

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
240 S 6th Street
Richmond, IN

What is Confirmation?

“Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which enhances the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds. Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian's soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one's life. The essential rite of Confirmation is anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism together with the laying on of the minister's hand and the words: “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit” (United States Catechism for Adults, p.205).”

"Remember, then, that you received a spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear. Keep safe what you received. God the Father sealed you, Christ the Lord strengthened you and sent the Spirit into your hearts as the pledge of what is to come."

—St. Ambrose

"O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams."

—St. Augustine



Responsibilities

Parents and Guardians- “Parents are the most influential agents of catechesis for their children, (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, p.376). They have a unique responsibility for the education of their children and as “first educators” they catechize primarily by the witness of their Christian lives and by their love for the faith, (NDC, 54). The family is the child’s first experience of a faith community and deserves careful attention in all catechetical endeavors. Throughout the period of initiation of children of catechetical age, the parents of the children should be encouraged to be involved. When children are baptized, parents accept the responsibility to bring up their children in the practice of the faith and to see to it that the divine life that God gives them is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in their hearts, (Catechesi Tradendae, 56). At the same time, the Church promises to help parents foster their children’s faith and assists them specifically in their role as catechists of their children, whether they assume full responsibility themselves or look to the parish school or religious education program for help and support.”

Catechesis/My Responsibilities- “The apostolic work of the catechist springs from the Sacrament of Baptism through which all believers come to share in the prophetic ministry of Christ and the evangelizing mission of the Church. It is strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation. The call to the ministry of catechist is a vocation, an interior call, the voice of the Holy Spirit. Catechists need to be practicing Catholics who participate fully in the communal worship and the



life of the Church and who have been prepared for their apostolate by appropriate catechetical training. Their commissioning by the Church is a participation in the divine calling to teach as Jesus did. Their personal relationship with Jesus Christ energizes their service to the Church and provides the continuing motivation, vitality, and force of their catechetical activity. Christ invites all catechists to follow him as a teacher of the faith and a witness to the truth of faith, (NDC, 55).”



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
240 S 6th St.
Richmond, IN

Requirements for Candidates

These requirements and guidelines come straight from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. I want to see every Confirmation candidate be confirmed; however I have been put in a position to ensure that all candidates have been properly prepared and have met **all** requirements. With that being said, receiving a sacrament is sacred and preparation is to be taken seriously. I have all the guidelines listed below, and I have cited where I received this information.

Candidates should display an openness of heart through:

- + Mass attendance
- + Consistent attendance at formation sessions: **Attendance to meetings is required, unless there is an illness or family emergency. 3 years of High School Catechesis. CCD students must be attending CCD classes regularly. (With Confirmation being in the fall, it is more like 2 years of High School Catechesis.)**
- + Participation in a retreat or day of reflection - ideally focused on Confirmation preparation: **One summer event is required, and the overnight Confirmation retreat is required as well.**
- + Willingness to participate in community service: **15 service hours is required and must be turned in to me.**

Age- “Young people between the age of discretion through around sixteen years are to be intentionally directed to instructional experiences for Confirmation, but must be allowed to make their own decision as to whether or not they will receive the sacrament after such a period of instruction (NDC, 36A).”



*If you have any further questions about the candidates' ability to choose whether or whether not they receive this sacrament, I will be happy to send you more information. *

Confession- When receiving any sacrament, besides Baptism and Extreme Unction, you **MUST** be in a state of grace. Candidates **MUST** go to confession before receiving Confirmation.

“To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the Sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit. More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, p.242).”

Baptismal Certificate- Candidates must provide a copy of their Baptismal certificate. The full address of the parish of Baptism must be attached to this certificate. They also must have received their First Holy Communion.

Letter to the Archbishop- Candidates must write a letter to the Archbishop expressing why they want to be confirmed, why they chose their saint, why they picked their sponsor, and explaining their service to the community.

Saint Report- A saint must be chosen to be named after. It is also required that the candidate writes a report on this saint.



“A candidate may choose a Confirmation name or retain a recognized saint’s name given at Baptism. In either case it is important to have a saint’s name as part of the Confirmation rite. A Confirmation name is a permanent reminder which links the candidate with the way in which the mission of Jesus lives on in those special persons recognized by the Church as saints or heroic people in its history. The process of researching the life of a saint or non-canonized role model can be an enriching part of the preparation program and can serve as the basis for reflection on the qualities of a present day witness for Christ. Family members and sponsors can assist the candidate in choosing a Confirmation name.”

Sponsors- "Canon 893 #1 states that Confirmation sponsors should meet the requirements of baptismal sponsors as stated in Canon 874. Therefore, a sponsor:

- + must be at least sixteen years old, unless another age is set by the bishop of the diocese or an exception, for just reason, is made by the pastor

- + must be a Catholic who has received all three sacraments of initiation and leads a life in harmony with the Catholic faith

- + must not be bound by any penalty of the Church

- + must not be the parent of the person to be confirmed (A parent may, however, for good reason, serve as presenter of the candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation)

It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at baptism be sponsor for Confirmation. Distance and other factors may preclude this recommendation, (Canon 893). While Canon Law provides the basic requirements, the path to a meaningful sponsor-candidate relationship involves several other factors. A sponsor should:

- + be a person of lived faith and a role model for the candidate



+ be available to spend time with the candidate during the preparation process and to take part in the celebration of the sacrament

+ be a person with whom the candidate has a comfortable and ongoing relationship"



