

# *Confirmation*



*Confirming  
My Commitment  
to Christ*

*Confirmation Handbook*

*Immaculate  
Heart of Mary  
Parish*

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# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE FALL-

*All Sessions run from 6:30 - 8:30 pm and will begin in the Church unless otherwise noted.*

August	Parent/Candidate <b>ORIENTATION</b> <i>Please bring forms and activities completed from Orientation Packet</i>
August	Candidate Session 1  <b><u>NO SESSION</u></b> (Labor Day Weekend)
September	Candidate Session 2
September	<b>SPIRIT DAY RETREAT - IHM – 9:00am-400pm</b> Sunday Mass to be celebrated
September	Candidate Session 3
September	Candidate Session 4
October	Sponsor and Enrollment Sunday
October	<b><u>NO SESSION</u></b> (No School 4-day weekend)
October	Reconciliation and Candidate Interviews <b><u>Candidate Interviews Will Begin at 6:00 pm.</u></b> <b>Schedule TBA</b> <b><i>Final Confirmation Documents Due - Letter to Msgr. Dominic requesting the sacrament of Confirmation and Service Log</i></b>
October	Candidate Session 6 <b><u>6:00pm Candidate Interviews *continued, if needed)</u></b>
November	<b>CONFIRMATION PRACTICE - w/Sponsors in Church (at IHM)</b>
November	<b>CONFIRMATION MASS** – 7:00 pm</b> <b>Candidates and Sponsors arrive – 6:20 pm</b>



***Mass Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held at IHM at 7:00 pm***

# CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM

## WELCOME & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

IHM parish is excited and grateful that you, as candidates, are participating in the sacramental preparation program for Confirmation. We pray that participating in the program will be grace-filled and life-giving for candidates, their parents, and sponsors.

The Confirmation program is the immediate preparation for the sacrament. It focuses intensely on prayer and being open to the Holy Spirit. It is open to all parishioners who are 8<sup>th</sup>-grade age or older.

The preparation program is a personal and communal process within the parish family. The weekly sessions are led by trained adults from the parish who love both the faith and sharing that faith with teenagers. Each session includes small group discussions, interactive experiences, prayer, and reflection.

## CONFIRMATION PROGRAM STAFF

### Religious Education Department Staff:

Carrie Aragon, Director of Religious Education

Office: 859-689-5010, ext. 263, or e-mail: ([caragon@ihm.ky-org](mailto:caragon@ihm.ky-org))

### Pastoral Staff:

Monsignor Dominic Fosu, Pastor

[dfosu@ihm-ky.org](mailto:dfosu@ihm-ky.org)

859-689-5010 ext. 222

### Confirmation Small Group Leaders:

We are finalizing the list of Confirmation Leaders. Candidates will be assigned to a small group for the Confirmation Preparation Program; most groups will have two confirmation leaders. Leaders are excellent resources for the students. Leaders will likely provide candidates with their contact information on the first night of Confirmation preparation.

# PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

*Candidates are expected to attend all components of the program.* Each session provides the tools needed to make a prayerful and informed decision about Confirmation. While all sessions are essential, significant components of the program include:

1. Sunday evening preparation sessions (refer to the Confirmation schedule, page 1)
2. Spirit Day Retreat and Sacrament of Reconciliation
3. Enrollment Sunday with Sponsor
4. Participate in a complete Christian Service (refer to pages 5 & 23)
5. Write a letter to Msgr. Dominic, asking to be confirmed (see page 20)
6. Attend Sunday Liturgy weekly (note that attendance at weekly Sunday Mass is not included in the weekly meeting time)

In addition to Sunday Mass attendance and the preparation program, candidates are strongly encouraged to review the Basic Catholic Teachings included in this handbook (see pages 10-14). These are teachings presented in past religious education programs and those that every Catholic should know and understand. It is wise to review these teachings by way of a trivia game night with several candidates, families, and sponsors or during your family evening meal rituals, focusing on a few questions a night.

