



Saint Andrew

Anchored in Faith  Catholic Church and School

Confirmation 2023

Confirmation Events needed to Attend and **Items to Complete and Turn in**

Faith Formation: 6:30 PM (Gym)

- February 15 or March 1 -Session 1: The Basics
- March 19 or March 22 -Session 2: The Gifts
- April 16 or April 19 - Session 3: The Proof
- April 30 or May 3 - Session 4: The Mission

Confirmation Sessions: 6:30 PM

- March 15 - Introduction Night: Parent Student, Small Group Leader (Church)
- If requested, copy of baptism certificate
- April 12 - How Do We Serve God? - Parents, Sponsor, Student, Small Group Leader(Cafeteria)
- **TURN IN CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM (Page 15)**
- **REGISTER FOR 2023-2024 Faith Formation**
- April 26 - How Do We Serve Each Other? - Student, Small Group Leader (Church)



ONGOING - Student and Sponsor meet to discuss the YDisciple Bible Study.

- August 15 - **Turn in Completion of Never Alone Bible Study for Student and Sponsor (Page 23)**
- August 15 - **Turn in CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME ESSAY (Page 19)**
- August 15 - **Turn In LETTER TO FR. MARK (Page 21)**

Confirmation Retreat:

- August 27 from 4:00 PM until 10:00 PM Students, Small Group Leaders (Church)

Confirmation Interviews with Fr. Mark (Sign up TBD) Gathering Area

- September 13 (Thursday) 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM
- September 14 (Friday) 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Confirmation Mass

- September 24, 2023 at 4:00 PM - Meet in the Gym at 3:00 PM

Post Confirmation 6:30 PM TBD

October 4, November 1 and December 6

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Choosing your sponsor is a very important part of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. You are not just choosing someone to stand with you on your Confirmation day, but the person whom you believe will help you live your faith throughout your life. Choosing a sponsor means setting out on a journey, together you will become disciples through shared life, shared prayer, and shared mission. Sponsors should be people with a deep commitment to the Catholic faith and who are active, confirmed members of their parish. They should be willing to listen to you, help you answer questions, and be open to bear witness of the ways they have encountered God in their life. Sponsors are expected to maintain regular contact with their candidate to not only pray, but to socialize and develop a stronger relationship. A godparent is a very appropriate choice as it shows the continuity between the sacraments of Christian Initiation. Parents cannot be a sponsor.

** Confirmation Sponsors will be required to attend one Confirmation session with their 11th grade candidate and be present at the Sacrament of Confirmation. They will also be responsible for completing a four week Confirmation Bible Study with their candidate.*

Introduction

We are excited to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation with you this fall. This Confirmation packet, which is to be completed with *your sponsor and family*, is meant to serve as a guide as we move closer to Confirmation on **Sunday, September 24, 2023, at 4:00 PM at Saint Andrew Catholic Church**. Along with this packet, there are other items (*see pages 15 - 23*) that you will need to complete in order to be confirmed. This packet is meant to serve as a guide for your sessions with your sponsor and family. Each session is split into smaller components (discussions, Q & A, etc.) so that you can complete each session over multiple meetings if that works better for you.

What Is Confirmation?

Confirmation is your final step to being welcomed as a full member of the Catholic faith. Baptism, the Eucharist and Confirmation constitute the “sacraments of Christian initiation,” and Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, 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” (CCC 1285).

Confirmation enables us to fully receive God’s grace and the Holy Spirit. It also unites us more completely with God, increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us, and creates a more perfect bond between us and the Church. Like Baptism, Confirmation is given only once, as it imprints the soul with an indelible (permanent, unchangeable and unrepeatable) spiritual mark.

Overview of Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation preparation is a combination of class sessions at the church, home sessions with your sponsor and family, a Confirmation Retreat, and other Faith Formation Masses and gatherings. It is designed to build on what you have already learned on your faith formation journey and is a time to reflect on your progress so far and how you want to live your faith after Confirmation. Confirmation preparation is not an end to your growing in knowledge and faith, but a new beginning of life in the Holy Spirit.

After Confirmation, we are encouraging our 11th graders to stay involved in parish life. The Faith Formation office will be following up with students and their families after Confirmation. See page 12 for more information. We will host three post confirmation events for the confirmands on October 4, November 1 and December 6, 2023.

