

# Family Information Packet

*Sacrament of Confirmation 2025*



## Saint Augustine & Saint Joseph

*Roman Catholic Parishes*



# Confirmation

## *General Information*

### Few words about...

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, Whom the Lord sent upon His apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized.

In 1972, the church published the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) the RCIA stresses the connections between the three sacraments of Christian initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

In baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life.

In the Eucharist, the great sign of Christian unity, the faithful are nourished and strengthened. They are transformed into a more loving and united community of believers. Through these sacramental rites the faithful are officially acknowledged as Christians. They are commissioned to carry out the mission of Christ and His Church.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation time in the parish is a time when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.

## Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

*The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ. These gifts are:*

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Knowledge
- Piety
- Reverence for God

*From these Gifts of the Holy Spirit come the **Fruits**, which are:*

- Charity
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Long-suffering
- Mildness
- Modesty
- Contingency
- Chastity

## The Rite of Confirmation

*The sacrament of Confirmation:*

- Is celebrated during Mass
- Begins after the Liturgy of the Word
- Is presided over by the bishop or a designated auxiliary or pastor.

*There are four parts to the rite:*

- Renewal of baptismal vows
- Laying on of hands
- Anointing with oil
- Sign of peace.

# The Role of Sponsor

- Support the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- Must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- Must belong to the Catholic church and be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- Should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment
- May be either male or female for any candidate
- **Must obtain a statement of eligibility from the pastor of their parish**
- May be a baptismal Godparent, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation
- May help the candidate prepare for Confirmation
- May assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service project commitment
- Must be reasonably informed on current church teachings
- May accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs.
- May not be the parents of the candidate for the same reason a parent is not a baptismal sponsor.
- Parents are the primary religious educators in the candidate's life.
- Can encourage the candidate by growing in a faith relationship.
- May assist in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament.
- May present the candidate to the minister of Confirmation.

# Candidates Preparing For Confirmation

- Must freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known.
- Must have a spirit of cooperation and prayerful attitude toward receiving and living out one's Confirmation.
- Must be in the state of grace.
- Must have a sufficient knowledge of the basic beliefs of the Catholic Faith as demonstrated through: Active participation in class, attendance at weekly Mass, Reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the Confirmation ceremony.
- Must be practicing their faith.
- Should attend Mass and receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Penance regularly.
- Are responsible for completing all required home study and service projects.
- Must be aware of the initiation aspect of the sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion.
- Must attend all class periods (less than 85% attendance by students will require extra work. Irregular attendance and/or poor achievement/cooperation may result in the delay of the sacrament.
- Must be willing to participate in the Confirmation program of prayer, retreat, communal celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation, etc.
- Completion of paperwork and forms: Letter to the confirming Bishop, Registration Form, Sponsor letter (A letter from the pastor of their parish stating their eligibility)

*He has given us the Pledge of His Spirit.*

*2 Corinthians 5:5*

# The Responsibilities of the Parents

- Are the primary educators of their children.
- Are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life.
- Serve as models for their child by being committed Christians.
- Worship with their families regularly.
- Nurture their child in faith.
- Should encourage their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Are asked to attend meetings, programs, and prayer services that are planned to help their child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Are no longer permitted as Confirmation sponsors for their own child.
- Are asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study and Christian service.
- Can emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation.
- Should stress the initiation aspect of the sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith.
- Should help their child in understanding that the Confirmation service project is the beginning of a life committed to Christian service.

# Christian Commitment To Service

- Jesus came “not to be served, but to serve.” (Mt 20:28) The church is a servant community and all those accepting full membership in the church are also accepting the responsibility to serve.
- Candidates for the reception of Confirmation are asked to select service projects which are geared to their own special talents and abilities. Candidates are asked to perform hours of Christian service to others as part of their preparation for Confirmation.
- The service should be performed freely and willingly. It could help the parish, neighborhood, or a local community.
- This service project is meant to represent the candidate’s intentions of becoming full members of this servant community, the church, and special followers of Christ—Christians.