## ABSENCES

If a candidate needs to miss a session for any reason (illness, funeral, etc.), they should contact Carrie Aragon ([caragon@ihm.ky-org](mailto:caragon@ihm.ky-org)) prior to the session. Candidates who miss a session are expected to complete a makeup packet. Additionally, if a candidate cannot attend the Spirit Day Retreat, they will need to participate in another retreat before being Confirmed. If a Candidate misses an excessive number of sessions, they will need to meet with the Confirmation Program Staff to ensure they are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

# GENERAL CONFORMATION INFORMATION

## SPONSORS

Sponsors maintain a valuable relationship with their candidates and serve as support and role models in the faith. It is up to the candidate to utilize and develop that relationship to its full potential. The candidate must take the initiative to reach out to their sponsor and make meaningful connections. There are many activities a candidate and their sponsor can do together, such as service, attending Mass, or an event sponsored by the Church or diocese, discussing topics that concern both parties and produce joy. Please take advantage of email, Catholic apps, and social media to communicate, especially if the Candidate and sponsor are separated by distance.

To help ensure the candidate and their sponsor are engaged with each other on this spiritual journey, there are several activities we ask that they participate in together. First, they must complete the sponsor–candidate interview and questions found in the Orientation Packet. Next, we ask that the sponsor attend the session on October 5, Enrollment Sunday, with the candidate. If the Candidate's sponsor lives out of town and cannot participate in Enrollment Sunday on October 5, another person may stand in their place. The person "standing in" for the sponsor should be someone other than a parent. The qualifications for the person "standing in" are the same as the sponsor: a good listener, a role model, and an active practicing Catholic. (See pages 15-16 for guidelines and responsibilities of sponsors.)

Sponsors will receive an email from the Confirmation staff in early September regarding their role. Please ensure that the staff receives a complete and accurate Name, Email, and Mailing Address for the sponsor on the Confirmation Candidate Information Sheet due on August (see the orientation packet or pages 15-16 of this handbook, please contact the office if an additional form is needed).

## CONFIRMATION NAME

Our Bishop will confirm the candidates utilizing their chosen Confirmation name. The saint's name chosen is a powerful sign of the communion of saints. It is also the Candidate's personal intercessor whom they can call upon at any time in their life. (See pages 17-18 for Guidelines and Worksheets for choosing a Confirmation name).

## CONFIRMATION COVENANT FORM

The Covenant signifies a holy relationship between Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and the Candidates. Both parties are partners in this process, pledging their prayers, commitment, and the best of their resources. (See page 19 of the handbook for a copy and to review). Candidates will commit to the Confirmation Preparation Program by signing the form on the opening night of the Confirmation Program.

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Six (6) hours of Christian Service are required at IHM to be confirmed. Acts of Christian Service can be performed any time after you register for Confirmation. Service logs are due. If you complete your service over the summer, please turn in your service log at orientation.

It is strongly encouraged to complete the 6 hours of required service within the parish community. However, you can also reach out to non-profit agencies and/or disadvantaged in the local community. Service opportunities outside the parish community include St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Diocesan Pro-Life office, and diocesan ministries, such as Mary Rose Mission, the Rose Garden Mission, and Family Promise. (Service hours may be performed with friends, family, sponsors, etc.)

Need additional ideas? For additional ideas, candidates should consult the bulletin, and the orientation packet or ask one of our parish staff members, Confirmation leaders, their sponsor, or others for ideas. Please do not use service hours submitted to satisfy school or other club requirements. A service log must be kept and turned in (see page 23 of the handbook or contact the Religious Education Office for more information).

## RETREAT - SPIRIT DAY

The retreat is TBA at Immaculate Heart of Mary. The retreat will start with Sunday Mass; families are welcome to attend. Candidates should be dropped off at the main church entrance. The day will be active and include outdoor activities (weather permitting). Please be modest and appropriate in your clothing choices – closed-toed shoes are strongly recommended. Information regarding Spirit Day will be distributed to the candidates and families after the start of the Confirmation program.

## ENROLLMENT SUNDAY

Enrollment Sunday (Sunday) is a special preparation session for candidates and sponsors. During the regular evening session from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, sponsors and candidates will participate in faith-building activities. At the end of the evening, candidates will officially enroll in the Confirmation Program. Confirmation Sponsors or "stand-ins" are asked to accompany candidates for this interactive session. Mass is NOT included; please ensure your Sunday Mass obligation is fulfilled before this session.

## LETTER TO THE PASTOR

All candidates are required to write a letter to the pastor, Msgr. Dominic Fosu, requesting the sacrament of Confirmation and stating why they wish to receive this sacrament. This letter must be typed at home and brought to the evening session on Sunday. Confirmation leaders will review how to write and format the letter during a preparation session. Page 20 of this handbook provides a general overview of the letter and suggestions on writing and formatting it.