If any student is unable to meet these requirements in a timely manner, please contact the Faith Formation staff at 763-441-1483 as soon as possible to make other arrangements for preparation. Failure to complete the preparation process without making other arrangements could result in a candidate not being confirmed this year.

Sponsor and Parent Responsibilities

The sponsor of the candidate is responsible for meeting with and completing the Never Alone Bible study (attached) with the candidate. Parents are responsible for completing the family portion of the Confirmation packet with the candidate (specifically, on pages 7 and 12). Both the sponsor and the parents should set a strong, faithful Catholic example and should pray for and support the candidate’s preparation in any way they can.

Session #1: How Do We Serve God?

Opening Prayer and Discussion

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and the Our Father. Reflect particularly on the words “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Discuss with your sponsor what serving God means to you. Ask them to explain what serving God means to them. Discuss what service to God looks and feels like. What do we know about how to serve God? What does God call us to do with our lives?

Preparation: Knowledge of the Faith

The Ten Commandments

One way we learn how to serve God is through His law, which is revealed and summarized in the Ten Commandments. Read [Deuteronomy 5:6-17](#) with your sponsor. Discuss what you know about each of the commandments and the importance of them to our faith. Reflect on the Examination of Conscience questions after each of the Ten Commandments below. Are there particular commandments that you or your sponsor struggle with more than others?

Love of God

I am the Lord your God; you shall have no other Gods besides me.

Do I love God? Do I make God first in my life?

You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

Do I curse or swear? Do I use God's name in vain or only in prayer?

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Do I make Mass a priority? Do I rest on Sunday and focus on the love of God and neighbor?

Love of Neighbor

Honor your father and your mother.

Do I respect my parents? Do I respect my family?

You shall not kill.

Do I harm others or myself physically or emotionally? Do I give in to anger or hatred?

You shall not commit adultery.

Am I modest in dress and behavior? Do I strive to be pure in my thoughts and actions?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken what is not mine? Have I cheated or wasted time at work?

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbors.

Have I lied or gossiped? Have I talked about others behind their back?

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

Have I consented to or encouraged impure thoughts or actions?

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods?

Is my heart greedy? Am I jealous of what other people have?

The Beatitudes

Another way we learn how to serve God is by learning to see the world and other people as He does. The Beatitudes come from the opening verses of the Sermon on the Mount delivered by Jesus and recorded in [Matthew 5:1-13](#). Here Jesus describes various people who would not ordinarily be considered happy or lucky by worldly standards, but from God's point of view, they are fortunate and will be blessed even more in the future. Similar declarations appear in Jesus' Sermon on the Plain in [Luke 6:20-23](#). Read through the Beatitudes and discuss the questions after each Beatitude with your sponsor.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

What is "poor in spirit?" Do I fear poverty? How can I identify with the poor?

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

What do I mourn or fear to lose? How can I offer comfort to those dealing with loss?

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

What is meekness and how is it good? Do I favor cooperation or competition? Why?

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Do I work for justice and peace? Do I believe these things are possible in this world?

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

What is mercy? Am I a person of tenderness, compassion and forgiveness?

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Do I see all people as made in God's image? Do I treat everyone with dignity and love? Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Do I build bridges or walls with others? Do I struggle to apologize, forgive or let go?

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Am I willing to suffer for what I know is right? Do I trust God completely with my life?

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great.

Do I believe that God wants what is best for me? Does this faith bring me joy?

Witness: Our Faith In Action

We also learn to serve God by living out our Catholic faith through prayer and the sacraments. In this session, we will focus on the Sacraments of Initiation, by which we become adopted sons and daughters of God and receive the graces and gifts we need to live out our universal call to holiness. We will also reflect on the importance of regular prayer in order to understand God's will for us and carry it out.

The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation

Jesus entrusted seven sacraments to the Church: Baptism, the Eucharist (also called Holy Communion), Reconciliation (also called Confession or Penance), Confirmation, Marriage (also called Matrimony), Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders (also called Ordination). Each of these sacraments is a *sign* of God's grace that is also *effective*, which means it provides the grace it signifies. When we receive a sacrament, we receive the grace and divine life of God through the working of the Holy Spirit. Through the sacraments, especially Baptism and the Eucharist, Jesus fulfills his promise to us: "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

Baptism ([CCC 1213-1284](#))

Baptism is the first of the sacraments of initiation and marks the beginning of the entire Christian life. The sacrament is celebrated by the Church at the command of Jesus, who said to the Apostles, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons [and daughters] of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: ‘Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word’” (CCC 1213).

Discuss: Was your sponsor baptized as an infant or as an older child or adult? Were they present at your baptism? What do they remember? What does it mean to be cleansed of original sin? What does it mean to be adopted children of God?

Eucharist or Holy Communion ([CCC 1322-1419](#))

The Eucharist is the sacrament of initiation in which we receive Jesus Christ’s body, blood, soul and divinity into our very being, according to His words at the Last Supper: “This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me...This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you” (Luke 22:19-20). According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “The Eucharist is ‘the source and summit of the Christian life.’ ‘The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. ... ‘It is the culmination both of God’s action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men [and women] offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit.’ Finally, by the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be all in all” (CCC 1324-1326).

Discuss: What does your sponsor recall about his or her First Communion—or yours, if they were present? What do the two names of this sacrament teach us about the sacrament? If *eucharist* means “thanksgiving,” for what are we thankful? If communion with God in heaven is the goal of our existence, what does the term Holy Communion teach us about the importance of the sacrament?

Confirmation ([CCC 1285-1321](#))

The sacrament of Confirmation is the third of the three sacraments of initiation. In Confirmation, we receive the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus shared with the Apostles: “‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the holy Spirit’” (John 20:21-22). According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the ‘sacraments of Christian initiation,’ whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of 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’” (CCC 1285).

Discuss: What does your sponsor recall about his or her Confirmation? Where did it take place and who administered the sacrament? Did they feel differently afterward? Why or why not?

Cultivating a Life of Prayer (Sponsor and Parents)

Relationships require communication, and our relationship with God is no exception. Prayer is the means by which we communicate with God, and God is *always* the one who initiates the conversation. It is He who urges us and helps us to pray. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church describes it:

“Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.” ... *[H]umility* is the foundation of prayer. Only when we humbly acknowledge that “we do not know how to pray as we ought,” are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. ... The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God’s desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him ([CCC 2559-2560](#)).

Catholics practice many kinds of prayer, such as reciting common prayers like the Our Father or Hail Mary, praying devotions such as the Rosary or the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, reflecting or meditating on Sacred Scripture, participating in the Mass, or spending time in Adoration or contemplation. Each of these is an opportunity to be attentive to God’s word and will in our lives, to thank Him for the blessings He has given us, to be sorry for and turn away from sin, and to ask Him for help for ourselves and others in need.



Discuss: Ask your sponsor and parents about their prayer life and describe your prayer life. Share your struggles with prayer. Do you believe God answers prayers? Can you share an example?

Watch the [Fr. Mike Schmitz video “3 Steps to Unceasing Prayer”](#) together. Does it change your perspective on prayer? Challenge each other to make at least one change to strengthen your prayer lives between now and your Confirmation—and prayer for each other!

Are You Ready for Confirmation? (Sponsor and Parents)

Confirmation preparation is also meant to serve as a time of reflection for your family as you prepare to complete initiation into the Church. Your parents, in particular, have been with you during your faith journey, and this is an important time for them. Unfortunately two things often happen to teens preparing for and receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The first is that they do it for the wrong reasons: to make their parents or family happy, or to finish and “graduate” from Faith Formation, or enjoy a party and presents. The second is that they don’t ask God for His gifts and graces or expect and allow Him to change their lives—so they go through the motions on Confirmation day and do not enter fully into the grace that is given.

Discuss: Take some time today with your parents and sponsor to discuss what you are looking for in Confirmation. How important is this sacrament to you and why? What does this mean for your faith? What do you expect to be different? What are you looking forward to or what are you anxious about regarding your Confirmation? Ask your family and your sponsor about their own Confirmations. Between now and Confirmation, pray for openness to God’s will for your life and all the gifts and graces He wants to pour out to you. Pray that you, your sponsor and your parents may truly believe that God wants to transform your lives for His glory! Close in prayer together.

Session #2: How Do We Serve Each Other?

Opening Prayer and Discussion

Begin with the Sign of the Cross and the Hail Mary. Discuss with your sponsor what Mary's *yes* to God meant for her life and for the world. Ask your sponsor to explain what "loving your neighbor" means to him or her. Discuss what service to neighbor looks and feels like. What does Mary's example teach us? Are we ready to say yes to God and love as He loves?

Preparation: Knowledge of the Faith

God's great gift of the three **Theological Virtues** and the consistent practice of the four **Cardinal Virtues** enable us to serve God and neighbor rightly. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions. The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God" (CCC1803).

