

Sacrament of Confirmation

Who?

Students entering the first year of preparation will be enrolled in our Confirmation preparation classes. In order to complete this Confirmation Program, candidates must be co-enrolled in our RE Program, Montini Catholic School or an approved home school program for the 2 years.

What?

This program is designed to help our Confirmation students come to a deeper understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in their lives and in the life of our Church, and how they can interact with that Spirit to lead a life that will draw them into a closer relationship with God. This program is a faith formation program that will prepare them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Entering into the St. Patrick Confirmation Program requires a commitment of the candidate, the parents and the sponsor. If you want to be good at a particular sport, you need to learn the fundamentals, condition yourself and dedicate yourself to it. The same is true of spiritual strength. In order to be a good Christian a certain amount of commitment is needed. **Each of our classes is vital to the Confirmation program. Please be sure to make time in your schedule for 1 of the 2 offerings of each of the classes.**

When?

There will be 2 options for times for each of our preparation classes. A parent is asked to attend each session at the same time your child attends. During these sessions, parents will have the opportunity to receive the same training that your child will be receiving during the class. Confirmation classes will be held on Sunday mornings immediately following the 9:00 AM Mass and will dismiss at 11:15 AM – or – during the second meeting for family faith formation each month on Thursday night from 6-7:15pm. The schedule will be as follows:

Second Year Classes:

- Class 1: October 12 or 30 – Chosen Session 13 and 14
- Class 2: November 9 or 20 – Chosen Session 15 and 16
- Class 3: January 12 or 22 – Chosen Session 17 and 18
- Class 4: February 8 or 26 – Chosen Session 19 and 20
- Class 5: March 8 and 12 – Chosen Session 21 and 22
- Class 6: April 19 or 23 – Chosen Session 23 and 24

Confirmation retreat will be held scheduled when we have a Confirmation date.

Confirmation Mass will be requested for fall of 2026.

Because this is an immediate prep program students will not be allowed to miss any classes. If they miss any class, it is possible they will be held to the next year of preparation.

Where?

Sunday classes for Confirmation Candidates and parents will be held Montini Primary School and parish center. During family faith formation sessions, all families will first gather in the Lane Room in the parish Center.

Details: (Please mark all paperwork returned to the Parish Office with “Attn: Confirmation”)

~~**Done Baptismal Certificate:** If you were baptized at a Church other than St. Patrick, the RE office must have a copy of your baptismal certificate. Your Church of Baptism is your Church of record. We need to notify your Baptismal Church of your Confirmation Sacrament. (Canon 895, CIC). This should be turned in with your registration form by **October 31, 2024**.~~

~~**Done Confirmation Name and Saint Report:** This is an ancient custom in the Catholic Church. The name chosen should be that of a canonized Saint of the Church. Name of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being Confirmed.~~

~~Current practice regarding the selection of a Confirmation name shows the connection between the Sacraments of Initiation. The traditional view has been to take a new name to signify a new life in the Spirit. The current trend is to retain one’s baptismal name to show the continuity between all three sacraments of initiation and to signify the awakening to the Holy Spirit who is already present within us.~~

~~You must make your selection by **November 30, 2024** and return the Confirmation name form to the RE office. You must also complete a one page report on your saint and turn it into the RE Office by **November 30, 2024** as well. Please mark envelope with “Attn: Confirmation”.~~

~~**Done Confirmation Sponsor:** Your Confirmation sponsor must be a baptized Catholic who is at least 16 years of age and has made their Confirmation. They must be a practicing Catholic who is registered at a Parish and attending Mass regularly. When possible it is recommended that one of the baptismal sponsors (godparents) be the sponsor for Confirmation, as it emphasizes the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. The sponsor cannot be the candidate’s mother or father. **Sponsors must provide St. Patrick with a current Baptismal certificate with notations of all Sacraments in order to be a sponsor.**~~

~~The sponsor form is due into the RE office by **February 28, 2025**. Please mark envelope with “Attn: Confirmation”.~~

Letter to Father Nnaso: Before the celebration of Confirmation the pastor of our parish is required by canon law to know that candidates have been properly prepared. He should also know that you have a desire to receive the sacrament and have knowledge of the sacrament. To help our pastor meet his responsibility, we ask that each Confirmation candidate write a letter to him. **The letter should be in formal letter form and not done as a report.** Please address **all** of the following in your letter:

- Address your letter to our Pastoral Administrator, **Dear, Fr. Nnaso**
- **Paragraph 1:** State your name, grade, and name of school. State that you desire to be Confirmed and why you want to be Confirmed
- **Paragraph 2:** State what Confirmation means to you personally and also include, in your own words, why you feel ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. (Note: It does not mean that you are becoming an adult in the Catholic Church.) (What have you learned through your Confirmation classes that has prepared you for the Sacrament of Confirmation?)
- **Paragraph 3:** State your Confirmation name and why you decided on this name. State something about the Saint whose name you have chosen. (Please do not list that it is your father’s name, etc. Please give factual reasons as to why you chose this name).
- **Paragraph 4:** State who your sponsor will be and why you have chosen this person.
- Sign your letter

Your letter to the Pastor is due on **November 30, 2025**. Please mail it to the St. Patrick Religious Education Office, Attn: Confirmation Letter to the Pastor, 3500 Washington Street, McHenry, IL 60050. That way we can check it off your list of paperwork received and then give it to Father Nnaso. These letters are held in

the strictest confidence and are only read by Father Nnaso. Remember these are your private reflections regarding how you feel about the sacrament of Confirmation and your readiness to receive this sacrament. You can either hand write it or type it, but please check your spelling and punctuation. Please make sure you spell his name correctly. If you have any questions regarding the letter please call the Religious Education Office and we will be happy to assist you.

Sponsor Interview Reflection: In the tradition of the Church, each candidate is asked to choose a sponsor to help guide them in their journey. In order to foster faith conversations between candidate and sponsor, each candidate is asked to interview his or her sponsor about his or her faith. Later in this packet, you will find a resource with 20 questions to ask your sponsor. You are welcomed to add your own questions as well. Please have this interview as a conversation and do not just email or text your sponsor the list of questions to answer. Phone conversations or video chats are acceptable. After the interview, please complete the attached “Confirmation Sponsor Interview Reflection Form”. Take time in answering the first 2 questions and the last question is a private reflection. This reflection form is due to the RE office no later than **January 31, 2026**.

Fellowship Hours: In order to complete the requirements for Confirmation, each candidate will be asked to complete 20 “fellowship hours”. These hours are to be hours dedicated to donation of time and talent to our parish. Volunteering for any activity sponsored by the parish can be counted as time put towards this goal. Example activities that would be acceptable include, but are not limited to:

- Serving as an altar server, youth lector or choir member during Mass.
- Attending Youth Ministry activities
- Being an aide for Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- Helping clean the parish or decorate for liturgical celebrations

If there are questions as to whether an activity would be accepted, please contact the Religious Education Office. These activities should be reported on “Fellowship Hours” sheet supplied at the end of this packet. The sheet should be signed by a witness of any person, besides parents, who also attended event. The hours should be reported by **February 28, 2026**.

Parental Commitment: The Catholic Church recognizes that parents are the primary religious educators of their children. We ask that during this time of Confirmation preparation you guide your child in the following areas:

1. Attend Sunday mass regularly as a family.
2. Set an example of Christian living at home.
3. Encourage your child to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation when the parish offers it throughout the year.
4. Teach your child to support their parish with their gifts of time, talent and treasure.
5. Commit that your child will attend every class and arrive punctually.
6. Encourage your child to show an interest and respect the teacher.
7. Show an interest in their preparation by asking them about what they are learning in their classes.
8. One Parent is to attend each session throughout the year. Please see the front of the packet for the dates.

Things to study and know

Again, as previously stated in the handbook, each candidate will be required to choose a Confirmation name. It must be the name of a canonized Saint of our Church. **Each candidate will be required to write a one page report on their Saint.** It is due **November 30, 2024.**

Here are a few websites with information on saints that may help you with your selection.

www.catholiconline.com www.lifeteen.com www.americancatholic.org

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
And our hearts shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.
Let us pray. O God,
Who taught the hearts of the faithful
By the light of the Holy Spirit,
Grant us by the same Spirit to delight in
What is right and always to rejoice in his consolation,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Bishop may ask you questions about your Saint as you come forward to be Confirmed. Be prepared!!

You must also know and be able to recite the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. We will learn the definition of them during class time, but it is your responsibility to be able to recite them. Here they are...

Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Understanding, Piety and Fear of the Lord.

Make sure you know these by heart!! The Bishop may ask for them at Confirmation.

Confirmation Mass will be requested for fall of 2026. Candidates will not have to take further classes in fall of 2026, but there will be a retreat scheduled once a Confirmation Mass is scheduled with the Bishop's office. This request will not be processed until late summer 2026.