## RECONCILIATION

In preparation for the reception of Confirmation, the sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Attendance is necessary, even if you have recently received the sacrament.

## INTERVIEW

Candidates will meet with one of their small group leaders in October at 6:00 pm for an "interview" that will last approximately 5 - 8 minutes. Interviews are an opportunity to discuss any thoughts and desires about being Confirmed, any potential concerns that have arisen, and thank the small group leader. The interviews are very informal and not something to fear. All interviews occur BEFORE the regular class session in private. An interview schedule will be communicated with the candidates and parents prior.

## CONFIRMATION FEE

A fee of \$50 is asked of each Candidate and their family. If you are unable to pay the entire amount, a minimum of \$25 is due on the first evening. The balance is to be paid by the end of October. This fee covers expenses for supplies, guest speakers, Spirit Day, certificates, Confirmation reception, etc.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

All candidates should be dropped off at the upper parking lot/main entrance by 6:25 pm. Candidates are to meet in the church\* and sit with their small group. At the end of the evening, candidates will be dismissed from the church's main entrance.

## BIBLES

Candidates are required to bring their (Catholic) Bible each week. Bibles are available to purchase for \$10.00 if needed.

## CELL PHONES

Cell phones should not be seen or used by candidates for texting or phone calls during meeting times, retreats, and/or group service projects. Those who violate this policy will have their phone taken and returned at dismissal.

## ATTIRE FOR MEETINGS & THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Each time the candidates, sponsors, parents, leaders, and Confirmation staff gather, we are a sign and symbol of the body of Christ at work. Regarding our mission and goals, please remember that everyone enters a sacred space each time they attend a Confirmation event (whether it is a meeting, retreat, prayer service, service project, or Confirmation Liturgy). In light of this, please wear appropriate clothing:

**Meetings/ Retreat/Service:** Refrain from wearing hats or caps, shorts, and shirts that are too tight or short, sleeveless tops, and clothing with inappropriate messages.

### **Attire for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation for Candidates and Sponsors.**

Gentlemen must wear a dress shirt, tie, dress pants, dress shoes, and socks (if possible, wear a sports coat or suit). Ladies should wear an appropriate Church dress, dress slacks, and dress blouse/shirt. Keep MODESTY in mind. (Flip flops, short skirts, tight clothing, sleeveless, or low-cut tops are not permitted).

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Why is Confirmation important?

Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation into the Church, and it is efficacious, meaning it is effective; it does what Jesus and the Church promises it will do:

1. Bonds one with Christ and the Church
2. Strengthens one with the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith
3. Empowers one to call upon the name of Christ and not be ashamed of the power of the Cross
4. Solidifies and increases the grace (divine life) given at Baptism

## Why does the Confirmation preparation program and the sacrament celebration occur within the parish?

Candidates are being confirmed into Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, our parish community (not into a school, club, or specific ministry). The parish is their primary faith community. Therefore, the sacrament's immediate preparation and spiritual formation should occur in the parish. Not only are candidates catechized, but they receive mentoring and prayers as they develop their prayer life, listening to and surrendering to the Holy Spirit. This preparation ensures that they not only know about Christ but that they truly know Him.

The secondary goal of the program is to draw candidates into the life, ministry, and participation of the Church. This is a massive goal in a short period, and frankly, the Confirmation staff would love more! But since we are confined in the amount of time we have, we anticipate that IHM will reach out and incorporate the newly confirmed into the life and ministry of the parish. We pray that the newly confirmed will also seek avenues of growth and involvement.



## **How do I know if I am ready? Can I delay Confirmation?**

The Candidate's desire to celebrate the sacrament is the primary requirement to receive the sacrament. The decision belongs to the one being confirmed, not a parent or sponsor. The decision to be confirmed should be made after completing the entire program and with much prayer. To delay celebrating the sacrament should not be based on whether or not the candidate "knows everything" about the faith, but whether one has the desire within their heart and is ready to freely accept the call to become more incorporated into the life of the Eucharistic community. Candidates will indicate their intent to be confirmed during an informal interview with their small group leader in October.