The theological virtues are faith, hope and charity (or love). These virtues have God as both their source and goal—they are gifts *from* Him that we may remain in right relationship *to* Him.

- **Faith** is "the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself" (CCC 1814).
- **Hope** "is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 1817).
- **Charity** "is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God" (CCC 1822).

The cardinal virtues are human virtues, acquired by learning, choice and habit. They are the "fruit and seed or morally good acts" (CCC 1904) and are rooted in the theological virtues and our right relationship with God.

- **Prudence** "is the virtue that disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (CCC 1806).
- **Justice** "is the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor" (CCC 1807).
- **Fortitude** "is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good" (CCC 1808).
- **Temperance** "is the moral virtue that moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods" (CCC 1809).

Discuss: Which of these virtues do you and your sponsor struggle with most? If the theological virtues are a gift from God, how do we grow in them? If the cardinal virtues come from human effort, how can we grow in them?

The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Our ability to practice the virtues and love as God loves is sustained by the *gifts of the Holy Spirit* and made evident by the *fruits of the Spirit* manifested in our lives. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations” (CCC 1831).

- **Wisdom** is knowledge of divine things and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth.
- **Understanding** is insight into the heart of things, especially the higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation.
- **Counsel** enables us to be directed by God in matters necessary for salvation.
- **Fortitude** denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil and the confidence to overcome all obstacles.
- **Knowledge** is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as to never wander from the straight path of justice.
- **Piety** is revering God, revering men appropriately due to their relationship to God, honoring the saints and not contradicting Scripture.
- **Fear of God** is “filial” fear (the awe or respect of children to their father) whereby we revere Him and avoid separating ourselves from Him—as opposed to “servile” fear of punishment.

Our life in the Spirit shows itself by the fruits it produces. According to the Catechism, “The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: ‘charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity.’”



With your sponsor, watch this [Bishop Robert Barron video on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit](#), then spend time discussing whether these fruits are present in your life. Who do you know who shows these fruits in their day-to-day life? What can you learn from them?

Witness: Our Faith In Action

The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

One way we learn to love our neighbors as God does is by practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy (which address our bodily and spiritual needs, respectively). Read through the description of each of the Works of Mercy with your sponsor and reflect on the questions. Which of these do each of you practice in your lives? Which do you struggle with?

Corporal Works of Mercy

To feed the hungry

Have you ever been deeply hungry? How do we feed the physically or spiritually hungry?

To give drink to the thirsty

Have you ever been deeply thirsty? How do we feed the physically or spiritually thirsty?

To clothe the naked

Have you ever lacked basic necessities or felt exposed or embarrassed? How can we help those who do?

To give shelter to the homeless

Have you ever been homeless or alone? How do we help those with no place to belong?

To care for the sick

Have you ever been isolated by illness or injury? How do we help the sick or hurting?

To visit the prisoner

Have you ever been an outcast? How do we help those who are unwanted or unloved?

To bury the dead

Have you ever felt sad or forgotten? How do we honor the deceased and their families?

Spiritual Works of Mercy

To instruct the ignorant

How have you grown in your knowledge of God? How can you help others?

To counsel the doubtful

Have you ever been uncertain of what God wants from you? How can you help others?

To admonish sinners

Have you ever sinned and needed correction? How can you lovingly correct others?

To bear wrongs patiently

Have you ever wronged or hurt someone? Are you patient when others hurt you?

To forgive offenses willingly

Have you ever been forgiven? How do you show God's mercy and love to others?

To comfort the afflicted

Have you ever suffered physically, mentally, emotionally or spiritually? How can you comfort those who do?

To pray for the living and the dead

Do you believe in the power of prayer? How can you share that power with others?

The Sacraments of Healing and Service

The sacraments also help us to love our neighbor. Recall that sacraments give us the grace to live them out—for example, the sacrament by which we become adopted children of God (Baptism) also provides us with the grace we need to *live* as children of God. In Session #1, we learned about the sacraments of initiation; here we will discuss the sacraments of healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick) and service (Marriage and Holy Orders), which restore us spiritually and help us to sanctify our lives.

Reconciliation ([CCC 1422-1498](#))

The sacrament of Reconciliation, also called Confession or Penance, is a sacrament of healing in which we confess our sins to a priest, who stands in the person of Christ to give us the Lord's forgiveness and absolution, as Jesus Himself instructed: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:23). According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labors for their conversion" (CCC 1422).

