

CONFIRMATION ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022!

<https://www.triparishfaithformation.org/confirmation>

It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:

Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.

Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark, the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness.

– Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC, 1302-1304

“Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, and his biddings - in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands.” –CCC, 1309

Fall 2022 Confirmation At-A-Glance

Apr. 24	Student online “Request for Candidacy” form due (includes sponsor contact info, baptism info) LINK
Apr. 25-May 15	Confirmation Kickoff with students and sponsors 1. Discover Your Story: Salvation History-Pentecost & Life Map
Apr. 25-Oct. 1	Meet with Sponsor for 5 Discussion Sessions: 1. Believe the Good News 2. Pray Everyday 3. Seek Sainthood 4. Be Fed by the Church 5. Sent on Mission Hands-On Experiences (ideally completed together) 6. Prayer Experience 7. Service Experience
Sept.-Oct.	Wrap Up Meeting: Checklist & Form for Bishop Due
Nov. 6, time TBD	Confirmation Day Away (times may be shortened) -Candidates & Sponsors. Time TBD
Nov. 8, 7pm	Confirmation Mass with Bishop Haines
Nov. 9 – Dec.20	30 Day Challenge

STEP #1: DISCERN

When we are baptized, we are adopted by the Father and given the opportunity to participate in Christ's role as Priest, Prophet, & King. Through Confirmation, God completes our Baptismal grace and deepens our call to live this three-fold mission. This is not a rite of passage or graduation from religious ed. It is a sacrament of mission and power, giving Christians the strength and grace to live out the mission of Jesus Christ and His Church.

Before pursuing this sacrament, here are a few questions you should consider:

1. Do you desire to receive this sacrament? Perhaps you're unsure right now, and that's okay. But you need to make that decision before being Confirmed.
2. Can you confidently renew your baptismal promises? If you do not understand or agree with these promises (part of the Creed), but you'd like to still pursue Confirmation, contact Sarah.
 - a. Do you reject Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises? Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth? Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father? Do you 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?
3. How are you already living out your call as priest, prophet, and king? And if you're not, are you willing to make that commitment?
 - o Priest: attend, worship, and participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Even though we are not ordained priests, we still fulfill a priestly role at Mass by praying on behalf of the world and uniting our lives to Jesus' sacrifice.
 - o Prophet: continue learning and growing in faith and wisdom. We are like prophets when we listen to God's truth through scripture, the catechism, and spiritual reading. We also fulfill this role when we share this Good News with others.
 - o King: serve and lead within your family, parish, and community. The kingly role is one of servant leadership and governance. We can utilize our resources (time, talents, money, hands/feet) to "build God's kingdom," by serving others and leading pointing them to Christ.

STEP #2: COMMIT - BY APRIL 24

- **Select a Sponsor or Mentor by April 24:** Your sponsor will walk with you throughout this process to help you prepare for Confirmation. Yes, this is a big commitment, but our candidates need someone to know them and walk with them. See attached document for more info.
 - o **Support:** each sponsor will have a "coach," an experienced Confirmation leader, who will check in with them regularly and offer support, answer questions, etc.
 - o *What if my sponsor isn't able to meet with me? Ideally, your sponsor will be the person who walks with you through this process. But, if that is not possible, then you may choose another adult to be your mentor (meet with you 6x) and your sponsor will simply attend the practice on Nov. 7 and the Mass on Nov. 9.*
- **Register by April 24:** Before you register, you will need to know your sponsor's name and contact information, baptismal date, church, and city. If you were baptized at a parish other than St. Bernard, Christ King, or St. Pius X, you will need to scan and submit a copy of your baptism certificate. There is a \$90 fee to register, financial aid is available.

www.triparishfaithformation.org/registration

CHOOSING A SPONSOR

Each candidate must choose someone to sponsor them. Your sponsor may be a godparent, a relative, coach, teacher, or family friend. All of your preparation is done with your sponsor – so this is an extremely important decision. You want to choose someone who will challenge you and take this seriously. For most, choosing an older sibling, cousin, or friend is not the best choice. However, this is your decision and I trust our candidates to know who will be best for them. If you need help finding or choosing a sponsor, please contact Sarah.

