

Sponsor Confirmation Packet



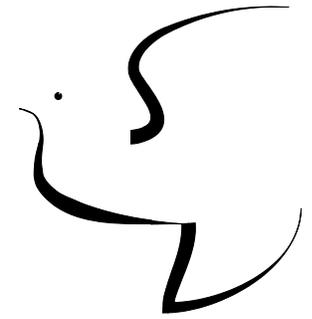
St. Patrick Parish School of Religion

701 S. Church Street
Wentzville, MO 63385

636-332-9913 x242

psr@stpatsch.org

CONFIRMATION CALENDAR
2019-2020



Confirmation Rally-St. Dominic	September 30 6-8PM
Sacramental Preparation Enrollment	October 12-13 All Masses
Parent Meeting	October 10
Letter to Pastor	October 30
Application for the Reception of Confirmation	October 30 Completed by parent/guardian
Sponsor Request Forms	November 6
Candidate & Sponsor Meeting	November 21 *parent/guardian if sponsor is unable to attend
Tour of Cathedral Basilica	January 17
Saint Report	February 12
Retreat (Required)	February 15-16
Candidate Letter to Pastor	March 18
Sponsor Activity Report	March 18
Service Project Reflection	March 18
Interviews with Priests	April 15
Celebration of Confirmation	April 25, 2020 1:30 pm St. Louis Cathedral Basilica



St. Patrick Parish School of Religion
701 South Church Street
Wentzville, Missouri 63385
636-332-9913 x242
psr@stpatsch.org

Dear Sponsors,

You are about to enter a journey, a journey of faith. This decision to sponsor this young person in this journey is an answer to God's call. For this young person this call began at his/her Baptism, but does not end at Confirmation. It is only the beginning of a life long commitment of prayer and service.

God can use you to be a source of witness and courage on this journey. Jesus can use you to be a light to this young person. The Holy Spirit can use you to share your wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, reverence and awe of the Lord. Let those gifts flow from you and touch this special young person at this time.

As a sponsor, you serve as a model and guide for the candidate in his/her preparation and living out of the sacrament of Confirmation. You also represent the adult Catholic community. Please accept this responsibility and the grace God will give you to carry it out. You are asked to be somewhat more mature, more informed and more experienced than the candidate. No one, least of all, the candidate, expects perfection of you; just a willingness to share and to continue to grow in your own faith.

Readiness for Confirmation requires that the candidate demonstrates willingness and a capacity to continue to grow toward mature and committed faith. The actual goal of perfected faith and total imitation of Jesus remains a lifelong quest. Your task is to help the candidate take the next step in that quest, not the final step.

It is vitally important that your candidate experience your presence and support. Your Confirmand will need to spend time with you in prayer, reflection, and service. We have provided a special resource, [Faith to Faith, 6 Conversations](#), that we expect you to complete. We will be asking you and the candidates to write about some of these times in the Sponsor Activity Report.

Confirmation will be celebrated on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 1:30 pm at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica.

Thank you and God Bless,

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 is 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, Faith to Faith Conversations and all 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 21 at 7:00 pm.
- ❖ Must be able to attend Confirmation on April 25, 2020 at 1:30 pm at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica.
- ❖ May not be a parent of the candidate.

Sponsors for Confirmation

FOR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

How to choose a sponsor

Confirmation can be a great experience, and hopefully you've thought a lot about what this sacrament means, and how the Holy Spirit will affect your life. You'll be required to have a sponsor—someone who will guide you and share the story of faith with you. A good sponsor will make this process a little easier and even more fun. Sponsors are important because they help us to realize that we are not alone in our effort to live as mature Christians.

The *Catechism* (#1311) and canon law (#892-893) both tell us that you need a sponsor. Hopefully, your Baptismal sponsor has been supporting you in your journey of faith thus far and you will want that person to continue to walk with you as your sponsor now. This is the Church's preference for you in this decision. Having one of your godparents helps us to see how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. Sadly, by the time they get to Confirmation, many young people no longer know their godparents, or they're no longer good role models. Or maybe they just live too far away. These young people will need to choose a new sponsor. In any case, the person you choose to be your sponsor should be someone from whom you can ask advice as you continue to grow and someone who knows you well enough to say, "This is a fine young person whom I would like to see as a full adult member of our Church."

Some advice to the candidates: You're looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire and who will be there for you. The requirements mentioned for godparents earlier also apply to sponsors: that they be *confirmed Catholics, at least 16 years old* (for maturity) and *practicing members of the Church, while not being your parents*. This means you can choose a relative, friend or someone from your parish as your sponsor. Pray about it, and when you think you have the right person, ask him or her to help you grow in faith by being your sponsor!

FOR SPONSORS

Be at your best

If you have been chosen to be a Confirmation sponsor, congratulations! This person sees in you a profound faith commitment, finds trust and knows you are someone who will care about them and their faith. Sounds impressive, doesn't it? It's not all that complicated, but it does take time, a caring heart and a listening ear. If you're a practicing, mature Catholic, don't get too worried. Here are a few suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor for your candidate:

- **Be a living model of faith.** At least a part of what this young person admires in you is your faith! If the way you practice your faith is not what it should be, "get it together," so to speak! If you honestly can't, this is understandable, but maybe you should decline the invitation to be a sponsor. Your life doesn't have to become artificially saintly, but your faith should be authentic and sincere.
- **Pray for your candidate and yourself.** As candidates decide to be confirmed, they need spiritual strength. Your prayers for them are important, but don't forget to pray for yourself also, that you can share why you value and practice your Catholicism. Attend Mass together, or even have the courage to come to Reconciliation together.
- **Give of your time and share your gifts.** You'll be asked to spend time together on various activities. This may mean preparing lessons or even working on a Christian service project. You could also share your own experiences or write a letter of encouragement. Let your unique God-given talents and gifts shine! Offer a gift of spiritual significance—a new Bible, rosary or book about our faith or about the saint the candidate has chosen for a Confirmation name—but *be creative and relevant!*
- **Don't miss the ceremony.** Participating in the ceremony is the easiest part of being a sponsor. Your basic job will be to place your hand on your candidate's shoulder, and tell the bishop your candidate's Confirmation name. You're there to be a support, but your role on Confirmation day is only beginning.
- **Don't forget this newly confirmed Catholic.** After Confirmation day, remember birthdays and this anniversary. Send a card or make a phone call. Continue to worship together, or from time to time do some Christian service. Put those "Gifts of the Spirit" into practice.

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 _____

Return to:

St. Patrick Parish

405 S. Church Street

Wentzville, MO 63385

636-332-9225

Fax: 636-887-2055

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: _____

Church Seal:

Priest's Signature: _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

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:

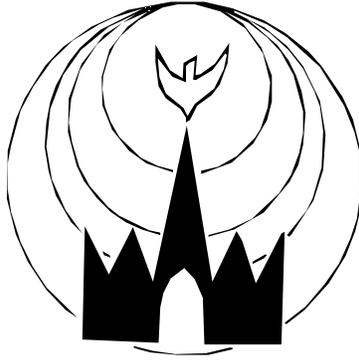
- What does the Mass mean to you?
- How do you actively participate in Mass?
- What part of the Mass is most important to you? Why?

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?



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.



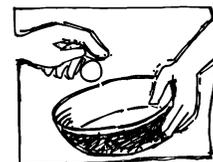
Corporal Works of Mercy

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?

