



CONFIRMATION: Why Do This?

*The sacraments of Christian initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist - lay the foundations of every Christian life. "The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, they thus **receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity.**"*

- Catechism of the Catholic Church §1212, using the words of Pope Paul VI

Through this preparation process, you will be making yourself ready to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is the Advocate whom you can call to your side for help, and who will give you His gifts and fruits as you need them. This is how you ("the faithful") will be strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation.

Through these gifts and fruits, we hope to "advance towards the perfection of charity" as Pope Paul VI says above. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells all who listen, "*Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect*" (Mt 5:48). While we're not going to reach perfection in this life (and the only way we can is through God's help), we are called to pursue it. That call is why Confirmation is not a "graduation" in any way. In Confirmation, you are given the Spirit to help you continue to grow throughout your life... your advancement toward "the perfection of charity" begins in earnest.

By bestowing his Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, God chooses you to do his work in the Church.

God is calling you. Will you answer?

If the Holy Spirit is a gift you are willing to receive from God, to assist you in trying to "be perfect" throughout your life, then choose to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

CHOOSING YOUR SPONSOR

Canon Law #874 states that to be admitted to undertake the office of Sponsor a person must:

- *Be chosen by the candidate for Confirmation or by the parents or whoever stands in their place.*
- *Be at least 16 years of age.*
- *Be a Catholic who has been confirmed, has received the Blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith that befits the role to be undertaken.*
- *Not labor under any canonical penalty that would cause them not to be able to receive Communion at Confirmation.*
- *Not be the mother or father of the candidate for Confirmation.*

We suggest that you also choose as a sponsor someone who lives outside your home – even if your sibling would make a good sponsor, remember that you can talk with him or her about the Sacraments anytime you wish! Take this opportunity to find a wise community member with whom you can have fruitful discussions about your faith as it deepens.

SPONSOR CONVERSATIONS

Five modules are designed for the sponsor and confirmandi to have faith-filled discussions. The confirmandi is expected to write a summary for each module and submit it online or to his/her teacher. These are due by March 22, 2027.

PRIVATE SCHOOL CONFIRMATION PREP CLASSES

* The following 6 preparation dates are for candidates who do not attend Incarnate Word Catholic School or PSR. They are for 8th grade students who attend private Catholic school (they have been receiving religion instruction in school, but no sacramental preparation).

Sun. January 10	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
Sun. January 24	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
Sun. January 31	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
Sun. February 7	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
Sun. February 21	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
Sun. February 28	9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The youth ministry team and high school students from Incarnate Word Parish will provide students with opportunities for fun, for community, and for going deeper with your faith.

The retreat is planned for Saturday, January 23. Dan Huss will communicate additional details.

Parent Retreat – January 23, 2027 from 9:00am – 12:00pm. To support parents in guiding their child's preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents are highly encouraged to attend this opportunity in replacement of the parent confirmation meeting. **The Office of Religious Education will communicate additional details.**

SERVICE OFFERING: 15 HOURS

We ask you to offer up a minimum of 15 hours of service in preparation for Confirmation. We also ask that your hours be broken down in this way:

5 HOURS FOR THE CHURCH 5 HOURS IN COMMUNITY 5 HOURS IN/WITH FAMILY

Why service to Church? God has given each of us a unique set of talents to share, and St. Peter reminds us that God calls all of us to use our gifts in service to the Church: *"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace"* (1 Peter 4:10).

Why service to community? Serving any person's needs, whether they belong to the Church or not, shows our belief in the dignity of every human person. Service in our community can also include care for God's creation, which God entrusted to us. By serving in our community, we *evangelize*, or spread the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection, because people can see that those who follow Christ do good work.

Why service in or with your family? Your family is the most important community you will ever belong to, but it takes work to build and keep up those relationships. Service to your family members, as well as serving others with your family, will bring you closer to each other in God.

Note: If a student participates in serving with the St. Peter & Paul meal program for 5 of the months leading up to their Confirmation, that "apprenticeship" can be considered the sum total of his or her service hour requirement.

Students may also participate on fewer than 5 dates and put those hours towards their Church or community requirements, as needed. (*Sign-up links can be found on the Peter & Paul or Confirmation pages of the parish website.*)

There is a service hour log attached which is to be submitted to the parish office or to your IW day school/PSR teacher by Monday, March 22.

Why do we need your log? Along with your parents, Incarnate Word is responsible for ensuring that you understand the commitment to Christian discipleship included in Confirmation, and the service hour log is one way by which we learn about your readiness. In short, these good actions are some of your "good fruits." Jesus says that *"every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit... So by their fruits you will know them"* (Mt 17-20).

IMPORTANT LINKS

- **Parish Volunteer opportunities may be found here:**
<https://signup.com/go/GvBMqHz>

- **Saint Name Resources:**
[Confirmation Saint Names for Girls](#)

[Confirmation Saint Names for Boys](#)

[Life Teen List of Confirmation Saints](#)