Qualifications of a sponsor:

1. Must be a fully initiated Catholic, having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
2. Sponsors are to be active members of a Catholic Church who attend Mass regularly. Ideally, you would choose someone local, from one of our three parishes.
3. Must be sufficiently mature in his/her commitment to Christ: committed to life as a disciple.
4. Must be a minimum age of 16. We recommend choosing someone who has been Confirmed for 5+ years.
5. The person chosen must have the intention of performing their role and assume an ongoing spiritual relationship with the candidate – this is not a temporary role!
6. Cannot be the parent of the Confirmation candidate. Siblings are not recommended, but allowed.
7. Not prohibited by law (canon or civil) from exercising the role of sponsor.

The Commitment of a Sponsor:

1. Assist in the preparation for the Sacrament:
 - Meet with your candidate at least 6 times, leading the discussion with guidebook.
 - Pray for your candidate daily.
 - Attend the end of the Confirmation Retreat for prayer and practice. If this is not possible, another adult mentor or parent can attend in their stead.
 - Participate in a service and prayer experience with the candidate. If this is not possible, the candidate can complete on their own.
2. Accompany the candidate and present him/her to the bishop at the Confirmation Mass.
3. Help the candidate fulfill his baptismal promises faithfully by challenging and encouraging as needed.
4. Build this relationship. Go out of your way to know, love, and support your candidate.
5. Continuing to be a source of encouragement and guidance for the candidate after receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Traits of a Sponsor:

- A sponsor prays.
- A sponsor participates in the Liturgy and in the parish.
- A sponsor listens and is respectful.
- A sponsor serves as a bridge, helping the candidate understand and become familiar with the people, places and traditions of the Catholic faith.
- A sponsor respects the candidate's freedom, allowing the candidate to decide whether this is the right time to seek the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- A sponsor lives in a world of hope, feeling confident in being able to live their faith in the world.

Prayer for Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

Holy Spirit, helper and guide, give me wisdom as I choose my Confirmation sponsor. Help me to choose a person of prayer who will teach me also to be a person of prayer, who will support me in difficult times, who will guide me to make good choices, and who will challenge me when I do not. Help me to choose someone who will love me and teach me to love Jesus. Thank you for giving me a community of people around me to support and guide me as I take this important step in becoming more fully a member of your Church. Amen.

STEP #3: PREPARE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Sign Up For Your Kickoff Session:** Once you register, you'll be sent a link to sign up for a kickoff session. This 90 minute session is the necessary first step and both you and your sponsor must be in attendance. At this meeting you will receive your materials, we'll go through the first session together, and set you up for success this summer. If your sponsor is not local, we can meet over zoom.
- **Begin searching for a Confirmation saint:** later this summer, you'll be asked to decide which saint you'd like to choose as a patron, your "Confirmation Saint." You will take this saint's name at the Confirmation Mass. Begin thinking of who you'd like to choose. Tips and suggestions are on the last page.
- **Supplies:** every Confirmation candidate should have a Catechism of the Catholic Church (any edition, \$15-22 new on Amazon) and a Catholic Bible (preferably New American translation).
 - **Catechism:** [First Edition](#) or [Second Edition](#)
 - **Bible Suggestions:** [Amazon](#)

STEP #4: MEET

- Attend your scheduled kickoff session.
- Meet with your sponsor/mentor 5 additional times between April and October. These meetings are scheduled on your own time/location. They may be done at the parish, in a coffee shop/public place, or over Zoom (if necessary). Each sponsor and each student will receive a booklet that provides teaching, discussion questions, and prayer prompts. Meetings are designed to be 60-75 minutes in length.
- Other Experiences: Each duo will also receive resources to help them complete a service and a prayer experience.
- Accountability: each student is responsible for recording when they met with their sponsor and having their sponsor sign off on it. This will be turned in by Oct.1.

