

# CONFIRMATION 2022

*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*

## THE ROAD TO CONFIRMATION

Jan. 30-Apr. 24	Alpha ( <i>only if you have not completed it already</i> )
Apr. 18	Registration Due (includes sponsor contact info, baptism info)
Apr. 24-May 20	Sign Up for Your Confirmation Kickoff with sponsors <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Discover Your Story: Salvation History-Pentecost &amp; Life Map</li></ol>
Apr. 25-Oct. 1	<sup>2.</sup> Meet with Sponsor for 5 Remaining Discussion Sessions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Believe the Good News</li><li>2. Pray Everyday</li><li>3. Seek Sainthood</li><li>4. Be Fed by the Church</li><li>5. Sent on Mission</li></ol> <sup>6.</sup> Hands-On Experiences (ideally completed together) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. Prayer Experience</li><li>8. Service Experience</li></ol>
Sept.-Oct.	<sup>9.</sup> 1-on-1 Wrap Up Meeting: Checklist & Form for Bishop Due
Nov. 6, time TBD	Confirmation Day Away <i>-Candidates and Sponsors</i>
Nov. 8, 7pm	Confirmation Mass with Bishop Haines
Nov. 9 – Dec.20	30 Day Challenge

# STEP #1: DISCERN - ARE YOU IN?

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:

- 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.
- Are you committed to attending weekly Sunday Mass? If not, and you still want to be Confirmed, you can start that habit now. If you are not ready to make a commitment to attend Mass regularly, you are not ready to be Confirmed.
- 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.
  - 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?
- 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?
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.

After taking some time to ponder these questions, you may come to the conclusion that you are not ready to pursue Confirmation. Two thoughts on this:

- 1) That's okay! This does not make you a bad Christian or a bad son/daughter. Thank you for realizing that "your yes means yes and your no means no," (Mt. 5:37). I appreciate your integrity and courage; we definitely don't want you to stand before God and commit to something you have no intention of following through on.
- 2) We'll be here! Perhaps you aren't ready today but you might be ready in a few months or a few years. This is not a race – and you can pursue Confirmation anytime you are ready.

# STEP #2: CHOOSE 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 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 one-time 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.
  - 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.