

**Mary, Queen of Heaven Family of Parishes
Office of Evangelization**

7130 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247



Confirmation Packet 2026-2027

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit,

you have taught the hearts of your faithful.

In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right

and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



GENERAL INFORMATION

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 guidelines for 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 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. In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life. Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment.

GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The focus of the Sacrament of Confirmation is on the Holy Spirit of God. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ. These gifts are:

Wisdom – This gift helps people recognize the presence of God in their lives. Often this is not easy. When you are hurt, lonely, angry, grieving, ill or addicted it may be difficult to know that God is present. There are also times when it is very easy to know God is present, especially in times of joy and happiness. The reality is, God is always present. The gift of wisdom helps everyone to experience God’s presence more clearly.

Understanding – This gift allows people to open their minds and hearts so that they may recognize the goodness that lies within others. It helps people see that there needs to be openness to learning about others and their beliefs and ways of life.

Counsel – This gift allows people to make good decisions and choices in light of the Gospel message. Making decisions is such an important aspect

of life and for every decision that is made there is a definite consequence. The gift of right judgment helps people to know what is right and good and even more importantly, this gift helps us to choose the good.

Fortitude – This gift of courage gives people the strength and desire to stand up for what they believe in, especially in proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ.

Knowledge – This gift helps people to become aware of God’s love and to share that love with others.

Piety – This gift leads people to a deeper awareness of God and engenders respect, regard and fulfillment of duty to God, as well as reverence in their communion with God through prayer and the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

Wonder and Awe – This gift, also known as “Fear of the Lord,” helps people to recognize God in all creation. Have you ever been captivated by a sunrise or sunset? Have you ever witnessed the birth of new life? Have you ever appreciated the beauty of a mountain range, the beach, or the desert landscape? All of these things point to the source of our wonder and awe, God. Sometimes we fail to see God’s presence, or sometimes we take it for granted. The gift of wonder and awe helps people to appreciate the marvels of creation and to recognize that all people are made in the image and likeness of God.

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

Charity	Joy
Chastity	Kindness
Faithfulness	Modesty
Generosity	Patience
Gentleness	Peace
Goodness	Self-control

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The defined teaching of the Catholic Church is very clear: “Parents are the primary educators of their children, most especially in the ways of the faith.” Parents are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life and they must always serve as models for their children by living lives of Christian witness.

PROMISE FORM

The Candidates, along with their parents, sign the Preparation Promise Form (found in this packet), and return it to the religion teacher declaring their intent to receive the sacrament. The Candidates are asked to seriously and prayerfully think about what will be required of them during this time of preparation. The promise form declares:

*As a Candidate for Confirmation in the preparation program at Mary, Queen of Heaven Family,
I promise to:*

- be attentive in class and participate in the activities that are provided as part of the preparation for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation;
- commit to deepening my relationship with God and others through prayer and service;
- take seriously my responsibility to participate in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist;
- pray for those who are going to celebrate this sacrament with me;
- choose a sponsor who will take an active role in helping me grow in faith; and
- serve my family, friends, church, and community with a cheerful heart.

*As a parent of a Candidate for Confirmation,
I promise to:*

- assist the Candidate in the preparation for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation;
- participate fully in the preparation program as required; and
- support the Mary, Queen of Heaven community by actions, words, and prayers.

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

If the candidate’s baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church or a Biblical name, 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, however, the candidate chooses to take a new name for Confirmation, it should honor Jesus, Mary, or one of the many saints of the Catholic Church. A particular saint may be chosen to serve as patron and model for the one being confirmed.

THE ROLE OF SPONSOR

Becoming a sponsor is a great responsibility, but it is not without reward. Hopefully, it will aid in deepening your own faith relationship with God.

One definition of the word “sponsor” is “to engage oneself” or “to promise.” That is what sponsors are being asked to do when they assume the role. You will be asked to enter into a spiritual relationship with the candidate helping him/her to lead a Christian life in harmony with his/her baptismal call.

Ideally, sponsors should be the baptismal godparent, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. However, candidates may choose someone else. Because the role of sponsor is closely related to that of baptismal godparents, parents are not permitted to be sponsors.

The role of the sponsor is to support the person to be confirmed by your prayers and by your example. Candidates obviously look up to their sponsors, so it is important that you be a faithful Catholic, fully initiated and active in your parish. How can you be a witness if you are not active in your own faith?

A good sponsor should be a person of prayer. You will be asked to pray and share your faith with your candidate. Tell your candidate that you are praying for them. It means a lot to them to know people are holding them in prayer.

It may be helpful to know that a sponsor is not expected to have all the answers. Ultimately, it will be your role to show the candidates how to practice the Gospel in your personal and social life, to bear witness and to guide your candidate as they progress in the baptismal life.

While this may sound frightening, it need not be. By simply being present to your candidate during their faith journey, you will discover that you have benefited as much as the one you sponsor. Accepting the responsibility of sponsor

is a challenge that has countless blessings. The requirements to be a sponsor are:

- Must be at least 16 years of age. *
- Must be a Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- Must not be bound by any canonical penalty (for example, he or she may not be divorced and remarried without an annulment).
- May not be the parent of the Candidate.
- Should be present for the Confirmation. If not able to be present, a written notification of the identity of a proxy must be submitted no later than the evening of Confirmation.

**Canon law permits an exception to the age requirement based on "just cause." A petition for variance in the age requirement must be made in writing to the pastor.*

CHRISTIAN COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Jesus came "not to be served but to serve." (Matthew 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 Acts of Charity which are geared to their own special talents and abilities. Candidates are not asked to complete a specific number of hours, rather they are asked to perform an Act of Charity for their family, church or school, and community as part of their preparation for Confirmation. The Acts of Charity should be performed freely and willingly. These acts are meant to represent the candidates' intentions to become full members of this servant community, the Church.

CANDIDATE REVIEW GUIDE

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

The Seven Sacraments:

1. Baptism
2. Holy Eucharist
3. Confirmation
4. Reconciliation
5. Anointing of the Sick
6. Matrimony
7. Holy Orders

The Ten Commandments:

1. I am the Lord, your God; you shall not have strange gods before Me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Eight Beatitudes:

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
3. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
8. Blessed are those who suffer persecution for the sake of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Precepts of the Church:

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least once during Easter.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help provide for the needs of the Church (including mission work.)

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Visit those imprisoned.

5. Shelter the homeless.
6. Care for the sick.
7. Bury the dead.

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy:

1. Correct the sinner.
2. Teach the ignorant.
3. Counsel the doubtful.
4. Comfort the sorrowful.
5. Bear wrongs patiently.
6. Forgive all injuries.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

PRAYERS THAT THE CANDIDATES SHOULD KNOW BY HEART:

The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
 And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the

Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, Whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In His name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

A 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, sponsors, teachers and cat-
 echists, and all those who have been a reflection
 of Your Son's love for us.*

This we ask through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Parents:

Included in this folder are surveys that you are asked to take. One is for the parent(s) or guardian(s) and the other is for the Candidate for Confirmation. As your child prepares to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, this tool is provided to take an assessment of your family's faith life and use the opportunity to develop your own plan to grow deeper in your faith. They are not to be turned in.

Please remember that your parish and school both have resources to assist you in exploring your faith, deepening your relationship with God, and continually forming you and your family as disciples of Jesus.

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