STEP #5: DEEPEN COMMITMENT

- **October – Wrap Up Meeting:** In September-October, schedule a one-on-one meeting with a member of our Confirmation team. This 15 minute meeting will serve as a “wrap-up” of the preparation process and will solidify your request and commitment to receive this sacrament. At this point, students should have completed all (or most) of their preparation with their sponsor and be able to make a commitment to live a Christian life of discipleship.
 - Items to turn in: Students make this commitment by writing a letter/form for the bishop and turning in their final forms including when they met, sponsor name, and their chosen Confirmation saint.
 - *What if I’m not ready? If you got behind on your meetings, or aren’t quite ready to make this big commitment, that’s okay! You’re welcome to be Confirmed in the spring or next fall. We also have adults who receive Confirmation each year!*
- **November 6 – Confirmation Day Away:** Two days before Confirmation, candidates and sponsors will gather for final preparation. The location and exact time for this retreat has not been decided yet. Ideally, we will attend Mass in the morning, then take a bus to a retreat center for the day. We will return in the evening to end the day with our Confirmation practice. Tentatively, the day will begin with 8am Mass and end at 7pm. This may be shortened, but will not be extended.

STEP #6: RECEIVE

- **Confirmation Mass:** Tuesday, November 8, 7pm with Bishop Haines at Christ King

STEP #7: FLEX

Flex these new spiritual muscles! All of our newly Confirmed will invited to join a 30 day challenge to practice all of the awesome gifts they just received.

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SAINT

During Confirmation, when the bishop anoints you with chrism and lays his hands on your head, you will receive the Holy Spirit in a new way: God will seal what he began in Baptism. This sacrament is a powerful encounter with God. Throughout our Christian history, such encounters were marked with a name change. For example, God gave Abram the name of Abraham and his wife Sarai the name of Sarah. Even today, when a man or woman enters a monastery/convent they also take on a new name and when a man is elected pope, such as Jorge Bergoglio, he takes a new name such as Pope Francis.

In that tradition, we will mark your Confirmation with a name change. This new name -- the name of a Saint whom you admire and who you would like to imitate -- is imposed by the bishop during Confirmation. Traditionally, Catholics have added their Confirmation name to their legal, full name following their middle name and before their last name. You may choose instead to keep your Baptismal name. However, you are still expected to research the life of a saint you'd like to be your patron.

Why Choose a Saint?

The veneration of saints is an ancient tradition in our Church. We believe, as Catholics, that many of those who have gone before us are in Heaven -- this means they have already achieved their life's goal: eternal life and glory in heaven! As they are now in heaven, these saints can help us in two ways. First, they are models for us of the Christian life on earth. Second, they pray (intercede) to God on our behalf. We ask each Confirmation candidate to choose a saint whom they would like to imitate and pray to in a special way. This saint will become your patron saint, so take time to pray and think about who you'd like to choose.

Where to Start

- Pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you find a saint who will inspire you and be a spiritual companion.
- Brainstorm what kind of a saint you'd like to have: someone with specific qualities or hardships they've endured; or a saint with a common interest, name or birthday as you.
- Read their stories, some have lived heroic, unimaginable lives and others may remind you of yourself. Which stories stuck with you? Which saint seemed to just stand out?
- Recommended Web Resources:
 - www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day
 - <http://catholicsaints.info/>
 - www.catholic.org/saints/
 - www.newadvent.org/
- **Guidelines:** Your patron may be fully canonized, a Blessed, or someone from the Old Testament. You may choose either a man or woman.

I found someone, now what?

1. Pray to your patron saint. Ask him/her to help you prepare for Confirmation and follow Christ. Ask them to help you cultivate the virtues they embody.
2. Consider printing a picture of your patron. Or, purchase their holy cards, statues, or books. These artifacts will help you connect with your saint and remind you of your call to become a saint.