

Confirmation Meeting Candidate + Parent + Sponsor

1) What is the Confirmation?

- As a Sacrament of His Church, it's part of God's plan for us to grow into a deeper relationship with Him. The Church's sacraments build upon His gifts of:
 - *Natural moral law* – the natural orientation towards holiness as written in all human beings' hearts, and
 - *Faith* – the desire to best understand the mystery of the Holy Trinity of God as truth and love. Faith is both a gift and a choice.
- It's one of the three *Sacraments of Christian Initiation* (with Baptism and Eucharist) into Christ's Church.
 - Baptism —The foundational Sacrament. During the Sacrament, as we “die and rise,” in union with Jesus as new members of His body (the Church), we're resurrected with Him from the effects of Original Sin and any previous personal sin.
 - Confirmation – Completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation seals the baptized in union with Christ. Equips the Confirmed for active participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church.
 - Eucharist – The heart of the Church's life. In this food, we receive “the bread of heaven” and “the cup of salvation.” It unites, heals, strengthens, and transforms us into fruitful members of the body of Christ. We must be in the state of grace to receive the body of Christ (Reconciliation).

2) What happens after Confirmation?

- Not a graduation!
- More and more personal responsibility to continue to grow in holiness. The five precepts of the Church are “The minimums in prayer and moral effort.” Five—1) Mass on Sundays and holy days of Obligation; 2) Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once per year; 3) Receive the Eucharist at least during the Easter season; 4) Observe the days of fasting (18-59 y.o.) and abstinence (14+ y.o.); and 5) Help provide for the needs of the Church.
- Sacraments beyond those 3 of Christian Initiation?
 - Sacraments of Healing.
 - Penance and Reconciliation. On-going Sacrament. The Divine Physician, through the Priest, heals and strengthens us against sin--even in venial but especially in mortal sin (ASAP).
 - Anointing of the Sick
 - Sacraments at the Service of Communion--“toward the holiness of others”.
 - Holy Orders (Priest and Deacon)
 - Matrimony

3) What are Roles?

- *Candidate* – **Be** open to the Holy Spirit's forming you; **Cooperate** with your parents'/guardians' and sponsors' guidance; **Be** committed and **Work** hard—Do Your Best; **Keep** your sponsor informed
- *Parent/Guardian* – **Be** a role model of Catholicism; **Share** your own faith life; **Encourage** the candidate; **Keep** the sponsor informed; **Hold** the candidate accountable
- *Sponsor* – **Be** a role model of Catholicism; **Share** your own faith life; **Encourage** the candidate; **Hold** candidate accountable; **Be** a spiritual companion (*confidential* but not *private*)

- 4) The four major components of Confirmation formation (Archdiocese of Omaha):
 - **Catechesis.** Primarily accomplished by teachings from St. Matthew’s School/Religious Education and home study—family and/or self-study.
 - **Retreat Experience.** Primarily from the DRE-arranged retreat.
 - **Service.** At least two service experiences. One each from a Corporal and a Spiritual work of mercy. Process—discern, perform, reflect, and relate.
 - **Mass Attendance.** Reflect and relate spiritual movements during six separate Masses, three of which should be attended with the sponsor.
- 5) Two other components of Confirmation formation:
 - **Sponsor.** Mandatory.
 - **Confirmation Name.** Optional but customary. Discerning a Saint or Virtue to be addressed as by Archbishop during the Confirmation Rite.
- 6) What are the deliverables?
 - Do the activities listed as the four components of formation as described in the “*St. Matthew the Evangelist Confirmation Formation Requirements*” handout.
 - Reflect on these experiences and communicate by making a “portfolio” containing the candidate’s participation and reflections on these experiences.
 - Candidates should make their utmost best effort while performing and relating their spiritual awareness during their Confirmation formation.
 - Use “The Answer Sandwich” to answer each question listed below.
 - Typed portfolio preferred. Contact the DRE if you don’t have access to a computer.
- 7) Questions for Portfolio. *Remember* to answer each question using “The Answer Sandwich.” Candidates should discuss their experiences with their sponsor and/or parents to gain additional insights to help them recognize and communicate the Holy Spirit’s graces during these formation experiences.
 - Sponsor:
 - Why did you select your sponsor?
 - How was your sponsor useful to you on your journey to Confirmation?
 - Retreat Experience:
 - What did you find useful and/or learn at the retreat experience?
 - Service: One answer for each of the two works of mercy performed.
 - How did you decide which of the works of mercy you based your service on?
 - What was your experience like while performing the work of mercy?
 - How might your experience in performing this work of mercy affect you in the course of your life?
 - Mass Attendance: One answer for each of the six Masses that you attended for the Confirmation requirement.
 - What was special or unique about this Mass that you chose it to write about it?
 - Saint (or Virtue) Name:
 - Why did you choose this name?
- 8) Significant Dates.
 - **Wednesday, March 28, 2018.** Portfolio due.
 - **Saturday, April 28, 2018.** Three events--1) Confirmation Mass Rehearsal, 2:30 p.m., 2) Reconciliation, 3) Rite of Enrollment Mass, 5:00 p.m.
 - **Sunday, May 6, 2018.** Confirmation Mass, 1:00 p.m. Show up (formal pictures) at 11:45 a.m.