**SPECIAL NOTE TO CANDIDATES** - If you are struggling with this question, please talk with one of our priests or confirmation coordinators. Additionally, if you struggle with significant aspects or teachings of the faith, please speak with us! Your concerns will remain private, and we will stay non-judgmental. You are important to us, and we will do our best to help you!

## **For a few years, parents were able to be their children's Confirmation sponsors. Why is this no longer an option for the person about to be confirmed?**

While pointing out that the sponsor is charged with encouraging the confirmed person to act as a true witness to Jesus Christ (Canon 892), the new code of Canon Law states that the parents of a confirmation candidate are not to act as sponsors (Canon 875). The new code's position is based on the Second Vatican Council's call for a revision of the sacrament of Confirmation so that a more "intimate connection" between Confirmation and Baptism is visible (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, #71). At their child's Baptism, the parents do not take the role of godparents (sponsors). Thus, parents should not take the role of sponsors at their son's/daughter's Confirmation.

## **Is this the end of Religious Education?**

No!! Please No!! The reception of Confirmation is not a graduation from one's faith. The sacrament is an individual's step to complete one's initiation into the Church and another aide to cooperate with the graces one needs to live a holy life. Saying "yes" to the Holy Spirit in Confirmation is to be followed by many other "yesses" to God throughout one's lifetime.

Thus, religious education/formation is a lifelong process. There are multiple opportunities for spiritual, educational, social, and service involvements within the parish after Confirmation that are waiting. Sadly, some people do not return to Church after Confirmation, which is a tremendous loss for the Church and the individual. Please continue to receive and use the gifts of God, including weekly sacramental participation and religious formation.

## When Is the Most Appropriate Time for Confirming Those With Special Needs?

Teens with special needs should be confirmed with their peers. Adults with special needs should be confirmed with other adults. While the celebration of the sacraments normally takes place in the context of the larger parish community, there may be exceptions. The length of the Eucharistic Liturgy and excitement connected with this event combined with the special needs of some persons may limit appropriate and meaningful participation on the part of those to be confirmed and their parents/families.



## **BASIC CATHOLIC TEACHING**

***ALL CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION ARE REQUIRED TO KNOW THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AT LEAST IN AN ELEMENTARY WAY***

1. There is one God.
2. There are three Divine Persons in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. God the Father created all things.
4. Human beings were given responsibility for the care of all of God's creations.
5. Men and women are created in the image and likeness of God.
6. God has revealed and is continuing to reveal Himself to humankind.
7. Important sources of Divine Revelation are the Scriptures and Tradition.
8. Men and women sinned and opened the world to evil and sin.
9. God always loves all people and cares for them. God serves as the Ultimate One to rely on and will remain faithful.
10. People respond to God's presence through prayer.
11. Jesus was born in Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago. The INCARNATION is celebrated at Christmas.
12. Jesus is fully human and fully divine.
13. Mary is the mother of Jesus. The Church honors Mary in a special way.

## BASIC CATHOLIC TEACHING (Continued)

14. Jesus suffered and died for all people to show God's love. Jesus' death is remembered in a special way on Good Friday.
15. Jesus arose from the dead. Christians celebrate this on Easter Sunday. The death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus are called the Paschal Mystery.
16. After His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. This is celebrated forty days after Easter.
17. Jesus promised eternal life to those who followed him.
18. Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE.
19. Jesus promised he would come again.
20. The Apostles were Jesus' followers and witnesses to the resurrection.
21. The Holy Spirit came to the Apostles on Pentecost in tongues of fire.
22. Followers of Jesus today are called Christians. The baptized followers are called the Church, or the people of God.
23. Christians work to bring the kingdom of God to fulfillment.
24. The Church worships God through the liturgical celebration of the Sacraments and the Liturgy of the Hours (the praying of the Psalms).
25. The sacraments of the Catholic Church are Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick, and Matrimony.
26. A sacrament is an effective sign through which Jesus Christ shares God's life and love with us.
27. The Catholic Church highly values the word of God through Sacred Scripture as we listen to the Word of God at every sacramental celebration.
28. The sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. The sacraments of Healing are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. The sacraments of Service are Matrimony and Holy Orders.
29. At Baptism, a person becomes a member of the Church, receives the Holy Spirit, and is freed from original sin.
30. Confirmation is the sacrament in which we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and are strengthened to give witness to the good news of Jesus.
31. The Gifts of the Spirit are WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, RIGHT JUDGMENT, COURAGE, KNOWLEDGE, REVERENCE & THE SPIRIT OF WONDER & AWE IN GOD'S PRESENCE.
32. LITURGY is the official public worship of the Church. The Liturgy includes the ways we celebrate the Mass and the other sacraments.

