

SACRED HEART PARISH
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
P. O. Box H, Hallettsville, Texas 77964
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Welcome!

We, the Confirmation team are looking forward to sharing this journey of faith with you as you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. We are very excited that you have chosen to receive this sacrament and pray that this year will be a time of great spiritual growth.

As you will see, Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth, and some fun, too. During this journey, you will be given the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus the Christ.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

“Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit . . . To this end, catechesis (preparation) 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.”

Our goal is to be true to this statement of preparation for Confirmation, so that by the end of this process you have a good understanding of whom God is and how the Catholic Church helps us to know, love, and serve God. It is our hope that by the end of the Confirmation program you will:

- Develop a more personal faith with the help of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Develop a deeper sense of belonging to the Catholic Church;
- Develop a more active relationship with Christ through prayer; and
- Become a more active, visible sign of Christ’s love at home, school, and here at Sacred Heart Parish through the liturgical ministries, social activities, and special annual events.

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is far from the end of your spiritual growth. It is another step as you continue your life long process of becoming like Christ! The Confirmation Team is here for you if you need anything! God bless you in this coming process.

Prayerfully,

Your Confirmation Team

Mmgr. John Peters, Fr. John Affum, Mrs. Angela McConnell, Mrs. Ruth Barton, Mr. Troy Spring

Confirmation Requirements for 2022

Readiness for Confirmation

Readiness for celebrating a sacrament cannot be determined by the calendar. The meaning of the rite for those celebrating it, and its total impact on their faith-lives, will be strongly affected by many developmental factors besides age. These factors may include: the psychological maturity of the candidate, the depth of his/her faith development, the degree of his/her commitment to Christ and the faith community, the extent of his/her involvement in community worship and service, and knowledge and understanding of the basic teachings of the Church.

Since Confirmation celebrates the response of the individual to the Gift of Faith, the primary responsibility for determining when the candidate is ready for the sacrament lies within the individual candidate himself/herself. Because Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation, the decision is to be made in dialogue with the representatives of the faith community into which the candidate is being initiated.

Parents may decide for their child that he/she will be instructed for Confirmation; however, the decision to be confirmed rests with the young person.

William J. O'Malley, S.J., in his book, Sacraments:

Rites of Passage, says: To be genuine, Confirmation cannot be a treadmill onto which one is "expected" to climb at a certain age because all of the other boys and girls are doing it. It has to be a reasoned, free choice. In adolescence, young people can be invited to the world of adult responsibilities and commitments. But they can't become adult unless free to make their own commitments. That means they may choose to make no commitments for a while. That also means they may make commitments contrary to the ones that have given meaning to their parents' lives. But love is not love unless it is freely given (175).

EXPECTATIONS OF THOSE PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

The decision to be confirmed is a serious one, for it indicates that a young person wishes to ratify and accept the Church. In Confirmation, one willingly assumes an active participation in the Church's apostolate or mission.

The preparation for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation happens throughout a young person's lifetime. This type of preparation is referred to as "remote" preparation and includes all the years of catechesis that have led to this moment. "Immediate" preparation refers to catechesis for Confirmation specifically. This immediate preparation for Confirmation is a process that lasts one year and focuses on preparation for receiving the sacrament. Confirmation happens at Sacred Heart in the Junior year of High school for those that desire the sacrament. It is possible to wait until the senior year of High school or to complete the sacrament as an adult through the RCIA process.

1. Complete the Intake Information Page and Pre-Interview Form.

These pages need to be returned by Nov. 11th. Each Student will have a 10-15 minute interview with one of the Confirmation team members before the spring.

2. Chose a Sponsor

Complete the form provided by Jan. 6th. Allow your sponsor to read the guidelines and sign the form. Please understand that the candidate and sponsor will have activities that will be done together. It is best to choose someone that is strong in their faith and will allow opportunities through service to grow spiritually together. Please see forms.

What are the requirements for a Confirmation sponsor?

Sponsors must:

1. Be designated by the one to be confirmed
2. Be at least 18 years old
3. BE A CONFIRMED, PRACTICING CATHOLIC who is a registered member of a parish and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken
4. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
5. Not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed .
6. Be present at the celebration of Confirmation. *“As far as possible a sponsor for the one to be confirmed should be present; [at the celebration of Confirmation] it is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament”* (c. 893).