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
240 S 6th St.
Richmond, IN

Letter to the Archbishop Guideline

As part of the candidates' preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the archbishop requests that each candidate submit a letter to him. Since it is meant to address each young person's own journey and preparation, the letter **must be in the letter form; not a "form letter" or question and answer sheet**. If they are not in the form of a letter, the archbishop will insist that they be rewritten. This letter is meant to be more than just a statement from the young person asking for the sacrament. Since the archbishop cannot be a part of each and every formation program, the letters help him to see how the young people have been preparing for Confirmation, as well as for a life strengthened by the Holy Spirit after the Mass. In addition, so many of the letters stand as a testament to the faith and devotion of the young Church, a sign of hope for us all. The archbishop uses the information from the letters as a part of his homily, enabling him to speak to the experiences and needs of the candidates more personally. The archbishop does not use names from the letters in his homily so as not to embarrass anyone, aside from speaking about the selection of the saint's name and why. While some guidance may be given, the letter needs to be composed by the candidate. **The candidates should indicate in the letter to which parish they belong.** The Archbishop of Indianapolis is Archbishop Charles C. Thompson. You will be addressing the letters to him.



Make sure to put your name and date on this letter and it must be typed. As you write this letter, you will need to answer the following questions in about **3-4 sentences:**

- What does Confirmation mean to you? Why are you choosing to be confirmed?
- What saint's name did you choose and why?
- Whom did you choose for your sponsor and why?
- What did you do for service hours? What did you learn/gain from the experience?

You will hand in these letters personally to me at the Confirmation classes. **Be sure to keep a copy of the letter just in case of any mix up.**

These letters will be due by the 5th Confirmation Meeting.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
240 S 6th St.
Richmond, IN

Service Hour Opportunities

As stated under the requirements, candidates must be required to have 15 service hours. There are many opportunities to receive service hours within the parish. I have listed some opportunities before. I have also attached a service hour form to this document, so you can print them off at your convenience. (If you need forms, I am more than happy to supply forms at our classes.)

Service Hour Opportunities:

-Assisting at mass by being a server, lector, cantor, or musician. Each mass will be **1 service hour**. This service hour can be signed directly by Father, Deacon, or the Sacristan.

-There are blood donation opportunities at Seton High School. Blood donation will be **1 service hour**. Have a staff member from the school sign for this.

-Totus Tuus is a great way to serve the community. Service hours only apply when helping the younger kids, not when attending the teen program of Totus Tuus. Totus Tuus goes on for a week, and can get you quite a few service hours. Have one of the missionaries sign for you.

-Catholic Heart Work Camp is one of the options for a summer event that is required, as well as a way to receive service hours! This is a week-long mission trip in June. (Specific dates are in the schedule attached.) I can sign for these service hours, or any chaperone for this trip.

-School and Church fundraisers of any kind always need volunteers! There is the Flying Cardinal 5k, Cardinal Classic Golf Outing, Cardinal Spectacular, etc. I will also be coordinating some service hour opportunities for the youth.

You can always rake leaves for a neighbor, shovel a driveway, babysit, tutor, etc. You will turn in service hours to me. You can either drop off service hours to the Catholic Office, or hand them to me at our classes. **Please DO NOT hand them to anyone else other than myself.** Keep in mind if they get lost, you will have to make up for them! **These must all be completed by the last Confirmation class.**



CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOUR RECORD 2023

FIRST & LAST NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Briefly explain the work completed during this service project:

How do you think this event/project impacted or helped the community?

ADVISOR NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED: _____

ADVISOR SIGNATURE: _____



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
240 S 6th St.
Richmond, IN

Saint Report Outline

- I. Paragraph One (Background of the saint.)
 - a. Introduce your saint. When and where were they born?
 - b. What was growing up like for them? How was their childhood?
 - c. What did they like to do, where did they like to go?
- II. Paragraph Two (Saint's mission and impact.)
 - a. How did they contradict the world during that time?
 - b. What made them different? How were they being challenged?
 - c. How are they relevant to our world today? What can we learn from them and how can we apply it to our lives?
- III. Paragraph Three (Saint's miracles.)
 - a. When did the saint die and when is their feast day?
 - b. What were some miracles from this saint? What miracles led to their canonization? When did they get canonized?
 - c. How did learning about this saint inspire you? What Bible verse do you think you can associate with this saint and why?

Make sure to name and date the report. Each of these paragraphs must contain at least **8 sentences** and must be based on these guidelines. **Saint Reports will be due at our Confirmation Retreat.** I am giving an ample amount of time, so candidates can take their time in choosing a saint.



Schedule

Typically, there are 8 Confirmation meetings within the year, and the Confirmation Mass falls in November. **Attendance at meetings is required, unless there is an illness or family emergency. One summer event is required, and the overnight Confirmation retreat that is held in August is required as well.** If 1-2 classes are missed, there will be makeup assignments that must be turned in. If three classes are missed, there will be makeup assignments and a meeting with Fr. Sengole will be required. After a fourth class is missed, the candidate will have to re-enroll for Confirmation the following year and will not receive Confirmation that year. Sponsors are encouraged to come, but it is not required. Confirmation meetings will be in Fr. Hillman Hall at the high school. **Parent attendance is required at the first Confirmation meeting of that year.**

Contact Information

Trinity Semler, the Youth Minister for the parish, is the coordinator for Confirmation. If you need further information or have questions, feel free to email or call.

Phone: 765-962-3902 Ext: 1005

Email: tsemler@setoncatholics.org



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
240 S 6th St.
Richmond, IN