighbor and stand up for justice and peace. Since service and justice are so important to whom we are as Catholic Christians, we ask that the candidates make his/her service projects a priority. Serving others is not something we do *to* get it over with. It is something we do because we recognize the presence of Jesus in all persons and in all of God's creation. Therefore it is encouraged that the candidates get involved in a new service activity which is an ongoing and a regular commitment.

Some things to think about when considering your service are:

- What are people's needs or problems and what can I do to help?
- Who needs time, effort, work or service from me?
- What unique gifts or talents has God given me that can be used to serve others?

Once you identify where service is needed, make specific plans and follow through with those commitments.

Participate in at least one additional spiritual activity that is new to you

Spending time in prayer and reflection does not end when we leave the church on Sunday. It is so important for the candidates to become aware of the many opportunities that are available for them to meditate, celebrate and further their relationship with God.

The following is a partial list of spiritual activities:

- Attend daily Mass
- Participate in Advent and/or Lenten preparations
- Participate in a Christmas pageant, Stations of the Cross
- Participate in the Triduum services- Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Easter Vigil
- Attend Adoration or Reconciliation on a regular basis
- Reflect on Scripture- in your journal for three minutes each Sunday
- Pray the Rosary
- Participate in Bible study
- Although the minimum requirement is to participate in one of these activities, we sincerely hope the candidate and his or her family will have an active and ongoing spiritual life!

Write a letter to the Bishop

It has been customary for the Bishop to request that each candidate write a personal letter to him requesting Confirmation. The students will be given more information about this letter as Confirmation approaches. This letter will be due in January, 2018.

Attend the Confirmation Service Fair

Attend Confirmation Priest Interviews

Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation

Attend Confirmation Rehearsal

All candidates **must** attend the Confirmation rehearsal which will be held on **Thursday, March 16th, 2018.**

Participate in the Liturgy and Rite of Confirmation

Confirmation will be on **Sunday, March 18th, 2018** at one of two liturgies.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

“As the primary educators of their children: parents are to be intimately involved in the catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children.” (NCD, no. 119)

Because parents:

- Are the primary educators of their children
- Are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- Serve as models for their child by being committed Christians

Parents should expect to:

- Worship with your families regularly
- Be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of the candidate.
- Engage in discussions about the material being studied including sharing your understanding and perspective.
- Encourage your child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Pray for your child's spiritual growth every day.
- Support and encourage completion of assignments, activities and expectations.
- Emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation.
- Faithfully bring your teen (and when necessary yourself) to meetings, programs, and prayer services that are planned to help your child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation