

Parent Confirmation Packet



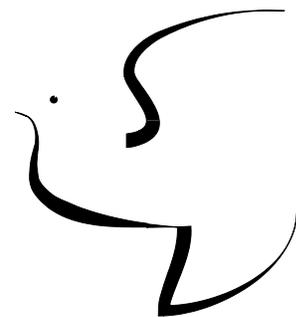
St. Patrick Parish School of Religion

701 S. Church Street
Wentzville, MO 63385

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CONFIRMATION CALENDAR 2018-2019



Confirmation Rally-St. Dominic	September 17 6-8PM
Sacramental Preparation Enrollment	October 13-14 All Masses
Parent Letter to Pastor	October 10
Application for the Reception of Confirmation Completed by parent/guardian	October 10
Sponsor Request Forms	October 17
Candidate & Sponsor Meeting *parent/guardian if sponsor is unable to attend	November 15
Social Justice Project Due	December 19
Tour of Cathedral Basilica	January 18
Saint Report	February 6
Retreat (Required)	February 16-17
Candidate Letter to Pastor	March 13
Sponsor Activity Report	March 20
Service Project Reflection	March 20
Interviews with Priests	TBA
Celebration of Confirmation	April 27, 2019 1:30PM Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis



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September 20, 2018

Dear Parents,

The remote preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation began many years ago in Baptism and in the faith formation in your home and parish. Confirmation continues the promise made by you at Baptism for your son or daughter to "make it your constant care to bring up your child in the practice of faith". It will now be your child's decision to be sealed in the Spirit and to live out the commitment of faith, witness and service in the Church.

Archbishop Carlson stated in a recent letter, "On the day of their reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the fullness of the Spirit of the Lord will come upon these young people and they will be set apart to do God's work in the world today."

You are asked to guide your child in this time of preparation and transition. This can be done through your support and cooperation with the parish Confirmation preparation program.

We are happy to work with you on this step on your child's journey of faith.

Sincerely,

Peggy Webb

Coordinator of Religious Education



Introduction to the Confirmation Process (for Parents and Sponsors)

Let's review the meaning of confirmation ...

The meaning of this sacrament has remained clear over centuries: confirmation gives the Holy Spirit. While the Spirit is given in a unique way, it is not given for the first time; that occurred in baptism. Candidates for confirmation have lived in the faith and promises of the church for many years. But a different context does not invalidate the first baptismal promises. In the same way, a couple who repeats their marriage vows after twenty-five years knows that the context has changed dramatically. But the new context doesn't invalidate the original vows – if anything, the weight of time and experience makes them more meaningful. Similarly, a couple who fall in love initially find that the qualities they've always had are called forth in a new way for parenthood. Thus, the Spirit who is always present continues to make us more like Christ, strengthening us to continue his work.

How have ideas about confirmation changed over time?

Only from the eleventh century onwards was confirmation separated from baptism. Celebrating the two together showed the link between Jesus' own baptism and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on his mission. Today, when adults and children of catechetical age are initiated into the Catholic Church, baptism and confirmation are still celebrated together.

In the early church, the bishop imposed hands on and anointed the newly baptized as part of the baptism rite. As Christianity spread, it became difficult for the bishop to anoint numerous converts. This part of the rite was deferred to later time when the bishop could visit the parish. Gradually, the anointing took on the "confirmation," and the candidates, rather than being the newly baptized, were people who had been baptized years before.

To summarize a long subsequent history, the "soldier-of-Christ model" prevailed when many who are now parents were confirmed themselves. Emphasis was placed on maturity; through the sacrament, children became "soldiers of Christ" who would defend the faith.

Today, less emphasis is placed on maturity, since the gift of the Spirit is an abundance that not even the most mature person could ever deserve. We see that God's action, not ours, takes primacy. We celebrate the Spirit active in the lives of all people. Rather than a "graduation," confirmation is a part of ongoing conversion within a community of faith. Our young people join with us as we all grow together in grace, a life-long process.

What is a parent's or sponsor's role?

Consider that you have gained an apprentice. In the traditional sense of that word, the apprentice learned a trade from a master. What you are conveying instead is the way you live as a Christian. That doesn't mean perfection or phony piety. It simply means welcoming a young person into your struggles and joys, your daily drudgery and moments of grace. What gets you through the day? How does looking at your life through the lens of faith make a difference? Why is your involvement with church so important that you'd sacrifice time to make this commitment?

The answers to those three questions may not come in words. But young people are attuned to non-verbals: the ways we tease them, enjoy them, nurture them and challenge them all speak loudly. They'll pick up the message more from who you are than from anything you do or say.

Adolescence is by definition a time of transition, a time filled with much excitement and wonder but also with many stumbling blocks. Most adolescents are also in the midst of a faith transition, moving out of the passive, receptive faith of childhood into the active, personally committed faith of adulthood.

Early Adolescence (ages 13-15) is a time of peer-orientation and self doubt. It is also the beginning of independent thinking and introspection. Though at times teens at this age may seem unresponsive to adult direction and uninterested in exploring topics of faith, they are likely to be in the process of developing an entirely new spiritual outlook. They are forming and sometimes asking life's deeper questions.

Remember, they are also good observers. They will be very aware of your demeanor, actions, availability, personal prayer life, and relationships with others. Especially for teens this age, actions speak louder than words.

For Sponsors in particular... To counter the instability of adolescence it will be important for you to determine a consistent pattern of communication. You might agree upon a regular schedule and format of interactions—personal visits, phone calls, e-mail, snail mail, etc. Frequency is not as important as reliability. Be available and stay in touch about things happening in your lives.

Thanks for coming along with them on the adventure. Your commitment tells a young person: "We value you. We want you to be a part of us. Your youthful energy brings vitality to our community. You are a clear sign of God in our midst."

Requirements For Confirmation

Candidates:

- ❖ Must be baptized and not confirmed.
- ❖ Must freely choose to be confirmed and make their wish known.
- ❖ Must have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions.
- ❖ Must be practicing their faith by attending Mass and receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation often.
- ❖ Are responsible for completing all required home study, assignments and service projects.
- ❖ Must be willing to participate in the Confirmation program of prayer, retreat, etc.
- ❖ Must be aware of the initiation aspect of the sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion.

Parents:

- ❖ **Must worship together at weekly Sunday Eucharist.**
- ❖ **Must guide the candidate in the growth of the faith through family activities such as reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation, family prayer and faith-sharing conversations, study, and Christian service.**
- ❖ **Must strive to be living examples of faith and good moral judgment.**
- ❖ **Must attend all meetings and programs in preparation for the sacrament**
- ❖ **Must support the preparation by responding to candidate's questions, assuring attendance and participation in religious classes and supervising the completion of projects.**
- ❖ **Must assist the candidate in choosing a qualified Sponsor and Confirmation Name.**
- ❖ **Must make a written request of the pastor for the Sacrament of Confirmation for their child.**
- ❖ **Must present a certificate of Baptism and verification of First Eucharist. (if not already on file).**

Sponsor:

- ❖ Must be a practicing (actively involved in the parish) Confirmed Catholic, at least 16 years old, who is willing to mentor the candidate in developing a faith in God, worship within the community and spirituality.
- ❖ Must complete the sponsor activities and required reports.
- ❖ Must be able to meet with the candidate before Confirmation to sufficiently share and establish a relationship in faith that will last throughout the candidate's lifetime.
- ❖ Must be able to attend the Sponsor/Candidate Evening, Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 pm.
- ❖ Must be able to attend Confirmation on Saturday April 27, 2019 at 1:30 PM at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica.
- ❖ May not be a parent of the candidate.

Letter to The Pastor

From the Parents



Your child is free to respond to God's call to live his/her faith more deeply - to worship, witness and serve as a confirmed Christian.

He/she, of course, has needed your guidance and witness to come to this moment of desiring Confirmation. **To show your support of your child's decision to continue his/her faith journey, please write a letter to our pastor requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation for your child.**

Address your letter to Father Brian Fischer, our Pastor. Here are some suggestions for the format of the letter:

1. Introduce yourself, conveying something about your family or your background that brings you and your child to this moment of faith.
2. Request the sacrament for your child giving several reasons why you feel it is important for your child to be confirmed and how he/she has prepared for the Sacrament.
3. Explain how you will support your child during this time of preparation. Mention how you share your prayer life as parents or as family; how you celebrate other Sacraments like Sunday or daily Eucharist or Reconciliation; how you give stewardship or service for others as a parent, as a family, or within the community.
4. Share your letter with your child before you submit it. (You might want to make a copy of it to keep for a memento.)
5. **Send the letter to Mrs. Webb in a sealed envelope with the words "Attention Fr. Brian Fischer" and your child's name on the front.** A checklist is being kept to track all the letters. All will be forwarded unopened.

Application for the Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation

To be filled out COMPLETELY by a parent/guardian



Candidate's Full Name _____

Date of Birth: *Month/Day/Year* _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Father's Name _____
First Initial Last

Mother's Name _____
First Initial Last

Maiden

Candidate Date of Baptism: *Month/Day/Year* _____

Name of Church of Baptism _____

Address of Church of Baptism _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sponsor's Name _____

First Initial Last Age
(Must be 16 or older, practicing Catholic, baptized & confirmed...may not be parent)

Confirmation Name _____
(Either keep baptismal name or take a saint name)

THE ABOVE INFORMATION WILL BE PRINTED ON THE CARD YOUR CHILD WILL HAND TO THE BISHOP AND NO ONE CAN BE CONFIRMED WITHOUT THAT CARD. IT IS SIGNED BY THE BISHOP AND THEN SENT TO THE CHURCH OF BAPTISM OF THE CHILD. PLEASE BE ACCURATE AND COMPLETE.

Sponsor Request Form

Your sponsor is a symbol representing the adult Catholic community. One of your godparents, who may already be very much involved with in your life, would generally be a good choice to emphasize the unity between the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. Otherwise, you should choose someone whom you admire, see quite often, and with whom you will likely have a long-term relationship. The sponsor should be someone who can actually accompany and assist you in unfolding the gift of the Spirit in your life; a person who will help you to bring this gift to maturity in the Christian community. A parent is not allowed to sponsor their child.

A sponsor for Confirmation must be sufficiently mature to fulfill the duties of being a sponsor. Specifically, a sponsor must be A) a practicing and actively involved Catholic who has already received the three Sacraments of Initiation, (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), B) be at least 16 years of age, C) have the time and willingness to undertake this ministry, D) have experiences in common with the candidate and E) fully intend to serve as a model and guide for the candidate in his/her preparation and living out of the sacrament.

The role of the sponsor includes:



1. Helping to prepare the candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation through support, prayer, and Catholic example.
2. Bringing the candidate to receive the sacrament and presenting him/her to the Bishop for the anointing with Holy Chrism.



3. Being a continual guide for the newly confirmed in order that he/she may fulfill the baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Candidate Name _____

Sponsor Name _____

Sponsor Address _____

Sponsor Phone Number _____

Sponsor E-mail Address _____

Parish of Sponsor _____

Parish Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM

To the Sponsor: Congratulations on being asked to be a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation. To be a sponsor there are several requirements the Church asks of you: 1) must be sixteen years of age or older; 2) have received all three sacraments of initiation, and lead a life in conformity with the faith and the role assumed as a sponsor; and 3) is not the parent of the candidate.

COMPLETE FORM BELOW:

Name of Candidate: _____

Statement of Candidate:

I understand that a sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation is an important choice to make regarding my final step into full communion with the Church. In choosing this person I understand he/she will be my guide during the coming year as I prepare to become a full initiated member of my Church and the Catholic faith. Therefore, I understand that I must choose a person who is practicing their Catholic faith, and who will be a good example and guide for me. Candidate's initials: _____

Statement of faith commitment and practice by Sponsor:

(Sponsor's Name – please print)

I recognize that as a sponsor for this sacrament: I am: 1) committed to keeping God's commandments as Jesus and the Church have taught me; 2) to worship God through prayer; and 3) faithfully attending Sunday Mass and to also strive to translate my faith into good examples and works.

I hereby state I am: 1) a baptized, confirmed Catholic; 2) a registered member of

_____ Parish in _____;
and 3) if married, married according to the laws of the Roman Catholic Church. I also promise to assist this candidate both before and after the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation to live the Christian life. Finally, I attest that all the statements above are true.

Signature of Sponsor: _____

Address: _____

Statement of Parish Priest:

This is to certify the person named above is to the best of my knowledge a registered member of this parish.

Comments:

Date: _____

Priest's Signature: _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

Church Seal:

Sponsor Activity Report



The sponsor and the candidate should meet for all Six Conversations in the Faith to Faith Magazine. A written reflection paper is required from both the candidate and the sponsor for at least three of activities/Conversations shared during the preparation process. The “Just For Fun” Activity is not required; it is just for fun!

Conversation 1: Who is Jesus? Your Reflections from Page 6

Conversation 2: What Do I Believe? Your Reflections from Page 10 or:

Visit the church in which either the candidate or the sponsor was baptized. Pay particular attention to the symbols of baptism that you see. Renew your baptismal promises together inside the church. Reflection Questions:

- What does Baptism mean to you and why is it important?
- Which of the baptismal promises, if any, did you find it difficult to make?
- Explain your understanding of how Confirmation is connected to Baptism?

Conversation 3: How Should I Live? Your Reflections from Page 14 or:

Share and collaborate with the Sponsor on the Social Justice Report or:

Complete a service project of at least three hours together. The service project report form can replace the reflection questions for this activity. The sponsor and the candidate should discuss the questions on the form, and complete it together.

Conversation 4: Where Do I Belong? Your Reflections from Page 18 or:

Share and collaborate with the Sponsor on the Saint Name Report or:

Celebrate either the candidate's or the sponsor's birthday together. Compare how we celebrate people's birthdays with how the Church celebrates its birthday on Pentecost.

Reflection Questions:

- Why are birthdays important and what gifts do you receive?
- What gifts were given to the early church on Pentecost?
- How do you nurture, develop and exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit in your daily life

Conversation 5: How Do I Pray? Your Reflections from Page 20 or:

Attend Mass together at another church. For example, The Cathedral Basilica St. Louis, the Old Cathedral, College Church, St. Alphonse Rock, or just a different parish from your own.

Reflection Questions:

- What does the Mass mean to you?
- How do you actively participate in Mass?
- What part of the Mass is most important to you? Why?

Conversation 6: What is My Destiny? Your Reflections from Page 26-27 or:

Prepare for and receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Attend one of the PSR Penance Services, or go together on a Saturday afternoon.

Reflection Questions:

- What does Reconciliation mean to you?
- How do you say “I’m sorry” outside the sacrament.
- How important has the sacrament been in your everyday life? In what ways is it important?
- How has the sacrament of Reconciliation helped or touched you?



Choosing of A Confirmation Name & Patron Saint Report

Confirmation is a sacrament in which we ratify the promises made for us at Baptism. These promises include a commitment to the Gospel of Christ and to membership in the Catholic Church. In addition, we commit ourselves to a missionary spirit on behalf of Christ's kingdom of love, justice and mercy. The Holy Spirit is renewed in us in a very special way. We receive a spiritual sign or seal that makes us more like Jesus and deepens our commitment to the church.

One way to express the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation is through the choice of a Saint name. If the candidate's baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. Using the baptismal name for Confirmation is preferred because it strengthens the connection in your life between the moment you were first brought to Christ in baptism and this important celebration of your own confirmation in the faith.

If the baptismal name is not that of a recognized saint, a new name of a Saint of the Catholic Church should be chosen for Confirmation.

Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron saint's name, not because of the attractiveness of the name, but because of the significance of the Christian life and witness of the Saint.

It will be necessary to research and present a written report on your patron saint and Confirmation name. There is an outline for this report in the Candidate Manual.

Some web sites for saints:

www.catholic.org/saints/

www.catholic-forum.com/

www.daughtersofstpaul.com/saintday/

www.domestic-church.com/index.htm

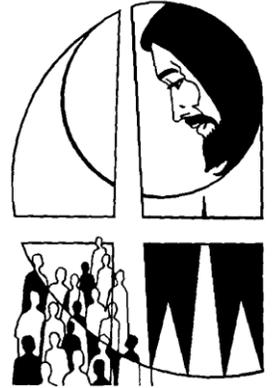
www.wau.org/resources/saints/default.asp

www.infocatholic.com/saints.aspx

www.americancatholic.org

Outline for Written Saint Report

It will be necessary to research and present a written report on your patron saint and Confirmation name which should be chosen from the listing of the Saints of the Church. *The 2009 Pastoral Guidelines for Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Saint Louis* emphasizes the importance of the candidates' understanding of "the significance of the life and witness of their baptismal and confirmation patrons."



