

SEALED

GET CONFIRMED. BE SEALED. SET THE WORLD ABLAZE.



*“Sealed seeks to foster an authentic encounter with the Holy Spirit
through relationship, prayer, service, and Sacrament.”*

CONFIRMATION APPLICATION

Got questions? Contact Matt Nelson via email (matt@ollparish.org) or phone (360-695-1366 ext. 109).

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is the final of the three *Sacraments of Initiation*. “Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which seal or ‘confirm’ the baptized in union with Christ and equip them for active participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church Glossary*). “By the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed” (*CCC 1285*).

Confirmation is not a completion of sorts, but a new beginning, a stepping out into a new role as members of the Body of Christ. It is important to note, however, that while parents are often the ones making sure their child receives this Sacrament, the grace of Confirmation does not take root unless the one receiving it has chosen the Sacrament of their own accord.

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS

- Be actively practicing the Catholic Faith
- Be entering grades 9-12 for the 2017-2018 academic year*
- Have received Baptism and consistently receive the Eucharist
- Have a sincere desire to encounter the Holy Spirit more fully in your life

this application is for **youth Confirmation only – to inquire about adult Confirmation, please contact katehyn@ollparish.org*

BASIC COMMITMENTS

- Frequent and consistent reception of the Sacraments
- Full and active participation at **SEALED** sessions and retreats
- Cultivate and commit to a life of Christian service
- Develop and practice a life of Christian prayer

DATES TO CONSIDER

- Sunday September 9th // **SEALED** application deadline
- Friday September 14th – Saturday September 15th // **SEALED** kickoff lock-in retreat
- Sunday September 23rd // **SEALED** session one
- Sunday October 7th // **SEALED** session two
- Sunday October 21st // **SEALED** session three
- Sunday November 4th // **SEALED** session four
- Sunday November 18th // **SEALED** session five
- Sunday December 2nd // **SEALED** session six
- Sunday December 16th // **SEALED** session seven
- Sunday January 13th // Confirmation Rite of Enrollment (*during 11^{am} Mass*)
- Sunday January 26th- January 27th// Catholic Youth Convention (*retreat option #1*)*
- Sunday February 10th // **SEALED** session eight
- Sunday February 24th // **SEALED** session nine

- Sunday March 10th // **SEALED** session ten
- Friday March 15th – Sunday March 17th // Ablaze High School Winter Retreat (*retreat option #2*)*
- Sunday March 24th // **SEALED** session eleven
- Sunday April 7th // **SEALED** session twelve
- Saturday April 27th – Sunday April 28th // **SEALED** Confirmation lock-in retreat
- Sunday May 5th // **SEALED** session thirteen
- **Possible Confirmation Dates (TBD in October)** // Saturday, May 18th – Friday, May 24th

**Candidates are required to attend one retreat but are highly encouraged to attend both*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I thought you had to be 16 years old to get Confirmed. Why is this changing?

There is no “official” age to receive Confirmation according to Canon Law. The 16+ cut-off was established by the Archdiocese of Seattle many years ago, but is somewhat of an arbitrary number. Traditionally, Confirmation was done after Baptism and before one received their first Communion (this is known as “restored order”). Around the country, students receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at many different levels: second grade, eighth grade, and tenth grade being the most popular. Pastorally-speaking, we have determined that opening the Sacrament to all high school youth will be the most beneficial for this parish community.

Why is there an “application” for Confirmation? Does this mean not everyone who applies will get Confirmed?

Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation is not a decision to be made lightly. The application allows both the teen and their parent/guardian the opportunity to discern if Confirmation is something they truly want and are ready for. It also gives Confirmation Core Team the chance to get to know our teens and their families before beginning the process. It’s important to remember that this isn’t like a job interview or scholarship application; there are no right or wrong answers, so there is no need to worry! If we are concerned at all about someone’s readiness to prepare for the Sacrament, we will open a dialogue with the teen and his/her family before making any kind of decision.

Is there an application deadline?

Yes, applications are due no later than Sunday, September 9th, one week before our SEALED kickoff lock-in retreat. This ensures that we have enough time to process all the applications, communicate all pertinent information to candidates and their families, and purchase enough supplies for lock-in and our first SEALED session.

What does your Confirmation program cost?

In years past, we have not charged for Confirmation preparation, but with budgets being tight, we’ve had to institute a small fee of \$50 per participant. The fee covers basic operating costs, including: meals and snacks at our SEALED sessions, lock-in retreats, personal Bibles, and supplies for the Rite of Confirmation and reception. Financial assistance is available to any families in need.

Our family is registered at another parish. Can I still be Confirmed at Our Lady of Lourdes?

