



## **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

*The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens the baptized and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses of Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It imprints a character, enriches by the gift of the Holy Spirit the baptized continuing on the path of Christian initiation, and binds them more perfectly to the Church. (Canon 879)*

### **GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines apply to a young adults ages 13 to 17 (8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school junior), who baptized as Catholic Christians prior to their seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) birthday. For children older than seven (7) years old, who were not yet baptized, please call to make an appointment with the pastor. For baptized persons older than 17 years of age, please call to make an appointment with the pastor. In the danger of death or grave illness, please call the pastor for immediate emergency Baptism and/or Confirmation.

Parents have a grave responsibility to encourage the One True Faith in their children and to make sure that they receive all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation) at the appropriate times. As these are sacred events and Sacraments, young people typically undergo some preparation prior to receiving them in the form of classes, retreats, and ministry projects. All of this is of course to be an outreach of regular Sunday Mass attendance and daily personal and family prayer.

### **CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS**

At least one of the parents (or guardian) of the child must be an active member in *Holy Family* Catholic Parish (or met with and discussed with the pastor why they are not utilizing their parish's formation program). Active membership includes, but is not limited to, being registered in the parish, weekly and Holy Days attendance at Mass, and financial and volunteer support of the parish according to one's means. While the criteria for Godparents do not explicitly apply to the parents of the child, they do provide a basic guide for active membership.

A recently issued Baptismal Certificate is required for all young people not Baptized at Holy Family Catholic Church, New Albany, IN.

### **TEXT NOTIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS**

One way the parish will communicate with you for meeting reminders will be through a text service called *Remind.com*. To sign up to receive the texts, please text "@HFNACONF21" to #81010. You will receive a text to confirm your registration. Reply by sending your full name. You will receive a 2nd text asking if you are a student, parent, or teacher. Reply by sending "S" or "P". You are now registered. You will receive all group texts regarding Holy Family Confirmation, New Albany. Please note: data charges may apply for your reception of texts.



### **CONFIRMATION CELEBRATIONS**

The Sacrament of Confirmation is ordinarily celebrated and administered by the local archbishop according to his schedule with other young people of the parish and surrounding parishes. Typically, this celebration takes place the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of October for the parishes of New Albany Deanery. It will likely be celebrated at *St Mary of the Knobs* or *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*.

**Confirmation Mass date, time, and location has not been determined. Once information is received from the Office of the Archbishop, candidates / parents will be notified.**

### **REQUIREMENTS CONFIRMATION SPONSORS**

The choice of a sponsor by your young adult teen is an important one. It should be governed the Sponsor's ability to provide the young person a prayerful and faithful witness and assistance in living one's Catholic Christian faith. All Sponsors must meet all the following:

- 1) He/She is a baptized Catholic Christian having received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- 2) He/she is 16 years of age or over.
- 3) If single, he/she is living a chaste life, that is, not "living together" with someone.
- 4) If married, he/she is married in the Catholic Church by an approved Catholic priest.
- 5) He/She attends Holy Mass every weekend and on Holy Days.
- 6) He/She may not be the parent or guardian of the candidate

Only one (1) sponsor is required. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardian to verify that the selected Sponsor meet the above criteria.

Parents or guardians of the young person to be Confirmed are not permitted to be Sponsor of the same child, since they already have a unique and special relationship and role as the 'primary educator in the faith.'

### **CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM**

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis requires that all candidates for Confirmation be properly prepared to receive this Sacrament. This program is for candidates who have been instructed in their faith through catechetical preparation using parish provided on-line resources, a retreat, and monthly Parent/Sponsor-Candidate meetings. The use of the Religion Curriculum Guide of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in Religious education programs insures that the foundational doctrine has been presented to these students.

Per the Archdiocese of Indianapolis guidelines, candidates for Confirmation should display an openness of heart through:

- + Mass attendance – **weekly**
- + Consistent attendance at formation sessions
- + Participation in a retreat or day of reflection - ideally focused on Confirmation preparation
- + Willingness to participate in community service



## **Confirmation Preparation Program Expectations**

Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For “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.”

~ Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1285

- 1. Mass Attendance** – each weekend, primarily at your home parish
- 2. Group Meeting Formation Dates** – Sunday Nights – 6p Mass & Meet in Guerin Room (gym)  
2020: Sept 27, Oct 25, Nov 15, Dec 06  
2021: Jan 24, Feb 07 (Fathers of Mercy Talk), Mar 07, Apr 18, Sept 26
- 3. Retreat or Day of Reflection** (candidate to choose one option, you register and arrange)
  - Friday-Saturday – March 12-13, 2021  
HF YM - ALL ARE WORTHY Retreat  
Details forthcoming
  - Friday-Saturday – September 10-11, 2021 (tentative dates)  
NAD Catalyst Catholics – FIRE & WATER Confirmation Retreat (\$55)  
Mount St Francis (<https://catalystcatholic.org/retreats>)
  - Sunday November 21, 2020 – CYO One-Day Confirmation Retreat (\$20)  
Camp Rancho Framasa, Nashville, IN  
(<http://www.campranchoframasa.org/confirmation-retreats.html>)
  - Saturday February 6, 2021 – CYO One-Day Confirmation Retreat (\$20)

Or other as arranged and approved by Fr Gries

PHS Retreats not accepted as substitutes as they are not Confirmation oriented.

### **4. Catechetical Formation Videos**

Assigned on-line Catechetical Video sessions are to be viewed **with parents** in between the Group Meetings. Candidate to prepare brief responses to reflections questions and to bring responses to the next Group Meetings. See below for the schedule of videos and further details.

### **5. Community Service**

Candidates for Confirmation should demonstrate a life of Christian service out of a love of God and love of neighbor. The hours are not as important as the quality of the service and the opportunity to grown in the universal call to holiness in the context of the Christian community. It is hoped that a sense of service to others will become an integral component of the young adult’s life. We would like for candidates to participate in 3 service projects.

### **6. Letter to Archbishop requesting Confirmation** – more details below



## CATECHETICAL FORMATION VIDEOS

### Resources:

- *Formed.org: Symbolon – Knowing the Faith (select Sessions)*
- *Formed.org: Symbolon – Living the Faith (select Sessions)*

**Parents** – you are highly encouraged to watch videos between meetings **with** your teen, so you can discuss the importance of your Catholic Christian Faith and Tradition and encourage them.

### Procedure:

1. **Create** Family account on **www.Formed.org**  
“Sign Up” > “I belong to a Parish or Organization” > “Holy Family New Albany”
2. **Watch** assigned on-line sessions
3. **Discuss** the material with your parent(s) / Sponsor.
4. **Submit** Write out responses to the guide reflection on each video session and bring to the next group meeting

## SCHEDULE

<u>“Symbolon – Knowing” Session</u>	<u>Viewed by</u>
Session 3 – The Bible	Oct 25
Session 4 – Story of Salvation	Oct 25
Session 5 – Who is Jesus?	Nov 15
Session 6 – Paschal Mystery	Nov 15
Session 7 – The Holy Spirit and the Life of Grace	Dec 06
Session 8 – Why do I need the Church?	Dec 06
<u>“Symbolon – Living” Session</u>	<u>Viewed by</u>
Session 1 – The Sacraments: Baptism & Confirmation	Jan 24
Session 2 – The Eucharist	Jan 24
Session 3 – The Walk through the Mass	Mar 07
Session 6 – Catholic Moral Vision	Mar 07
Session 7 – A Love that Last – part 1	Apr 18
Session 8 – A Love that Lasts – part 2	Apr 18



## COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Participate in service projects in fall & spring with fellow Confirmation candidates and members of the *Holy Family* Parish and New Albany Deanery Catholic Community. Service is an integral part of the Christian life. For service to be truly Christian in nature, it must be performed from an intentional Christian heart intending to serve Christ represented in the other. *What you did for the least of these, you did for Me* (Cf. Mt 25). This is often best experienced in a group or church community setting. To help foster such Christian service, the following opportunities are provided.

***In Heaven's Eyes*** (Choose One Wednesday night **AND** One Saturday morning date)  
(The ministry opportunity is different on Wednesdays and Saturdays)  
(We need to limit our teen numbers to no more than 3 teens per date)

AND

***Holy Family Youth Ministry*** –Spend time with our Middle School teens for service hours!

Email Ms. Abbi: [ahamm@holyfamilynewalbany.org](mailto:ahamm@holyfamilynewalbany.org)

- Taco Tuesdays: October 13, November 3, December 1; 3-6pm
- MS Monthly Events from 6-9p: October 16, November 20,  
January 9, February 26, April 23, May 21

OR

**PENDING: *St Vincent de Paul*** – Holiday Food Basket Preparation

- Packing Thanksgiving Basket –Friday, Nov from 6-7:30p @ SVDP Food Pantry
- Delivery of Thanksgiving Basket – Saturday, Nov @ 9-10a @ SVDP Food Pantry
  
- Packing Christmas Basket –Friday, Dec from 6-7:30p @ SVDP Food Pantry
- Delivery of Christmas Basket – Saturday, Dec from 9-10a @ SVDP Food Pantry
  
- Packing Easter Basket – Thursday, April from 5-6:30p @ SVDP Food Pantry
- Delivery of Easter Basket – Saturday, April from 9-10a @ SVDP Food Pantry



**LETTER TO ARCHBISHOP REQUESTING CONFIRMATION**

As part of the candidates' preparations for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson requests that each candidate submit a letter to him. This letter is meant to be more than just a statement from the young person asking for the Sacrament. Since he cannot be a part of each and every formation program, the letter helps the archbishop to see how the young people have been preparing for the celebration, as well as for life strengthened by the Holy Spirit after the celebration. In addition, so many of the letters stand as a testament to the faith and devotion of the young Church, a sign of hope for us all

Since it is meant to address each young person's own journey and preparation, the letter should not be a "form letter." While some guidance may be given, it needs to stand as a composition of that individual. The letter should be submitted electronically to your pastor, Fr Jeremy M. Gries ([frgries@holyfamilynewalbany.org](mailto:frgries@holyfamilynewalbany.org)). The candidates should note in the letter to which parish they belong, since many times the archbishop is preparing for multiples celebrations in the same week.

The letter should answer the following questions in Four paragraphs:

1. What does Confirmation mean to me? Why am I choosing to be confirmed?
2. What saint's name did I choose and why?
3. Whom did I choose for my sponsor and why?
4. How does Confirmation encourage and instill me a sense of Christian service and discipleship? What did I learn from my participation in my Service Projects?

The archbishop uses the information in the letters as part of his homily, enabling him to speak to the experiences and needs of the candidates more intimately. The archbishop does not use names from the letters in his homily so as not to embarrass anyone, aside from speaking about the selection of the saint name and why.

**Please submit your letter to Fr Gries before the Sunday, 18 April 2020 Meeting**

Therefore, you who are already baptized will now receive the power of his Spirit and be signed with his Cross on your foreheads. And so, you must always bear witness to his Passion and Resurrection before the world, so that your manner of life, as the Apostle says, may be in every place the pleasing fragrance of Christ. His Mystical Body, which is the Church, the People of God, receives from him diverse graces, which the same Holy Spirit distributes to individuals for the building-up of that Body in unity and love.

Be living members of this Church, therefore, and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seek to serve all people like Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.

*~ The Order of Confirmation 22*