1. How and why did your parents choose your Baptismal name?
2. Why did you choose this saint for your Confirmation Name?
3. What did he/she do, or how did he/she live?
4. When and where did this saint live? Born? Die? Feast Day?
5. What virtues did this saint practice in his/her life?
6. Which Gifts of the Holy Spirit are evident in this saint's life? Explain.
7. Identify the Corporal and/or Spiritual Works of Mercy performed by this saint.
8. Which Beatitude may have influenced his/her life?
9. Which Fruits of the Spirit are portrayed by this Saint?
10. How can you imitate this Saint today?

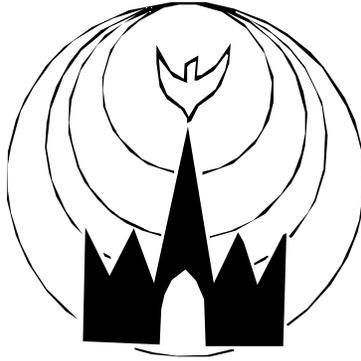


Candidate Letter to Pastor

You are free to respond to God's call to live your faith more deeply to worship, witness and serve as a confirmed Catholic. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are required to write a letter of request to the Pastor/Parochial Administrator of our Parish, Fr. Brian Fischer. Please include the following information:

- ❖ Introduce yourself...
- ❖ What does my Catholic faith represent to me?
- ❖ Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed?
- ❖ Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important to tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of other sacraments, your service to others, etc.
- ❖ Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Tell how you plan to make your confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.

Send the letter to Mrs. Webb in a sealed envelope with the words "Attention Fr. Brian Fischer" and your name on the front. A checklist is being kept to track all the letters. All will be forwarded unopened.



Christian Witness Service Projects

Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation. It is a beginning, not an ending. It is the recognition that we are all members of One Church, and being a member takes faithful participation in prayer and community activities. Stewardship, using wisely and sharing freely the many gifts that God has given to us, is the responsibility of every full member of the Church. Focusing on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, and Social Justice Principles, the Candidates for Confirmation are encouraged to explore their awareness and attitude toward this lifelong commitment of sharing their time, talents and treasure.

Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and most of all, on the example of Christ who came to serve. When giving service, the following points should be considered:

- ❖ Your service is not just a job to be done. It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need.
- ❖ You should reflect on how your service project is helping you take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others and build up the Christian community.
- ❖ The giving of service should continue after your confirmation and all through your life.
- ❖ Service should be incorporated in your family, in the Church, in the community and for the poor, needy and elderly.

Service should be given willingly and freely. A written reflection report on your service projects will be required. A form for this report is in the candidate manual.

Spiritual Works of Mercy



Convert the sinner.
Instruct the ignorant.
Counsel the doubtful.
Comfort the sorrowful.
Bear wrongs patiently.
Forgive all injuries.
Pray for the living and the dead.



Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry.
Give drink to the thirsty.
Clothe the naked.
Visit the imprisoned.
Shelter the homeless.
Visit the sick.
Bury the dead.

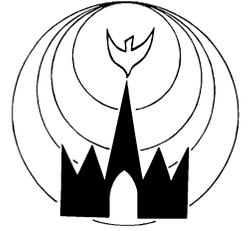


Social Justice Principles

Life and Dignity of the Human Person
Call to Family, Community and Participation
Solidarity
Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
Rights and Responsibilities
Care for Creation



Individual Service Project Reflection



Candidate's Name: _____

Agency & Type of Service:

Date(s) of Service: _____ Hours Completed _____

Signature of Adult Present _____

1. Description of Service Project _____

2. Which Work of Mercy and/or Social Justice Principle does this project reflect?

3. How did this project help you to take on the mind and heart of Christ and build up the Church?

4. What did you learn from your service?

5. How will this experience help you in the future?

Outline for Summary Service Project Reflection

Name _____

1. Which type of service (family, parish, community, etc?) did you find the easiest?

Why? _____

2. Which type of service (family, parish, community, etc?) did you find the hardest?

Why? _____

3. Which aspect of stewardship-giving freely of your time, talent and treasure- was the most difficult? Why?

4. What do you think Jesus asks of us when he speaks of serving others?

5. How do you plan to continue a life of service after Confirmation?

