



Confirmation Overview

What is Confirmation?

- The completion of Baptism
 - Confirmation exists to equip us with the particular graces we will need on the journey of proclaiming the Gospel with our lives.
- A deepening and strengthening of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that are sealed inside us
 - Without Confirmation one is never fully equipped with the Holy Spirit, to grow into a spiritually mature adult.
- Our "YES" to accepting and carrying out the mission Jesus gave to the Apostles
 - We are charged to proclaim the Gospel in just the same way the disciples were charged with proclaiming the Gospel. The proclamation of the Gospel is how we accomplish the mission of the Church, the same mission Christ gave to the Apostles - *Behold, the power of the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and you shall be my witness in Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth* (Acts 1:8).

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the sealing of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which empower one to serve the Body of Christ in spreading and defending the faith by word and action as witnesses of Christ. The power needed to be passionate for the mission given to us from Jesus rests in the Holy Spirit. The power of the Father and the Son's love, living in us, is the promise of what the Holy Spirit brings.

Goals of program:

1. Grow an intimate relationship and union with Jesus through prayer, Scripture study, and faith sharing.
2. Invite the Holy Spirit into every aspect of the candidate's life and walk in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
3. Awaken the candidate's sense of belonging to the Church and the importance of our parish community.
4. Understand the responsibilities of a confirmed Catholic.

Elements of the program:

- Who Jesus is and the evidence of his life, death, resurrection, and divinity
- The seven Sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist, signs and symbols and greater in depth understanding of Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Holy Orders.
- The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- How to develop a deeper prayer life and personal relationship with Jesus through prayer, Scripture, and active participation in the Sacraments
- The story of salvation history and how it is also each candidate's story
- The importance of the Church, Jesus' founded the Church, Church history, Church hierarchy, the works of the Church
- The Creed
- Mariology
- The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, service

How?**Through:**

- Faith formation and community building on Wednesday nights and Life Teen Sunday nights
- Family support and discussions
- Weekly Mass participation

- Sponsor support and discussions
- Spiritual retreat experience
- Service
- Personal reflection

Elements of faith formation on Wednesday nights:

1. Community building and sharing
2. Chosen Confirmation content of Ascension Press Video Confirmation program and youth Alpha program as it fits, supplemental content as needed
3. Reflection and praying with Scripture through Lectio Divina on upcoming Sunday's readings
4. Prayer
5. Reflection (perhaps journaling)

Candidate's responsibilities:

- Attend Mass weekly and participate in Confirmation preparation rituals
- Weekly participation in Wednesday night Confirmation classes and Sunday nights Life Teen
- If candidate misses a class, watch the videos individually and write a paragraph reflection on the content to be emailed prior to next class
- Attend Mass weekly and participate in Confirmation preparation rituals
- Weekly participation in Wednesday night Confirmation classes and **Sunday Life Teen Nights.**
- Meet with sponsor at least once per month to discuss faith
- Participate in Confirmation service project
- Attend Confirmation Retreat
- Write a summary of why Confirmation name was chosen and the life of the saint
- Write a letter to the pastor at least two weeks prior to Confirmation on why you would like to be Confirmed and share several things you have learned and reflected upon in your preparation

Parent Responsibilities:

- Facilitate and support your teen to Life Teen and Confirmation classes
- Attend Mass with your teen
- As the primary educator of your teen, engage in weekly discussion with your teen on the weekly topic questions in the weekly Confirmation email you will receive. The Chosen Parent Handbook provides excellent conversation starters, prayers, and answers to some difficult questions that teens have about the Catholic faith.
- Pray with and for your teen; pray as a family together

Sponsor Responsibilities:

- Attend sponsor meeting
- To support and engage with the candidate in their faith journey through at least monthly communications facilitated by the Sponsor Handbook
- Pray with and for your candidate
- Write a letter to Deacon Ed on the readiness of the candidate for Confirmation and share how the candidate has grown through the Confirmation preparation time