## BASIC CATHOLIC TEACHING (Continued)

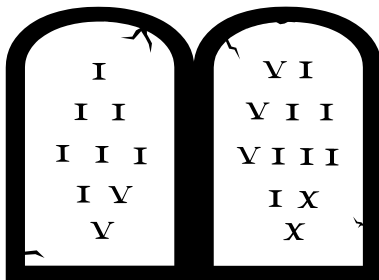
33. LITURGY OF THE WORD is made up of readings from the Old and New Testaments, Responsorial Psalm, Gospel, Homily, Creed, and Prayer of the Faithful (it is the first major part of the Mass). LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST is the second major part of the Mass. It is made up of the Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts, the Eucharistic Prayer, and Holy Communion.
34. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.
35. Temptations are the inclinations that a person or a group of people experience, urging them to weaken or break their relationship with God or other persons.
36. SIN is the human activity, freely chosen, that breaks or weakens the relationship with God and with others.
37. God loves all people at all times and always wishes them to be reconciled with Himself. The Church celebrates God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
38. The two Great Commandments are:
  1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and with all your mind.
  2. Love your neighbor as you love yourself.
39. The Pope is the Bishop of Rome, the successor of Peter, and the servant of God.
40. The Bishop is the chief pastor of the diocese.
41. The pastor is the shepherd of the parish, just as the bishop is the shepherd of the diocese.
42. The Liturgical seasons of the Church year are ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, LENT, the TRIDUUM (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday), EASTER, and ORDINARY TIME.
43. The Marks of the Church are ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, and APOSTOLIC. These four identifying qualities inform people of the kind of community Jesus began and calls us to be.
44. Each person has a VOCATION or a call to serve others. There are many vocations: MARRIED, ORDAINED, RELIGIOUS, AND SINGLE PERSONS.
45. Our preparation for living a life of service begins at Baptism and is renewed in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

*Jesus was speaking: "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you." John 14:25-26.*

# CATHOLIC BELIEFS

## The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord, your God, who brought you out of slavery. Worship no god except me.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father & mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not tell lies against your neighbor.
9. You shall not want to take your neighbor's wife or husband.
10. You shall not want to take your neighbor's possessions.



## The Beatitudes

Happy are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of God belongs to them!

Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them!

Happy are those who are humble; They will receive what God has promised!

Happy are those who do what God wants; God will satisfy them fully!

Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will have mercy on them!

Happy are the pure in heart; They will see God!

Happy are those who work for peace; They will be called children of God!

Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God wants; The kingdom of heaven belongs to them!



# CATHOLIC BELIEFS

## The Laws (Precepts) of the Church

1. Celebrate Christ's resurrection every Sunday (or Saturday evening) and on holy days of Obligation by participating in Mass and avoiding unnecessary work.
2. Lead a sacramental life. Receive Holy Communion frequently and the sacrament of Penance, or Reconciliation, regularly. We must receive Holy Communion at least once a year at Lent-Easter. We must confess within a year if we have committed a serious or mortal sin.
3. Study Catholic teaching throughout life, especially in preparing for the sacraments.
4. Observe the marriage laws of the Catholic Church and give religious training to one's children.
5. Strengthen & support the Church: one's own parish, the worldwide Church, & the Holy Father.
6. Do Penance, including refraining from eating meat & fasting from food on certain days.
7. Join in the missionary work of the Church.

## Holy Days of Obligation

On these days, Catholics must celebrate the Eucharist just as on Sunday.

1. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1)
2. Easter
3. Ascension (40 Days After Easter)
4. Assumption of Mary (August 15)
5. All Saints Day (November 1)
6. Immaculate Conception (December 8)
7. Christmas (December 25)



# CHOOSING A SPONSOR

Young people do not journey alone within the Christian community. Along the way, they make ties with certain people who demonstrate, in their own lives, what it means to be Catholic. A sponsor is one of those people with whom one can discuss faith issues, turn to for guidance and ask for prayer. The Candidate's sponsor will stand with them during the Enrollment Sunday meeting in October and present them to the bishop during the Confirmation Ceremony in November. We pray that candidates will continue to be influenced by their sponsor long after the celebration.

