

Confirmation

2023-2024

Who May Be Confirmed

- Ninth Graders or older who are sufficiently prepared in the teachings of our faith as demonstrated by Sunday Mass attendance, class attendance, Saint Presentation, Works of Mercy Service Hours, Letter to the Bishop, and Retreat Attendance.
- Who have received the sacrament of Baptism, Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist.
- And, being in the state of grace, have a sincere desire to receive the sacrament

Expectations for the Candidates

- Two years of **sacramental preparation** or the equivalent
- Attend **Sunday Mass** every weekend as well as Holy Days of Obligation (See Mass Cards)
- Submit all forms, including the **Baptismal Certificate, First Communion Certificate, Sponsor Form, and Information Form**
- Choose a qualified **Sponsor**
- Choose a **Saint's name** and present to class
- Complete **Works of Mercy Service Hours**
- Bring up the Gifts at Mass (Sign Up link will be sent to all families)
- Participate in the **Confirmation Retreat**
- Write a letter to the Bishop describing why you wish to be confirmed.

Baptismal & First Communion Certificate

Copies of Baptismal and First Communion certificates are needed. If you do not have copies, please request them from the church of Baptism. The new Baptismal certificate will include the First Communion dates. (This applies also to those who were baptized at Holy Family) **Please turn in the Baptism Certificates to the Church Office.**

Sponsor Selection

The Confirmation sponsor should be a person who has been a strong role model as a faith-filled Catholic. This person will be a companion in one's faith journey and will vouch for one's readiness to receive the sacrament. A godparent may be a good sponsor candidate. The involvement of the sponsor in the youth's preparation for Confirmation is encouraged.

Sponsor Specifics:

- At least 16 years of age
- Has completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Married in the Catholic Church (if married))
- Is in good standing with the Catholic Church. (See Sponsor Form)
- NOT the parent of the candidate

Saint's Name

Confirmation is the strengthening of the new life that God begins in our lives at Baptism. If your Baptismal name is also a Saint's name, you may choose to use that Saint, otherwise, following research and prayerful reflection, a name should be chosen from a Saint who will serve as both mentor and intercessor in the journey to Confirmation.

Confirmation Retreat

The Confirmation retreats will focus on becoming saints and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The retreats are required and must be made up if missed. Retreat dates: October 29, 2023 and March 16, 2024.

Works of Mercy Service Hours

Service projects teach ministry and mission. They serve as an authentic approach to both learning and spiritual growth. Six Works of Mercy (three Corporal and three Spiritual) must be performed then completed with a reflection. Service hours are qualitative in terms of time spent, not quantitative in hours clocked.

Rehearsal

All candidates and their sponsors must attend the rehearsal, the date and time to be announced.

Dress for day of Confirmation

- Boys should wear dress pants, a solid-colored shirt with a collar, and dress shoes. Jacket and tie are optional.
- Girls should wear a white dress or white skirt and blouse and dress shoes. Dress/skirts should hit the knee or longer and the shoulders must be covered.

Important Dates:

- Information Form: DUE **October 15, 2023**
- Baptismal Certificate from the Church of Baptism: DUE **October 15, 2023**
- Choose Saint Name: DUE **November 12, 2023**
- Sponsor Form: DUE **January 28, 2024**
- Saint Presentation: DUE **January 28, 2024**
- Works of Mercy Signature & Reflection Sheets: DUE **April 14, 2024**
- Retreat #1: **October 29, 2023, 8:30am-4pm**; Required makeup if missed
- Retreat #2: **March 16, 2024, 9am – 4pm**; Required makeup if missed
- Letter to Bishop Parkes: DUE **February 18, 2024**
- Rehearsal: TBA
- Confirmation: TBA (May 2024)

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. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.