

Confirmation Candidate

Information and Guidelines

2017-2018



Ascension Catholic Church

**12700 Lanham Severn Road
Bowie, MD 20720
301-262-2227
www.ascensionbowie.com**

Ascension Catholic Church

Confirmation Covenant

Confirmation Candidate

I, _____, request to be accepted as a candidate to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Ascension Catholic Church. I understand and promise to do the following:

- ❖ *take time to get ready to celebrate this important step on my journey of faith.*
- ❖ *to spend some time in prayer each day.*
- ❖ *to try and deepen my understanding of what it means to belong to God's family by coming to Mass every weekend.*
- ❖ *to try to be the kind of person that Jesus would want me to be; at home, in school and within the parish community.*

Signature

Date

Parent/s

We/I,

_____ *and* _____

promise:

- ❖ *to help, support and encourage your child in this period of preparation for Confirmation*
- ❖ *to try to be the best of teachers in the ways of faith by:*
 - o *taking time to talk to them about their Confirmation.*
 - o *praying with them.*
 - o *bringing them to Mass.*
 - o *helping them to understand what being a member of the church is about.*

Signature

Date

Information About Confirmation Requirements

Sponsors

Sponsor Forms Due: February 21

Being chosen as a sponsor for Confirmation is a responsibility which involves several important duties:

1. The sponsor should support the candidate during the preparation period and help him/her to answer any questions he/she may have. If the sponsor lives too far away for this to be possible, he/she should keep in touch with the candidate by phone or by letter.
2. The sponsor attends the Sponsor Candidate Night on April 18 unless this presents an unreasonable hardship, in which case a parent may substitute.
3. The sponsor acts as a witness and a spokesperson for the entire Church. The sponsor presents the candidate to the Bishop, and in doing this, states that they feel the candidate is ready, not only to celebrate the Sacrament, but also to live a Christian life.
4. The sponsor should continue to support the candidate in the years ahead and to challenge the person to continue in the living out of his/her faith.

Who may be a sponsor for Confirmation?

1. The sponsor must be a faithful member of the Catholic Church who is an active participant in the Mass, receives the Sacraments often, and who is involved in the works of the parish.
2. The sponsor must have already celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Communion, Penance and Confirmation.
3. The sponsor must be in good standing with the Church and free to celebrate the Sacraments. (For example, a person who has remarried outside the Church cannot be a sponsor.)
4. A sponsor may be one of the candidate's baptismal godparents. This would be a follow-up to the relationship and responsibilities that flow from Baptism.
5. According to the directives in canon # 893, neither the father nor the mother of a candidate can be a sponsor. However, parents may accompany the sponsor who is bringing the candidate up to the bishop during the Rite of Confirmation.
6. The sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.

Confirmation Service Hours

Service Hour Forms Due: March 7

The Sacrament of Confirmation empowers us, by the Holy Spirit, to follow Christ, going out into the world and giving witness to God's love by our words and actions. This is not done as a "performance", but as a reflection of the faith that has grown since baptism.

Repeatedly, Jesus teaches that the basic criterion for being a disciple is service to one another. In fact, the Church's Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are based on Jesus words in Matt: 31-46. The disciple James echoes this teaching in chapter 2 of his Epistle when he asks the challenging question: "What good is it to profess faith without practicing it? (James 2: 14)"

By actively participating in the ministry of service for at least fifteen hours, a confirmation candidate will be able to see how his/her talents can be used to serve others in an active Christian lifestyle. The candidate will be able to see him or herself act in the way of Jesus by helping the poor, visiting the ill, teaching, feeding the hungry, etc.

- Candidates will need a total of 15 service hours in order to be confirmed. Hours may be counted from **April of 2017 to April , 2018**

Saints Reports and Confirmation Names

Confirmation Candidates must write reports about a saint they choose to be their confirmation patron saint. This is the name they will use for confirmation. For example, if your name is Brian Smith, you might decide that you would like St. Peter to be your patron saint. Peter becomes your confirmation name. When the bishop confirms you, he will say, "Peter, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

St. Pius School Candidates: You will be given the assignment the first Wednesday night session.

Ascension RE Candidates: You will be given the assignment the first Wednesday night session.

A patron saint is someone already in heaven with whom we feel a connection, want to imitate, and from whom you request intercession throughout life. Each confirmation candidate chooses a saint as a patron and is confirmed under that patron saint's name. The tradition of taking on a new name reflects a new role in life. This is evident throughout the Scriptures, e.g. "Abram" was changed to "Abraham" which means "Father of Many Nations," and Simon was changed to "Peter" which means "Rock" because Jesus founded His Church upon him as the first pope. When you choose a new name for your Confirmation, it should be the name of a saint you have read and learned about, admire, and want to imitate. You shouldn't choose a saint because you like his/her name. You should choose a saint that you want to be like.