*"A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter, He who finds one finds a treasure."  
Sirach 6:14*

The qualifications for choosing a sponsor are:

- \* Must be at least 16 years old
- \* Must be an active practicing Catholic who has received Confirmation and Eucharist.
- \* Must not be bound by a canonical penalty (e.g., they may not be divorced and remarried without an annulment).
- \* May not be the Candidate's parent.

Sponsors are required to complete the Confirmation Sponsor Verification Form stating that they are active parish members. This form must be signed by your sponsor's pastor and contain the parish seal of the sponsor's parish (see next page or IHM website [[www.ihm-ky.org](http://www.ihm-ky.org)] if an additional form is needed) MUST be submitted by August 17.

Suggestion: An appropriate choice for the Candidate's sponsor (connecting Baptism and Confirmation) may be their Godparent (if they meet the above criteria). Candidates should pray about their choice and enjoy the opportunity to connect in faith!

Need help finding a sponsor? Contact IHM and ask for the Director of Religious Education at 689-5010.



## AFTER SELECTING YOUR SPONSOR

It would be best to spend time with your sponsor regardless of how well you know them. While we may know a person well, we often do not openly discuss our faith or prayer life with them, now is a good time to do so. The life-long role of your sponsor is to walk with you and support you on your faith journey! Please complete the Sponsor- Candidate Interview and Questions to help you and your sponsor connect on a “spiritual” level. The “Confirmation Sponsor- Candidate Interview – Reflection” is due on Sunday, August 17. A complete description of the interview, along with questions and the reflections form, can be found in the orientation packet.

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**  
**5876 Veterans Way**  
**Burlington, KY 41005**  
**Phone: 859-689-5010 ext. 261**

**CONFIRMATION SPONSOR VERIFICATION FORM**  
**For Immaculate Heart of Mary**

*(Must be received by IHM Church in September )*

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a registered member of the parish of

Sponsor Name

\_\_\_\_\_, have been asked to stand as a sponsor for

Parish Name

\_\_\_\_\_, as he/she receives the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Candidate Name

As a practicing Catholic, I appreciate that this request is an important opportunity for me to witness to my faith and provide a good example of Catholic Life. I have prayerfully considered what I have been asked to do. I promise, with God's help, to be the best sponsor I can be. Therefore, I now affirm:

- \_\_\_ That I am at least 16 years of age;
- \_\_\_ That I am a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church;
- \_\_\_ That I am not the parent of the Confirmation Candidate;
- \_\_\_ That I have completed my own Christian initiation through reception of the most Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation;
- \_\_\_ That, if I am married, I was married according to the laws and teachings of the Catholic Church;
- \_\_\_ That I will do all in my power to be a model of Catholic Christian living by participating in the worship of the Church community at Mass every Sunday and on Holy days of Obligation; by properly supporting the work of the Church; and by exhibiting my own sense of charity and social justice in how I live with and influence others.

I am prepared to assist the person I am sponsoring in living the Christian life by my own actions, concern and encouragement. I will do my best to attend the Candidate Sponsor Night, the Confirmation Rehearsal, and the Confirmation Mass.

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Sponsor

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is a registered, ACTIVE parishioner of

\_\_\_\_\_ Parish.

Below is the signature of the pastor attesting to my good standing at the parish I attend. This is verified by the parish seal.

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Signature

Parish Seal

*\*Please return this form from your parish to the Office of Religious Education, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 5876 Veterans Way, Burlington, KY 41005 / or Email to caragon@ihm-ky.org*

# CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

For Confirmation, each candidate must choose a Confirmation name; this is the name by which the candidate will be presented to the Bishop at the Sacrament of Confirmation Mass.

There are many examples of people taking on new names throughout the Bible, dating back to the Old Testament. God changed the names of many to reflect the special roles they'd play throughout the history of the Church. For example, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, meaning "father to a host of nations." This name change signified that God was making a covenant with Abraham to make him the first of God's people on earth. Simon's name was changed to Peter, meaning "rock," and refers to Peter becoming the first pope: "And upon this rock, I will build my church" (Matthew 16:17-18).

## **Selecting a Confirmation Saint (Confirmation Name)**

The Confirmation name may be the same as the candidate's Baptismal name, or they may choose a Saint that they admire and what to model their life after.

