Confirmation: Frequently Asked Questions

When does Saint Mary of the Assumption offer Confirmation?

Students entering the 9th,10th, or 11th grades, who have completed 7th and 8th grade in a Parish Religious Education Program or in a Catholic School are invited to be part of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

When does preparation for the Sacrament begin?

Registration for the following year begins in June. Sessions begin in the Fall and our Confirmation celebration is usually scheduled for the following Spring. For example: For Confirmation in Spring of 2024, registration begins June of 2023 with sessions beginning Fall of 2023.

Who can be a sponsor for a Confirmation candidate?

The Church requires that a Confirmation sponsor be a fully initiated (has received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) and currently practicing Catholic. Sponsors are to be over 16 years of age. If a sponsor is married, their marriage should be recognized by the Church.

Every sponsor who is not a member of St. Mary of the Assumption must submit a "certificate of eligibility" provided by their home parish.

A parent or step parent may NOT serve as his/her child's sponsor.

What if we can't find a sponsor fulfilling those requirements?

The parish will help a candidate meet an appropriate sponsor. One of our deacons, catechists, or parent facilitators would be happy to walk through the preparation process with a candidate.

What if my chosen sponsor can't attend the ceremony?

The parish will provide a proxy for the candidate. Usually the deacon on the altar the day of the ceremony would stand in for the chosen sponsor.

What should a candidate wear for Confirmation?

Candidates are asked to dress for a special occasion. Dress shirt, ties, and dress pants are appropriate for gentlemen, modest dresses, skirts or slacks are appropriate for ladies. No particular color is needed. Sneakers, flip flops, and bare shoulders would not be appropriate.

Can a candidate be Confirmed virtually?

No. Sacraments are only received in person. The parish may live-stream the ceremony so relatives or friends who are unable to attend may view and be part of a Candidate's Confirmation

What if "something comes up" and a candidate is unable to attend the ceremony?

Candidates are asked to make their Confirmation preparation sessions and the Confirmation ceremony a priority. However, in an emergency, the parish will help the candidate find another ceremony at a local parish that is able to accommodate an additional candidate at their ceremony.

Is a candidate required to complete service hours?

Saint Mary of the Assumption asks a candidate to complete 20 hours of uncompensated service. These hours can be completed at home, in school, at the parish, or in the community. Hours completed for scouts or school can count. Jesus taught us to do for others, and as Confirmed Catholics we strive to be more like Jesus every day. Submission of a service form with reflection questions is part of the preparation process.

Does a candidate have to choose a Confirmation name?

Yes, candidates are Confirmed by name ("_____ Be sealed with the Holy Spirit) as they are anointed. A candidate may choose a Saint or Biblical name, or they may choose their baptismal name. Candidates should choose a Saint whose virtues and life journey inspires them. That Saint then becomes their patron and they can ask the Saint to pray for them and walk with them on their Christian journey.

Why is going to Confession part of the Confirmation preparation process? Is it required?

In order for a candidate to be open to and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, the Church requires a candidate to be "properly disposed" or in a state of grace. To this end Saint Mary of the Assumption provides a Penance Service as the last step before Confirmation. Candidates are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity or to seek out a priest for an individual Confession, as offered at Saint Mary's on Saturdays at 3:30 pm or by scheduling a time to meet with the priest.