Practical Guidelines in Selecting a Saint

- If your baptismal name is the name of a saint, you may choose that saint as your patron.
- You should be familiar with this saint's life. You should be able to identify similarities between you and this saint and/or want to aspire to be like this saint.
- The saint you select should be someone you look up to as a hero.
- You should develop a personal devotion to this saint and build a relationship with him/her through regular and constant prayer.
- You should try to learn about many of the saints; that way you will make a better decision choosing your patron saint. Moreover, the more saints you are familiar with the easier it becomes for you to request their intercession (even from the ones that are not your special confirmation patron); the saints are always eager and happy to help us.

Mass Attendance

The Sunday Eucharist is the center of our lives as Catholics. Candidates are expected to actively participate in the Sunday (or Saturday evening) Mass. This includes saying the people's responses, singing, listening to the readings and homily, and demonstrating reverence for the Eucharist.

As models of faith for their children, parents are expected to bring their family to Mass.

Attendance at Wednesday Sessions

Regular attendance at Wednesday evening sessions is expected of all candidates. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ask one of the teachers for make-up work in case of an unavoidable absence.

Confirmation Interviews

Fr. Young will interview each candidate during the weekend retreat.. These interviews will last approximately 15 minutes. If you miss the interview, it is your responsibility to reschedule. The pastor will determine the candidates readiness using the following criteria:

1. Completion of all requirements (I.e. Service hours, saints reports)
2. Regular Mass attendance
3. Regular attendance at classes and events such as the retreat. All absences must be made up.
4. The recommendation of the candidate's catechists.
5. The content of your letter to the bishop which will be the basis of the interview conversation.



Letter To The Bishop

Due: March 7

We will work on a first draft together during the first session. The letter should be completed at home. The letter should be typed. Sponsors and parents are requested to assist with spelling and check for overall appearance. Please do not put the letter in an envelope. All the letters will be sent to Bishop Dorsonville in one package.

Please use the following format:

Date _____

Your Excellency:

I am requesting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Ascension Parish on May 4th, 2018.

Paragraph 1:

- What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- Explain why you want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Are there any gifts of the Holy Spirit that need strengthening in your life. Give an example of how you need it/them.

How have you prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Paragraph 2:

- How do you improve your relationship with Jesus on a daily basis?
- Do you attend Mass regularly, read the bible, say the rosary, pray for others?
- How else do you pray?

Paragraph 3:

- What do you do daily for your family, classmates and for people with whom you come into contact every day? Be specific.
- How do other people see Jesus in your life? If you don't know, ask a parent or grandparent or sponsor.

Paragraph 4:

- Which saint did you choose as your patron for Confirmation? Why?

Paragraph 5:

- What service activities did you do?
- How did they have an impact on your life?
- What was the point of doing this service for others?

How do you hope the Sacrament of Confirmation will help you?

Paragraph 6:

- What kind of Catholic Christian do you want to be? Be specific.
- Are there any fruits of the Holy Spirit you would like to see become evident in your life?

Respectfully Yours,

[sign full name here]

Appendix Forms

These forms can also be downloaded from our web site:
www.ascensionbowie.com

Click on the Religious Education tab at the top of the home page.

Service Hours Completion Form

Name: _____

Number of Hours Completed: _____ Date of Service: _____

Description of Service: _____

Signature of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Comments:

Service Hours Completion Form

Name: _____

Number of Hours Completed: _____ Date of Service: _____

Description of Service: _____

Signature of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Comments:

Ascension Catholic Church

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Confirmation Sponsor Certificate

Name of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Sponsor to Complete the Following:

Name of Sponsor's Church: _____ City and State _____

I affirm that:

- I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation _____
- I am living out my commitment to Christ as a single Catholic person. _____
- or
- I am living our my commitment to Christ as a validly married Catholic according to the laws of my faith. _____
- I participate weekly in the Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Christ by receiving Him in the Eucharist at least once during the Easter season. _____
- I shall give support to the person I am sponsoring by my prayers and by the Catholic Christian example of my daily life. _____

Sponsor's Name: _____
First Middle Last

Sponsor's Address: _____
Street

_____ City State Zip

Sponsor's Email Address _____ Phone #: _____

Age of Sponsor: _____ Sponsor's Relationship to Candidate: _____

To Be Completed By Sponsor's Parish

I verify that _____, who has been asked to be a sponsor for a Confirmation candidate at Ascension Catholic Church in Bowie, MD, is a practicing Catholic and a member of this parish.

Signature of Pastor: _____ Date: _____

Name of Pastor: _____ Affix Parish Seal Here X

Confirmation Sacramental Information Form

(Please print.)

Name of Candidate _____ Age _____ Grade _____

Confirmation Name _____

Place of Birth _____ Date of Birth _____

For Gown Measurement: Male/Female _____ Weight _____ Height _____

Student's Home Address _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Father's Name _____

Sacraments Received

NOTE: If any of these sacraments occurred at a church other than Ascension, please submit a copy of the baptismal certificate with this form.

1. Baptism

Date of Baptism _____ Place of Candidate's Baptism _____

Name of Church

Street Address

City Country Zip

2. First Reconciliation

Date of 1st R _____ Place of Candidate's 1st R _____

Name of Church

Street Address

City Country Zip

3. First Holy Communion

Date of 1st HC _____ Place of Candidate's 1st HC _____

Name of Church

Street Address

City Country Zip