Confirmation Formation Checklist

Registration and Forms

Items due by October 30, 2024:

- x Registration form completed and returned
- x Proof of Baptism Baptized at St. Patrick Church
 Baptized at another Church**

** Must turn in a copy of the Baptismal Certificate (dated within the last 6 months with Sacramental notations) or a copy of all Sacramental Certificates (Baptism, First Reconciliation, and First Eucharist) with registration form. This can be obtained from church of the candidate's Baptism

Other Items due by dates listed (can be turned in at class or to the parish office – all forms will be accepted early):

- x Name form completed by November 30, 2024
- x Saint report completed by November 30, 2024
- x Sponsor form completed by February 28, 2025
- \$ 75.00 Confirmation administrative fee paid by October 1, 2025
- Letter to Father Nnaso (in sealed envelope with your name written on outside) by November 30, 2025
- Sponsor interview reflection form completed by January 31, 2026
- Fellowship hours form completed by February 28, 2026

Please note that it is absolutely necessary that we have all of these items on file. Anyone failing to turn in any of the above paperwork may not be allowed to make their Confirmation. Please be prompt with all of the necessary information.

When sending paperwork to the parish office, please mark paperwork "Attn: Confirmation" to allow it to be sorted with ease. The Religious Education Office phone number is 815-385-2959. Please call if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Confirmation Name Form

I _____, have chosen the
Candidate Name

Confirmation name of: _____
Saint Name

I have chosen this Saint's name because:

I know these three facts about this Saint:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Signed _____

Dated _____

This form is due into the St. Patrick Religious Education Office by November 30, 2024.

Please mark envelope: Attn: Confirmation

Remember your Saint report is due also: November 30, 2024.

Confirmation Sponsor Information

There should be one Confirmation sponsor male or female for each candidate.

***The sponsor must be Catholic**

***at least sixteen years old and**

***Baptized, Confirmed and received First Holy Communion**

***living an upright life**

***no penalties (e.g., left the Church, etc.)**

Therefore a Catholic who has left the Catholic Church cannot be a sponsor. The sponsor cannot be a parent of the person being Confirmed.

These regulations are not created by the Pastor or any member of the St. Patrick Church staff. Rather these are the regulations and requirements of the Catholic Church herself. These cannot be changed or altered in any way.

Church law states clearly these matters in Canon 874.1

To be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:

1. Be designated by the one to be Confirmed, and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role.
2. Be at least 16 years of age.
3. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.
4. Not be bound by a canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.
5. Not be the father or the mother of the one to be confirmed.

You have agreed to be a Confirmation Sponsor and now you are asking yourself what do I do?

Here are a few suggestions...

1. Meet with your candidate at least once a month. Get to know them. Pray with them, talk to them about their faith, and ask them about their Confirmation formation classes. They will interview you during their second year of preparation.
2. Pray for your candidate daily.
3. Learn more about the sacrament of Confirmation. The internet is a great source. You can use www.catholic.org , www.americancatholic.org , www.usccb.org or www.vatican.va. **Please feel free to contact the St. Patrick Religious Education Office if you would like more information about being a sponsor. You can reach the St. Patrick Religious Education Office at 815-385-2959.**
4. Attend mass with your candidate.
5. Learn together! Share information about your own Confirmation and ask them how it is similar to their experience.

You have been asked to be a sponsor because you are an important person in their life. They know they can depend on you. Please take your role as their sponsor seriously and show them that they made the right choice in asking you to be their sponsor. Be a good Christian role model for them.

CONFIRMATION (SPONSOR) FORM

Full Baptismal Name of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Full Name of Sponsor: _____

Maiden Name (if applicable): _____

Catholic Confirmation Sponsor:

I have been chosen by the above candidate's parents to serve in the role of Confirmation sponsor. I understand that this is more than just an honor given to a family friend or relative. I commit to assist the child and his/her parents in their faith journey as they strive to live a Christian life through the Catholic Church.

A recently issued Baptismal certificate (dated within the last 6 months) with all notations of sacraments (Confirmation/Eucharist) or a separate certificate for each of the received Sacraments is required. (This can be requested from church of your Baptism).

I testify that I fulfill the following requirements of Church Law for a sponsor:

- I am a Catholic who has been confirmed, has received Eucharist, and leads a life in harmony with the beliefs of the Catholic Church.
- I am at least 16 years old, and am not the father or mother of the person who is being Confirmed
- If married, I state that my marriage is in accord to the church's regulation.

Signature of Sponsor: _____

Please take this form to your home Parish for certification by your Parish Priest.

