

Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Spiritual Preparation

In addition to preparing through study, candidates should prepare personally and spiritually through daily prayer, attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, using the Sacrament of Reconciliation when opportunities are given, and other means of living our Catholic faith. In particular, Sunday Mass attendance must be taken very seriously. The Sunday Eucharist is the heart of Catholic life. A candidate who does not attend Mass regularly is not yet ready for Confirmation.

Bishop's Questions—Memorize Prior to the Start of Grade/Level 8

Candidates must memorize the list of questions the Bishop uses in his Confirmation homily. These questions summarize your understanding of Confirmation and show that you are willing to continue learning and growing in faith. Sponsors can be instrumental in helping candidates to memorize and to understand the questions.

Confirmation Name—Saint Report Due August 15th

A new name is a sign of a new identity. Like Baptism, the Sacrament of Confirmation changes us permanently. Candidates may use their Baptismal name for Confirmation, since Confirmation brings our Baptism to its maturity. Or another name may be chosen. It is preferable to choose a saint's name, but any name is acceptable as long as it is not un-Christian or otherwise inappropriate.

Check out <https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/> for the "Biggest and Best List of Confirmation Saints (for Guys and Girls)."

Sponsor—Completed Form Due August 15th

Just as, when we are baptized, we have godparents to help bring us up in the faith, we also choose a sponsor for Confirmation. Confirmation empowers us to live our Catholic faith as mature adults in a world where it is often very challenging to be faithful to Jesus Christ. The sponsor's role involves supporting the candidate and serving as a role model of living the Catholic faith. Therefore, universal Church law requires that a sponsor be:

- At least 16 years old
- NOT the father or mother of the candidate
- A fully initiated Catholic (he/she received Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion)
- Living a life in harmony with the Catholic faith (attends Mass every Sunday; validly married in the Catholic Church or, if single, living the chaste life of a single Catholic)

One of the candidate's Baptismal godparents may serve as Confirmation sponsor, or another person may be chosen. Please put careful thought into your choice of a sponsor. Do not ask someone to be a sponsor unless you are certain he/she fulfills the above requirements.

If a sponsor cannot be physically present at the Confirmation, he/she can be represented by proxy.

Additional Documentation—Due August 15th

1) If the candidate was NOT baptized at St. Ambrose, then a copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate must be provided.

2) If the candidate is NOT a member of St. Ambrose Church, then the candidate's pastor must send a letter to Msgr. Zemanik granting permission for the candidate to be Confirmed at St. Ambrose.

Inscription—Fall Semester (TBD)

At St. Ambrose, we observe the tradition of "Inscription." Candidates in Level/Grade 8 are presented to the parish community and publicly recognized as candidates for Confirmation. The entire parish community is asked to pray for and to support the candidates.

Candidates are asked to meet in the small chapel 15 minutes prior to the Mass of their choice. Candidates will enter the church as part of the entrance procession and sit in the front pews.

Retreat—Spring Semester (Feb. 19, 2022)

A retreat for candidates in Level 8 is a special time of prayer, talks, and activities that help to bring Confirmation preparation to a close by giving candidates an opportunity to reflect on this important step in their lives and experience God's presence in a new way.

Service—Reflections Due August 15th

The Christian life calls the faithful to share their gifts and talents in service to Church and community. Through acts of service, the Confirmation candidate explores his/her gifts and talents and more fully develops an understanding of sacrificial love and the joy of self-giving.

Each candidate is asked to participate in and reflect on two unrelated service opportunities/projects that impact our church and/or communities by addressing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The service opportunities should move the candidate beyond the normal service given within the family (chores, babysitting a sibling, etc.).

The goals of the service component include the following:

- Recognize needs to which Christians respond with the Works of Mercy.
- Practice the Works of Mercy through prayer and action.
- Practice theological reflection to enable one to more fully appreciate and live Christian charity.

All Confirmation preparation forms are available at www.stambrosehaven.com/confirmation.