

Guidelines for Confirmation: An Overview

The candidate is expected to have been previously involved in both the liturgical and sacramental life of the faith community and in an ongoing process of faith formation, giving particular attention to regular attendance at Mass.

PARENT(S)

- Provide the lived experience of sacraments within the family and a witness to a lived Catholic Faith.
- There is an expectation that parents participate in parent sessions.

SPONSORS

- It is suggested that candidates retain their baptismal sponsor, if possible. However, they may prefer to ask another person who they admire and respect.
- Candidates must be fully initiated Catholics of at least 16 years of age and a Catholic in good standing with the church.
- Parents may not be sponsors for their own sons and daughters. (*Canon 874.5*)
- Parents are invited to be an integral part of the process.

PRE-REQUISITES BEFORE DIRECT PREPARATION

- Readiness (see below)
- Previous involvement in the liturgical and sacramental life of the faith community and ongoing faith formation is necessary.
- A candidate shall have actively participated in at least two full years of parish or Catholic high school faith formation classes which have included the Faith Themes found in the sacramental guidelines, prior to entering direct sacramental preparation.

AGE & READINESS

- Candidates will celebrate the sacrament in Spring of 10th Grade at the earliest: ideally 11th Grade.
- Readiness is determined through interview process.

DIRECT PREPARATION

- Direct Preparation consists of six to eight well planned sessions, focusing on the nature and meaning of the sacrament. There can be a variety of options for scheduling.
- Each candidate will provide a personalized letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation.
- Candidates will participate in the planning of the liturgical celebration.

CONFIRMATION NAME

- It is recommended that the candidate retain his/her baptismal name, but the candidate is free to choose the name of a saint.

RETREAT & SERVICE

- A confirmation retreat should be at least 6-8 hours. This retreat is distinct from other high school retreat experiences.
- Service is integral to all faith formation. For confirmation, an emphasis shall be placed on opportunities afforded rather than accumulation of hours. These services opportunities shall be varied encompassing both parish service opportunities and community outreach experiences.