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I state to the best of my knowledge that _____
(Name of Sponsor)

meets the requirements for Confirmation Sponsor:

<i>Affix</i>	Signature of Pastor/Associate _____
<i>Church</i>	Parish _____
<i>Seal Here</i>	City, State _____
	Date _____

(Please see reverse side for requirements to be a Confirmation Sponsor)

Any questions, please contact the Religious Education office at reoffice@stpatrickmchenry.org or 815-385-2959. Please return this form and baptismal certificate no later than February 28, 2025 to:

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Religious Education Office/Attn: Confirmation
3500 Washington Street
McHenry, IL 60050

Fax Number: (815) 385 0861, Attn: Confirmation

Resource for Confirmation Sponsor Interview
Twenty Questions to Ask Your Confirmation Sponsor

1. How did you become Catholic? Were you baptized when you were a baby or did you become Catholic as an adult through the RCIA program? Tell me about how you first learned about your faith, whether you were a child or an adult.
2. As a Catholic, what makes you different from other Christians?
3. How do you picture the Holy Spirit? What images come to mind? When or how have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?
4. What name did you choose for your Confirmation name and why?
5. Do you have a favorite saint (or favorite saints)? Why is he/she your favorite? What is there about his/her life that has helped you on your faith journey?
6. How do you define the word "holy"? Do you know people in your life that you would describe as "holy"? Do you think anyone describes you as "holy"? How does that make you feel? What challenges do you face when you are trying to live a life of holiness?
7. Tell me about an experience in your life when it was difficult for you to be Catholic - perhaps a time when you were ridiculed because of your faith or a time when you struggled to believe in the teachings of your Catholic faith. What did you do to "keep your faith" or find answers to your questions during these times.
8. In what ways do you feel that celebrating the Eucharist (the Mass) every week (or maybe every day) strengthens and nourishes you to live as a Catholic? Did you ever have a time when you did not like going to Mass? Do you like going to Mass now? What do you think caused the change?
9. What is your understanding of what it means "to sin"? What does "forgiveness" mean to you? What do you do when you find it very difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you? What do you do when you need to ask forgiveness from someone you have hurt?
10. One very special aspect of our Catholic faith is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tell me about your own feelings and thoughts about and experiences with this Sacrament. Is it difficult for you to celebrate this Sacrament or was there a time when it was? What kind of preparations do you find helpful before you celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
11. How do you pray? Do you have a favorite place to pray or a favorite time to pray? Do you ever find it difficult to pray? When you pray, to whom do you usually pray: God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Mary, a particular saint? For whom or what do you usually pray?
12. Do you regularly participate in service projects or volunteer opportunities at your parish, work, or in your neighborhood? Describe what you do and how it impacts your life.
13. To whom do you turn or what resources do you use when you find that you do not know an answer to a question about your faith?
14. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really felt close to God? Tell me about it.
15. Have you ever had a time in your life when you really struggled to believe in God. Tell me about it and how you kept your faith in the end.
16. Who has been a good role model for you to live according to your Catholic faith? What has he/she taught you or shown you? How has he/she deepened your faith?
17. In what ways do you think you still need to grow in your Catholic faith?
18. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse or story? Tell me why.
19. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the gifts we first received at our Baptism: Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment (Counsel), Courage (Fortitude), Knowledge, Reverence (Piety), Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord), are strengthened and increased within each of us. These seven special gifts represent all of blessings that God gives us to lead a good and holy life and are special graces that are given to us through the Holy Spirit to enable us to respond to God's call to holiness. Which gifts have you used a lot? Which gift do you need to use more?
20. Add one question you want to ask about your sponsor's faith.

Confirmation Sponsor Interview Reflection Form

Using the questions on the front of this sheet as a starting point for conversation, complete the below form or type your answers. Please return this form no later than January 31, 2026.

Candidate's Name: _____

Sponsor's Name: _____

Date of Interview: _____

* Interview can take place in person, via video chat, or by phone,
but please make it a conversation, not just texting or emailing.

DIRECTIONS: Sometime after meeting with your sponsor, take a few minutes to reflect on your discussion and write brief answers to questions 1 and 2. Please take the time to answer question 3, but you do not need to write anything!

1. What was one thing that you learned about your sponsor during your meeting?

2. Write about one story or experience that your sponsor shared that you felt showed that he/she was truly strengthened by the Holy Spirit through Confirmation to live a life of holiness.

3. Did you make a good choice of who you asked to serve as your Confirmation sponsor? If you are not sure if you did, pray about it, talk to your parents, and feel free to talk to your teacher or DRE about your decision and where to go from here.

Fellowship Hours Form

Candidate Name: _____

- Signature of witness of completion of hours should be any attendee of the event. This should not be a parent of the candidate.
- You are asked to complete a total of 20 hours prior to Confirmation in spring of 2026.
- If this sheet is forgotten at an event, please attach a note that provides the above information with signature.
- Round attendance to nearest half hour (for example: serving at Mass would count as 1 hour).
- Please return this completed form no later than February 28, 2026.
- Example activities include, but are not limited to:
 - Serving as an altar server or choir member during mass.
 - Attending Youth Ministry activities
 - Helping clean the parish or decorate for liturgical celebrations
 - Attending fellowship opportunities, like Oktoberfest, St. Patrick Dinner, or Hot Breakfast

[illegible]