3. Choose a Saint or Baptismal Name

Complete form provided and return by Jan 6th.

Candidates may use their baptismal name or another Christian name when receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. A Christian name would be the name of a Saint or Blessed. Derivatives of names (Kelly for Catherine; Jenna for Genevieve) or Old Testament names are also appropriate. Candidates may use their first or second names if they are Christian names, or they may select a new Christian name. The candidate should know the relationship of the name to the religious Christian tradition. Exceptions can be made if a particular non-Christian or family name has significant meaning for a candidate that can be articulated to the bishop. Most importantly, candidates should be encouraged to learn about their patron as part of their preparation for the sacrament and should particularly focus on the virtues of their patron they wish to emulate. See the form for more ideas. A one page form on your chosen saint (Christian) name is recommended.

4. Attend your Confirmation Retreat and Sponsor/Candidate Meeting These will be announced at a later date.

5. Participate in the Holy Thursday Mass and Soup and Sandwich Meal

6. Write a Letter to the Bishop

The letter to the Bishop is required by March 15th, this may be done at the retreat.

One important part of the Confirmation process is the letter of intent, written by the candidate to the confirming bishop. These letters will express a candidate's desire to be confirmed and contain a statement about his/her faith growth as well as a description of service endeavors and how that service has affected his/her life. Letters will be as unique as each individual candidate but should follow some basic formatting guidelines:

Date: Place the date of writing in the left or near right margin. Include the year: i.e.: April 18, 2021

Greeting: *Dear [name of confirming bishop]*

Personal Background: Include important information about you—where you are attending school, what you like to do in your free time, what you are good at, what kinds of things are important to you, etc.

Main Section: Without exception, include your thoughts on why you want to be confirmed as a Roman Catholic. Indicate to the bishop that you want to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Also, include some thoughts on two or more of the following:

- How you plan to live out your faith in the future; how will you follow Christ?
- Some personal experiences you have had that have strengthened or challenged your faith (*Retreats, Mission Trips, Family/School/Friend Relationships*)
- Reflections on your personal spirituality
- What Jesus/God has meant in your life
- What service you have done in preparation for Confirmation

Conclusion: Make some concluding remarks that wrap up the letter, such as *"Thank you for your time and attention in reading my letter"* or *"I look forward to meeting you at Confirmation."*

Signature: Use *"Sincerely"* or *"In Christ"* or *"Thank You"* or another appropriate ending. Sign your letter in pen and type your name under the signature.

Length: Hand written or typed. One to two pages. Typed, single-spaced. 12-point font, 1-inch margins.

Spelling: Please don't rely only on your spell check to catch spelling errors. Ask a small group member, peer, or parent to proofread your letter. Any sloppy or inappropriate letters will need to be re-written. All letters will be read by Mrs. McConnell and the bishop.

PLEASE DO NOT FOLD YOUR LETTERS – Our office mails all the letters to the office of the confirming bishop in one large envelope. Please deliver your letter to your Confirmation teacher by March 15th.

Pre-Confirmation Interview Name _____

Please fill this out and return it at by Nov. 11, 2021

1. How often would you say you participated in religious education programs in recent years?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 All the time

2. Is your involvement in Confirmation something

You're forced to do 1 2 3 4 5 You're eager for

3. Is attending Mass something you

Dread 1 2 3 4 5 Truly enjoy

4. Is prayer something you

Seldom do 1 2 3 4 5 Do often

5. In your life or experience, has Jesus been a

Distant figure 1 2 3 4 5 Close friend

6. To what degree would you say your personal faith impacts the way you live?

Very little 1 2 3 4 5 In every way

7. Is your understanding of the Bible

Foreign and vague 1 2 3 4 5 Familiar

8. Do you feel the call to care for the poor and needy is something

Others should do 1 2 3 4 5 You try to do often

9. How often in your family is religion discussed?

Seldom, if ever 1 2 3 4 5 Regularly

10. Do you think the Church is basically a

Human invention 1 2 3 4 5 Holy community

11. What are 2 themes or questions you would like to discuss this year?

12. What would you say is the most confusing thing about being a Catholic?

13. What would you say is the biggest challenge to your faith?

14. Do you apply prayer to your life, and in what specific areas?

15. Are there specific areas in your life that you would like to talk about?

16. What would you like to get out of Confirmation?

17. I'm coming to Confirmation classes because

Choosing a Confirmation Saint name

Each candidate is asked to select a saint's name which will be used as his/her Confirmation name. The practice of changing names is scripturally based – Abram to Abraham, Saul to Paul, Simon to Peter, etc. The name was usually changed when one's role in the Church changed, as in the case of Confirmation.