Choosing a Saint is a prayerful process. Ask God to inspire you in your prayers and reflections as you discern the name of a Saint for this project. When deciding on a Confirmation name, the goal is to pick the name of a saint you admire, can relate to, or aspire to be like. This Saint will be bonded to you spiritually, be your model in life, and be the one you turn to for guidance and protection.

## **Guidelines and suggestions for selecting a Saint Name (Confirmation Name):**

- Begin by finding Saints who share your first, middle, or (sometimes) last names. Read the stories of these Saints and see if their lives attract you in some way. The Internet is an easy way to search for the life stories of Saints.
- Think about your interests. For example – if you are interested in music, look up the patron Saint of musicians.)
- Research the Saint whose feast day is the same as your birthday.
- If the founder/foundress of a religious community in your area is canonized as a Saint, research their life story and how they founded the religious order.
- Talk to your parents and sponsor about their choices and patron Saints.
- Choose a Saint that inspires you.

*(For more information, please see the Orientation Packet, pages 16-18 of the handbook, or contact the Religious Education Office.)*

## Saint Name Project

It is essential that you know about the Saint you choose. Bishop Iffert might ask you about your saint at the Sacrament of Confirmation Mass and why you choose this particular saint. The best way to learn about your saint is to read about their life. Additionally, visiting a church or where the Saint lived is another way to learn more about your saint – this can take time and planning.

You will complete the questions regarding your name for this project on the next page. The questions can be answered directly by making a paper-sized poster (a standard sheet of paper) telling about your saint or combining both. In addition to answering questions, please provide an image of your saint and the prayer or novena for the intercession of this Saint. Finally, please provide a list of sources used. The Orientation Packet contains a list of resources to help you with this project.

### Saint Project Questions

- Birthplace of the Saint
- Birthdate or if the birthdate is not available, note time lived
- Important facts/information/details about the Saint.
- What is the Saint known for?
- Are they a patron/patroness Saint of any causes?
- What virtues do you admire that this Saint practiced?
- List the Saint's feast day on the liturgical calendar.
- What color vestments does the priest wear to celebrate Mass on the Saint's feast day? Why that particular color?
- What about this Saint inspires you to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- What about this Saint inspires you to be a better Catholic, and how is this Saint a model for Christians today?
- Why did you choose this Saint?
- Is there a prayer or novena for the intercession of this Saint? Please, provide this as part of your project and offer the prayer as your Saint companions you in life.

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Things to keep in mind while working on your Saint Project:

- The project is a personal reflection. There is a lot of information on all the Saints; focus on why the Saints are important to you.
- Be creative in your research. There are YouTube videos, movies/documentaries, and podcasts that discuss the lives of Saints; feel free to use these. If you do, make sure to include them in your source list.
- The resources listed above are all resources on Saints; almost every Saint has a specific book written on them.
- The Religious Education Staff will review the projects you turn in. When possible, please write in complete sentences and/or paragraphs. Please make this your best work!
- The Saint Project will be turned in at orientation on August 17, . It will need to fit in an envelope with the rest of your paper. (The RE office will provide the envelope.)
- If you need help researching or learning about your saint, please contact the Religious Education Office – Carrie Aragon ([caragon@ihm-ky.org](mailto:caragon@ihm-ky.org)). We will be happy to point you in the direction of resources or work with you to answer the questions.

# CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE – PARISH COVENANT

## CANDIDATE:

Understanding that I am still in the decision-making process about whether or not to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation, I do choose to commit myself to this preparation program. In doing so:

1. I will do my best to take this decision seriously. I plan to attend each session and participate in all activities.
2. I will do my best to pray daily for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
3. I will make every effort possible to attend mass weekly.
4. I understand that the retreat day (SPIRIT DAY) is required. If a serious problem should arise with attending the retreat, I will talk this over with the Confirmation coordinator immediately, and we will solve the problem together.
5. I understand that attendance at all scheduled sessions and events is vital. If I have any unexcused absences, I will need to be reevaluated for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
6. I will use my talents in the service of others by completing my six hours of service.
7. I will do my best to meet/communicate regularly with my sponsor.