Discuss: What do you and your sponsor remember about your first Confession? Have you been back since? If so, how did you feel afterward? If not, why not?

Anointing of the Sick ([CCC 1499-1532](#))

Anointing of the Sick is the Church's other sacrament of healing. All people, young or old, who face acute or chronic illness, surgery or other significant medical issues are invited to be anointed for healing and grace, in keeping with sacred Scripture: "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well" (James 5:14-15). According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that he may raise them up and save them. And indeed she exhorts them to contribute to the good of the People of God by freely uniting themselves to the Passion and death of Christ" (CCC 1499).

Discuss: Have you or your sponsor ever received the Anointing of the Sick or do you know anyone who has? For what reason? Can any good come from physical illness or suffering?

Matrimony ([CCC 1601-1666](#))

The sacrament of Marriage unites a man and woman in lifelong, loving communion with each other and with God: "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate" (Matthew 19:4-6). According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.' ... 'God himself is the author of marriage.' The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator" (CCC 1601-1603).

Discuss: Who do you or your sponsor know who exemplifies a strong and faithful marriage? What do you admire about them and what can you learn?

Holy Orders ([CCC 1536-1600](#))

The sacrament of Holy Orders is the sacrament of ordination for deacons, priests and bishops in the Church. It is a calling from God and confers authority: “Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority” (Luke 9:1). According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Holy Orders is the sacrament through which the mission entrusted by Christ to his apostles continues to be exercised in the Church until the end of time: thus it is the sacrament of apostolic ministry. ... Today the word ‘*ordination*’ is reserved for the sacramental act which integrates a man into the order of bishops, presbyters, or deacons, and goes beyond a simple *election, designation, delegation, or institution* by the community, for it confers a gift of the Holy Spirit that permits the exercise of a ‘sacred power’ (*sacra potestas*) which can come only from Christ himself through his Church” (CCC 1536-1538).

Discuss: Why is it important to understand that Jesus gave His authority to the apostles, who passed it on to the bishops and priests of today? Do you or your sponsor know or admire a bishop, priest or deacon? How do they serve God? How do they serve their neighbor?

Cultivating the Life of Grace (Sponsor and Parents)



Watch the [Fr. Mike Schmitz online video “Is God in the Center of Your Life?”](#) with your sponsor and parents. Is God getting the first fruits of your time and treasure? Are you conforming your habits to Him or to the world? Discuss with your sponsor and parents your plans for after Confirmation. How would you like to stay involved with the Church? How would you like to keep growing in faith?

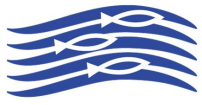
Options include:

Youth Group
Faith Formation Volunteer
Parish Office Volunteer
SAINTS Projects
Choir
Lector

Greeter
Usher
Hospitality
Council of Catholic Women
Knights of Columbus
Secular Franciscans

Respect Life Committee
Social Justice Committee
Bible Studies
Prayer Teams
Adoration

Discuss: How do your parents and sponsor stay engaged and involved in the life of the Church? Why is this important to them? Close in prayer.



Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

Choosing your sponsor is a very important part of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. You are not just choosing someone to stand with you on your Confirmation day, but the person whom you believe will help you live your faith throughout your life. Choosing a sponsor means setting out on a journey, together you will become disciples through shared life, shared prayer, and shared mission.

Sponsors should be people with a deep commitment to the Catholic faith and who are active, confirmed members of their parish. They should be willing to listen to you, help you answer questions, and be open to bear witness of the ways they have encountered God in their life. Sponsors are expected to maintain regular contact with their candidate to not only pray, but to socialize and develop a stronger relationship. A godparent is a very appropriate choice as it shows the continuity between the sacraments of Christian Initiation. Parents cannot be a sponsor.

Basic Requirements of a Sponsor:

- Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church.
- Must be at least twenty-one years of age on the day of the Confirmation.
- Must have a current marital status which conforms to all laws, norms and principles of the Roman Catholic Church.
- Must participate regularly in Sunday Mass and receive Holy Communion as a practicing Roman Catholic.
- Must actively strive to live out his/her commitment to Christ and to the communal life of the Church by his/her loving response to those with whom he/she comes in contact daily.
- Must fulfill his/her obligations to his/her parish to the best of his/her ability in support of the Gospel message.

