

Confirmation Description and Requirements

Sunday Mass: Baptized Catholics are obliged to attend Sunday Mass. Candidates who do not show commitment to Sunday Mass will be asked to seriously consider their readiness for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Confirmation Name: Each candidate is asked to choose the name of a Saint for his or her Confirmation name. At the Confirmation ceremony, the Bishop will “call each of us by name” to be “sealed with the Holy Spirit” and to be witnesses of Christ. In order to manifest the close relationship of Confirmation and Baptism, it is suggested that candidates consider retaining their baptismal name **if the baptismal name is that of a Saint recognized by the Church**. A different and special name may be chosen if desired, in which case that name must be that of a recognized Saint of the Church. If the baptismal name is not that of a recognized Saint, a new name must be chosen. **Each 2nd Year candidate will be asked to do some research on the Saint chosen and is to submit this research at the All Saints Day Session**

Sponsor: Each candidate will choose a sponsor to assist in the preparation process. The sponsor may be the baptismal Godparent. This again shows the unity among the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. If the sponsor is not a Godparent, the sponsor must be at least 16 years of age and a practicing Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. It is suggested that the sponsor live close by so the sponsor is able to be involved in the preparation process. **The sponsor may NOT be a parent or a step-parent of the candidate.**

Ministry Opportunities: Serving others and assisting in the life of the parish community is an important part of our Catholic faith. We believe this is a way of life, and because of this belief, each candidate is expected to fulfill at least **10** hours of parish/community service. We require that 5 hours be completed at the church and 5 hours completed by volunteering in the community. Completed service should be recorded in the back of the Confirmation Journal.

Program of Study: Each candidate must attend ALL sessions, a retreat each year, the Sponsor/Candidate Sessions (Year 2), the Rite of Becoming a Candidate, the Rite of Election, the General Rehearsal and the Confirmation Celebration. **Absences should only be in cases of extreme emergency.**

Retreat: Each candidate is expected to attend a retreat each year of preparation. The retreat is an integral part of the preparation process and is a requirement in accord with Diocesan guidelines. More information about the retreat will be provided at the Parent Meetings and will be mailed to each candidate at a later date.

Interviews with Parish Staff: Each candidate will be interviewed. The interview process is designed to encourage the candidate and to give the candidate a chance to reflect and share how they have grown through the preparation program. Interviews will be scheduled toward the end of Year 2.