

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 Mass 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 sponsors for girls.

Sponsors take on a lifelong commitment to help their candidates fulfill the obligations of this sacrament. 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. Please note the guidelines in choosing a sponsor.

Confirmation Name

All Candidates have been asked to select a Confirmation Name. They will be studying the lives of the saints during the year. It is our hope that they will encounter a holy individual (saint) during their studies and form a prayerful relationship with that person, taking their name as their own, someone 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 brief report about the Saint whose name they have selected for their Confirmation name.

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 other's 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.

Attendance

A maximum of 2 absences due to illness will be excused. However, makeup work for each absence must be obtained from the office within 2 weeks of absence date. Students that miss more classes will not be able to be confirmed this year and will have to redo their second year.

Forms

Baptism and First Communion certificates (even if your child received the sacraments at St. James the Apostle) and fees MUST be turned in to the Faith Formation office by Tuesday, August 20th. These are very important documents that need to be turned in for your child to receive his/her Confirmation sacrament.

Seminars and Retreats

Candidates are required to participate in all Confirmation Retreats and meetings during the year. *This year's Confirmation retreat is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 12th from 9am to 6pm. (Should the date or time change we will notify you).*

Reconciliation

All Candidates are to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to being confirmed. Sponsors are also encouraged to go to confession. **Confessions at St. James are heard on Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. and on Saturdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Your child can also go to any Catholic church in the area for confession.**

Confirmation Rehearsal

A rehearsal will be held for **BOTH SPONSORS AND CANDIDATES** on Thursday, **October 24th at 6:00 p.m. in the Church.** Please inform your sponsor as soon as possible. *((If a sponsor is coming in from out of town and is not available that day, a parent will need to fill in at the rehearsal)).*

Confirmation Day

Confirmation Mass will be on **Sunday, October 27, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.** You will need to report to the Parish Hall no later than 4:15 p.m.

Confirmation Dress

BOYS

- ◆ Suit or dress pants (sports jacket can be worn) NO jeans
- ◆ Button-down dress shirt (does not have to be white)
- ◆ Solid color tie (red is recommended, but not mandatory)
- ◆ Dress shoes (no sneakers, sandals or flip-flops)

GIRLS

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

WHAT THE CANDIDATE WILL STUDY AND LEARN

The Candidate should take an active and adult attitude to the catechetical process. They should approach their preparation with an open heart that is willing to ask questions and to be enlightened by the faith of the Church. The topics and actions that the Candidate will need to know and be able to apply to their lives are:

- ◆ Their willingness toward a more intimate union with Christ and a deepening familiarity of the Holy Spirit, His actions, His gifts, and His bidding. Within this loving experience, which God has initiated
- ◆ God invites a response to bear fruit
- ◆ Their knowledge of the symbols and rituals of Confirmation
- ◆ Their understanding and articulating the Creed that is rooted in Scripture. This includes recognizing how the Trinity's creative, redemptive, and sanctifying love is alive and active in the Church and in their daily lives
- ◆ Their understanding and articulating the meaning of a sacrament
- ◆ Their understanding and articulating the meaning of being strengthened, anointed with chrism, and sealed by the Holy Spirit to be missioned
- ◆ Their developing a Catholic understanding of as well as love for Sacred Scripture
- ◆ Their understanding and ability to articulate the fundamentals of our faith
- ◆ Understanding of being a part of the community of faith
- ◆ Their involvement in Christian service as seen as an essential dimension in the invitation to discipleship that fosters the Church's mission
- ◆ Their prayerful and mindful participation in any retreats that are offered

These topics will be covered in depth over the upcoming sessions. You must have a verbal knowledge of the topics, that is, you must be able to articulate the information that is presented to you. Remember that faith becomes real through participation of communal worship (Mass), the ability to explain your faith, and to put your faith into action.

As St. James teaches us in Sacred Scripture, "faith without works is dead".