## Rite of Enrollment

The Rite of Enrollment is a ceremony in which the candidates who choose to enter into the immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation make their commitment official.

Prior to the Rite of Enrollment, candidates are asked to seriously and prayerfully think about what will be required of them during this time of preparation.

All who are led by the Spirit are children of God.

Romans 8:14

# Confirmation Names

If the candidate's baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. Using the baptismal name for Confirmation is preferred because it highlights the relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

If the candidate chooses to take a new name for Confirmation, however, it should be a name selected in honor of Jesus or Mary or from the list of recognized saints of the Catholic Church. Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons or models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron whose Christian life or virtues can be imitated.

## Patron Saints

For centuries God has bestowed miraculous help on mankind through His Saints. Although you can pray to any saint for any need, through the centuries the saints have demonstrated their special protection and guardianship over certain areas of life. These areas can include occupations, illnesses, churches, countries, causes anything that is important to us. A patron saint can help us when we follow the example of that saint's life and when we ask for that saint's intercessory prayers to God. Long established custom and devotion have established these saints as patrons.



# Candidate Review Guide

The following topics should already be mastered by anyone entering the Confirmation preparation program. Parents and sponsors should assist candidates in reviewing this material.

## *The Commandments*

- ❖ I am the Lord, your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.
- ❖ You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
- ❖ Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
- ❖ Honor your father and your mother.
- ❖ You shall not kill.
- ❖ You shall not commit adultery.
- ❖ You shall not steal.
- ❖ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- ❖ You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
- ❖ You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

## *Sacraments*

- ❖ Baptism.
- ❖ Confirmation.
- ❖ Holy Eucharist.
- ❖ Reconciliation.
- ❖ Holy Orders.
- ❖ Matrimony.
- ❖ Anointing of the Sick

## *Prayers that candidates should know by heart:*

- ❖ The Our Father
- ❖ The Hail Mary
- ❖ The Apostles' Creed
- ❖ Glory be to the Father
- ❖ An Act of Contrition

### ***Beatitudes***

- ❖ Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ❖ Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.
- ❖ Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- ❖ Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.
- ❖ Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
- ❖ Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.
- ❖ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
- ❖ Blessed are those who suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### ***Corporal Works of Mercy***

- ❖ To feed the hungry
- ❖ To give drink to the thirsty
- ❖ To clothe the naked
- ❖ To visit the homeless
- ❖ To care for the sick
- ❖ To bury the dead

### ***Spiritual Works of Mercy***

- ❖ To correct the sinner
- ❖ To teach the ignorant
- ❖ To counsel the doubtful
- ❖ To comfort the sorrowful
- ❖ To bear wrongs patiently
- ❖ To forgive all injuries
- ❖ To pray for the living and the dead

### ***The Laws of the Church***

- ❖ To assist at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of obligation
- ❖ To fast and abstain on the days appointed
- ❖ To confess our sins at least once a year
- ❖ To receive Eucharist during the Easter time
- ❖ To contribute to the support of the church
- ❖ To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage
- ❖ To contribute to the missionary efforts of the Church

# Confirmation Prayer

*God, our Father, we ask you to bless all candidates who are now preparing to receive the spirit of Your love in the sacrament of Confirmation.*

*May the gifts within each one be touched by Your Holy Spirit and become blessings for our parish family.*

*Bless, too, our parents, our sponsors, our teachers and Catechists, and all those who have been the reflection of Your Son's love for us.*

*This we ask through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

Dear Parents:

I am asking you to write a letter to your child. In the letter, please say a little about his/her preparation for Confirmation. Also, write down some of the hopes and wishes you have for his/her future. Close your letter with a personal blessing for your child.

Place the letter you wrote in a sealed envelope with your child's full name on it and return it to me. This letter will be given to your child at an appropriate time during our Confirmation preparation.

Please return letters by April 4, 2025 to the Parish Office.

Sincerely,

Fr. Thomas Pione Wille

AKP  
M/KR