Yes you can! While it’s most fitting that you be Confirmed at your home parish, it is also important that you feel comfortable around those you’re getting Confirmed with; that’s why we’re hosting a lock-in retreat in August - so everyone has an opportunity to get to know each other!

What happens if I miss a SEALED session?

Because Confirmation is about being confirmed into the Body of Christ, walking this journey with those you are getting confirmed with is vital. That being said, the flu, state finals, and funerals all happen. If you know in advance that you won't be available for a given session, please convey that information as soon as possible so alternative arrangements can be made. If you are ill or have a family emergency, contact Matt at your earliest convenience, otherwise the Core Team worries! Any teens who missed a SEALED session will need to set up a coffee date with Matt or another Core Member to cover the topic from the missed session.

Why do candidates have to go on retreats?

On a formal level, the Archdiocese of Seattle requires that all Confirmation candidates participate in a retreat. However, on a spiritual level, retreats are often the most impactful part of the formation process, benefitting participants spiritually, mentally, and physically. Throughout Sacred Scripture, Christ encourages us to retreat, both by word and by example (see Mt 6:6 and Mk 1:35). Following his lead, we set aside time in our regular schedule to exit the world and enter into his holy presence. A retreat is a special time of fellowship, rest, silence, and prayer, in which we have the opportunity to renew our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Do Confirmation candidates have to participate in the high school youth group?

While it has not previously been expected that candidates be part of the Ablaze High School youth group, the schedule has been rearranged such that concurrent participation in both SEALED and Ablaze High School is possible. While it is not *required* for candidates to be present at Ablaze HS, regular weekly attendance is highly encouraged, and at least occasional attendance is expected. I want to ensure that teens aren't overextended; schoolwork and self-care are a top priority. But, it's important to realize that Confirmation is not about checking a requirement off of a list. It's about growing to be a fully-initiated, active, adult member of the Body of Christ: being Confirmed is part of a life-long, daily commitment, being in constant relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Can I choose a Confirmation sponsor who lives out of the area?

It is highly recommended that your Confirmation sponsor is someone with whom you communicate with regularly. This is often easier done when they live locally, but if you have your heart set on an out-of-town sponsor, that's completely fine. Just make sure that you have a communication plan set up!

Are there service hour requirements for Confirmation candidates?

Teens will be asked to make a regular commitment to one service opportunity throughout the course of the school year instead. Their project must address at least one of the Works of Mercy, and can be anything from a weekly commitment to a monthly commitment. Candidates will also be asked to complete five hours of community service with their Confirmation sponsor.

When is Confirmation Mass?

The Rite of Confirmation will be held at some point in mid May. At the start of September, three requested dates are submitted to the Archdiocese (our possible dates can be found on the SEALED calendar). Final dates are sent out from the diocese in mid-to-late November, though it may or may not be one that we requested.

PLEASE THOROUGHLY & THOUGHTFULLY COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

Applications may be returned to the parish office (attn: Matt Nelson) or emailed to matt@ollparish.org.

Please submit forms NO LATER THAN Sunday, September 9th, 2018. Incomplete forms will be returned.

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name (First/Last): _____ Gender: M F Birthdate: ___/___/___

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

High School: _____ Grade (2017-18): ___ Home Parish: _____

Candidate Cell: _____ Home Phone: _____

Candidate Email: _____ Best way to get in touch: text call e-mail

Please briefly describe your prior formation in the Catholic faith up to this point (e.g. youth group, Mass attendance, CYO, Catholic scouting, Catholic schooling, etc.): _____

Known Allergies: _____

*The complete sacramental record is compiled at the child's parish of Baptism.
Please provide accurate information so a certificate of Confirmation can be forwarded promptly.*

Date of Baptism (mm/dd/yyyy): ___/___/___ Candidate's Church of Baptism: _____

Church Street Address: _____ City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian 1: _____ Parent/Guardian 2: _____

Primary Phone: _____ cell home Primary Email: _____

If there is a parent who is a primary contact please indicate here: _____

STUDENT REFLECTION

Please answer one of the following questions in a one-page (or more) reflection letter. Please attach the letter to this form. The letter's purpose is to help the Confirmation Core Team get a better sense of where the candidate is starting this part of the faith journey. Please be honest; there is no perfect answer.

Option 1) What type of Christian do you envision being in the future?

Option 2) What steps do you need to take to get closer to God?

PARENT/GUARDIAN REFLECTION

Please answer one of the following questions in a one-page (or more) reflection letter. Please attach the letter to this form. The letter's purpose is to help the Confirmation Core Team get a better sense as to where your intentions for this sacrament meet those of your child's. Please be honest; there is no perfect answer.

Option 1) How have you shared with your teen the importance of this sacrament?

Option 2) What is the hope or vision you have for your child after he or she receives this sacrament?