* **Patron saint:** You are not just picking a name...you are looking for a saint that you can “connect with” someone that you have similar interests in or that you admire. You are choosing them to be your partner in prayer, your friend in heaven for the rest of your life. Your patron saint will help you live as a better Christian both through their prayers for you (intercession) and their good example (witness).

* **Start with your baptismal name:** Look at saints with the same name as your given name. Ask your parents if you were named after a particular saint. Do you see similar interests in your namesake?

* **Research:** If you are uncertain of a saint's name, there are several resource books in the CCD office or school libraries which may help you, as well as many websites. Such as www.catholic.org/saints ; <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/patron02.html>

* **Choose a saint:** Once you have decided on a patron saint complete the form on the left to the best of your abilities. If something is unknown write that it is unknown or unclear. You will find differing feast dates on different websites ask if your unsure.

* **Remember them:** Ask your chosen saint to pray for you, to help you live a Holy life. Really get to know who they were and why they are heroic to the church.

When you have completed your Commitment & Information Form and the Saint Name Information Form, turn it into the CCD office or give it to your religion teacher.

Date Due for Saint Report is January 6, 2022

CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME REPORT FORM

Candidate Name: _____

Directions: After finding a saint that inspires your faith, complete the form below and turn it in to your catechist or religion teacher.

Which saint have you chosen? _____
_____.

What are they a patron of? _____
_____.

When is their feast day? _____.

Where & when was the saint born? _____
_____.

How and when did the saint die? _____

_____.

What are two virtues about this saint that you admire? _____

_____.

Why did you choose this saint to be your patron saint? _____

_____.

Return this Form by: January 6, 2022

REQUIREMENTS & ROLES OF A SPONSOR

- Must be a Catholic, at least 18 years old, 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. Sponsor attends Mass on Holy Days of obligation, which includes Saturday vigil or Sunday.
- Must not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared; must be a Catholic in good standing. If married, the sponsor must be married through the Catholic Church; a civil marriage (Justice of the Peace) is not acceptable.
- Parents cannot be the sponsor. The sponsor should be someone that the family would want to guide the candidate if the parents were unable to do so. If the sponsor lives out of town and is unable to attend, a parent may stand in as proxy.

Sponsors are encouraged to take an active role in their candidate's formation. Some examples can be: praying for them each day by name, praying with them, discussing class work, writing encouraging notes, and attending spiritual exercises. He or she is someone that has the time to devote to the spiritual growth of their candidate as well as themselves. Someone who will continue to guide the candidate throughout life.

Sponsors should be familiar with the requirements on their confirmands and encourage their candidate.

The sponsor will present the candidate to the bishop during the Mass as the new name of their patron saint or chosen name. They should be familiar with the name that was chosen.

Sponsors will be asked to attend 2 spiritual workshops with their confirmand. The sponsor/candidate meeting in the fall or spring of the junior year and the day of Reflection and practice which is the day before confirmation. Attendance is required for both...if you are not able to attend these meetings one of the confirmands parents must fill in for you.

Sponsors will be given additional information to assist them in their role.

Candidate Name: _____

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SPONSOR'S INFORMATION

Dear Rev. Msgr. John Peters,

I have read the requirements derived from the Code of Canon Law and the Role of the Sponsor as established by the Confirmation Team of the Sacred Heart Religious Education Program. I do meet all the requirements as stated. As a sponsor for _____, I will fulfill my commitment to see that he/she continues to grow in the Catholic faith. I will encourage him/her to continue their religious education and will try, to the best of my ability, to provide him/her with a good example of the Catholic Faith in action. I will do my best to attend the 2 required workshops.

DATE

SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE

Please print sponsor's name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Mailing Address _____

City

State

Zip Code

Return this Form by: January 6th.