## PARISH:

1. The parish will supply Confirmation leaders who will guide you through the preparation program and assist you in integrating what you learn into your faith life.
2. Prepared leaders will be at each session willing to share their faith, willing to listen to you, and willing to assist you in whatever way they can.
3. The parish community, leaders, and coordinators promise to support you with the most powerful force in the universe – DAILY PRAYER.
4. SPIRIT DAY will allow you to experience the faith of your peers, to search in your mind and heart what God is asking of you in the present and help you understand how the Holy Spirit can become an individual integral part of your life.
5. The preparation program is not designed to be boring or dull. Everyone involved is excited about your presence.

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**Pastor's Signature**

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**Director's Signature**

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**Candidate's Signature**

# Guide to Writing a Letter to the Pastor Requesting the Sacrament

You are free to respond to God's call to live your faith more deeply – to worship, witness, and serve as a confirmed Christian. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please write a letter of request to your pastor, Msgr. Dominic Fosu, stating your desire. Your letter should follow the guidelines below.

## GREETING

Begin your letter with the greeting: *Dear Msgr. Fosu*

## BODY OF THE LETTER

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Tell Monsignor Fosu something about yourself, your family, and your background.

Paragraph 2: Request the sacrament. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3: Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation. It is important that you tell about very specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, ways you help others and your community, and how you are involved within the parish, etc.

Paragraph 4: Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.

## CONCLUSION

Conclude your letter and write your complete signature.

### Closings Suggestions:

*Your friend in Christ or God bless you, or Sincerely, or Peace be with you, (or any closing of your choice)*

Signature: Your full name: *Jon Joseph Monohan Megan Marie Fisher*

**Contact Information – Candidate and Family**

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Candidate's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Family Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone Number #1: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone Number #2: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please add the first name behind the phone number, if including two numbers.

Candidate Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Family email: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate Information**

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Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State)

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Maiden)

School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Grade (Fall ): \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Church) (City, State)

Address of Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please use exact date.)  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Candidate's Church of First Communion: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Church) (City, State)

Are you a registered member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish?

Emergency contacts and phone number:

**PERMISSIONS**

Group Leader - Candidate Communication

Some group leaders like to send group emails or texts to candidates in their groups. Often, parents are not included in these correspondences. **Parents**, please initial below to provide your consent for Confirmation Leaders to communicate with your Candidate in a group message (email or text).

\_\_\_\_\_ I allow Confirmation leaders to send a group email or text to my son/daughter with reminders and updates.

\_\_\_\_\_ I DO NOT give my permission for Confirmation leaders to send a group email or text to my son/daughter with reminders and updates.

Photography

As **parent/guardian** of this candidate, I permit photographs taken of my candidate to be used in publications, such as the parish bulletin, parish website/social media, and local or Diocesan newspaper.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Please Contact me \_\_\_\_\_

**FEES**

**Confirmation fees are \$50.00.** The fee goes toward program materials and supplies. Please talk to the Religious Education Staff if you need assistance paying the fee. If unable to pay entire fee, then a minimum of \$25.00 is due the first session.

Signed:	Date:
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Please return this form before August 11 to Carrie Aragon, Confirmation Coordinator: [caragon@ihm-ky.org](mailto:caragon@ihm-ky.org). You may also mail your form to IHM Confirmation Program or drop it off at the receptionist's desk. After the form is received, you will receive an orientation packet via email with activities to complete before preparation sessions start in August.

*\*\*We ask for candidate's email addresses so they can receive program updates along with their parents. Both parents/candidates will receive the same information.*

# CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE Saint & Sponsor INFORMATION SHEET –

*THE INFORMATION SHEET IS DUE in AUGUST*

Candidate's Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Full Name)

Confirmation Name / Confirmation Saint:

\_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Confirmation Sponsor:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Full Name)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number:

\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Street Address)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

If the candidate's sponsor cannot attend, sponsor and enrollment Sunday, October 5, and Confirmation Practice on November 2, who will "stand in" for the sponsor?

**\*\*\*An email will be sent to both the sponsor and stand-in sponsor to remind them of these events.**

Confirmation "Stand-in" for Sponsor:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Confirmation Service Log

Candidate's Name:

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of Hours</i>	<i>Description of Service</i>	<i>Name and Signature of Supervisor</i>
<i>Total Number of Hours:</i>			

**Please write a brief description and reflection of the Christian service you performed. What did you learn from helping others? How did your work align with the works of mercy?**