Additional Requirements:

Confirmation Sponsors will be required to attend one Confirmation session with their candidate and be present at the Sacrament of Confirmation. They will also be responsible for completing a four week Confirmation Bible Study with their candidate.

Please take time to discern your Sponsor and have them complete the [Confirmation Sponsor Form](#) by **April 12, 2023**. ***Note if they are not from our parish their pastor must sign.**

Please return to the Parish Office % [Melissa Anderson](#) or email to melissaa@saint-andrew.net.



Confirmation Candidate's Full Legal Name:

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* *Candidates Confirmation Saint Name will be established later with a saint essay.*

As a CONFIRMATION SPONSOR I affirm that:

- I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist in the Roman Catholic Church.
- I will be **at least 21 years of age** on the day of the Confirmation.
- I participate regularly in Sunday Mass and receive Holy Communion as a practicing Roman Catholic.
- I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the communal life of the Church.
- I support the teachings of the Church and strive to live in harmony with the Catholic Faith.
- My current marital status conforms to all laws and principles of the Roman Catholic Church.
- I am not a parent of the candidate.

Sponsor's Full Name:		Maiden Name:	
Relationship to Candidate:		Email:	
Address:	City/State:	Phone:	
Current Parish:	City/State:		

I promise to give my support to the confirmation candidate by my prayers, my continued interest in his/her growth as a Catholic, and by the Christian example of my daily life. I do hereby solemnly declare that I fulfill all the above requirements to act as a Confirmation Sponsor.

Signature of Confirmation Sponsor

Date

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PASTOR OF THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

I certify to the best of my knowledge that this information is correct and this person is an accepted sponsor.

Signature of Catholic Pastor

Date

(Parish Seal)

Return this completed, signed, and sealed form to:

Saint Andrew Church

(% CONFIRMATION)

566 4th Street NW

Elk River MN 55330



A Guide to Choosing a Confirmation Name

Choosing a Confirmation name is a long standing tradition in the Catholic Church. Before Confirmation you will be asked to choose a name. This is not a legal name. The name you choose will be the name with which the Bishop addresses you during the Sacrament of Confirmation mass. You have two options:

- **Baptismal Name:** You may choose your given name, first or middle (as long as it is a name that is not foreign to Christian sensibility). Choosing the name that you were given at Baptism shows continuity between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

If you choose your given name but it is not a recognized saint in the history of the Catholic Church, then we ask that you choose another saint to write about. It is good that we all have knowledge of saints and implore their intercession. We also look to them as models for living the Christian life. If this is the case, please note on your Sponsor/Saint Info Form that you are choosing to keep your given name.

- **Patron Saint Name:** You may choose a new patron saint name. By choosing a patron saint you demonstrate the desire to foster a relationship with a particular saint. This would be someone that you can call on for intercession to help you throughout your life and whom you wish to follow in ways of virtue.



You may find this resource helpful as you research patron saints:

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php>

After you have chosen a Confirmation name, we ask that you write a brief essay about that saint. Essays should be completed and turned in no later than August 15. Upon completion, you may mail to the Parish Office % Melissa Anderson or email to melissaa@saint-andrew.net.

Saint Essay Guideline:

Title: Creative title including saint name.

Saint Basic Info: What is his/her feast day and of what is he/she the patron.

Why: Why did you choose this saint?

Life Events: Describe any life events for this saint that inspired you.



Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Visit this resource to review the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit: [Confirmation Gifts](#). Then, describe one or more of the gifts or fruits of the Holy Spirit that you believe your saint cultivated and lived throughout their life.

Living in the Holy Spirit: Why would that same gift or fruit be important for you as you seek to live as a disciple of Jesus after Confirmation? How could it help you to “*build the kingdom of God here and now through the witnessing of a lived faith?*”

Prayer: If possible, find a prayer to your saint or a prayer that your saint wrote.



Confirmation Saint Name Essay

Name (first and last): _____

Chosen Confirmation Name: _____

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Continue on the back if needed

Candidates Signature: _____



As your pastor, it is Father Mark's role to recommend to the Bishop that you are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Take a few minutes and write a short letter to Father Mark. Explain why you want to be confirmed. Share your thoughts, feelings, concerns or questions.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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YDISCIPLE

NEVER ALONE

Companion Bible Study: Confirmation

We have completed the Y Disciple Never Alone Bible Study.

Date ____/____/____

Favorite Discussion during this bible study:

Would like to learn more after this bible study:

Candidate _____ Sponsor _____