

Confirmation Preparation Process 2021-2022
Saint Francis Xavier Parish
Saint Joseph, Mo

“The sacraments of Christian initiation-Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist lay the foundations of every Christian life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life.” (1212 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church) “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.” (1286 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

The four elements of the Confirmation process are:

- 1. A review of the basic elements of our Catholic Faith**
- 2. Prayer, personal prayer, Mass and retreat**
- 3. Christian Service-Faith in Action**
- 4. Community participation in the parish life and activities**

Eligibility for Confirmation:

Any baptized, active Catholic in 9th grade or older may be enrolled in the preparation for Confirmation. **Once a candidate has been accepted into the preparation process, he/she is expected to participate fully in all scheduled Confirmation activities, meetings, liturgies, retreats, interviews, and assignments.**

Parental Role:

The parents role is to encourage, support and affirm their teenager's involvement in the Confirmation process. They are asked to attend the parent sessions and major liturgical celebrations of the process. Parents are also asked to attend Mass weekly and to pray for the candidates and their sponsors.

Interviews/letters with the Confirmation team:

There will be interviews that each candidate will need to participate in. The purpose of this interview is to get better acquainted with the candidate and signify his/her interest in being in the Confirmation process. Before the interview the candidate will be asked to write a letter to the Confirmation team. We will have questions and an outline for them to use for the letter.

Baptismal Record:

We will need a copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate if they were baptized outside of St. Francis Xavier in St. Joseph. Please bring the certificate to one of the meetings before November.

Retreat:

We will have a retreat held for the confirmation class. All candidates are asked to attend the retreat. The date of this retreat will be announced.

Confirmation Name:

Parishes have retained the custom where a candidate preparing for Confirmation selects a "Confirmation name." This pious practice, although never a part of the official rite, may be retained. Points of consideration in choosing a Confirmation name are as follows:

- Each of those to be confirmed may choose an appropriate Confirmation name.
- Only one name may be chosen.
- This name should be chosen from the Bible or from our Catholic Saints.
- Because this is a significant sacramental celebration, names that are very unusual or contrary to Catholic tradition should be discouraged.

- The name should be submitted to the Confirmation team for approval.
- The candidate can use their Baptismal name.

Sponsor:

Each Confirmation candidate will need to have a sponsor who will participate in the process and present the candidate to the Bishop at the celebration of Confirmation. They will need to be available for specific sponsor/candidate classes, to be announced. The sponsor chosen must satisfy these requirements:

- A sponsor must be sufficiently mature for the role, and at least 16 years of age.
- The sponsor must be an active member of the Catholic Church and initiated in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- A sponsor must be celebrating the Eucharist weekly, and be a role model of the Catholic Christian that the candidate would like to become.
- Parents may not be sponsors for their children.
- A sponsor needs to commit personal time consistently to the candidate throughout the period of preparation and after the celebration.

Christian Service-Faith in Action:

Service is a way we express our commitment to living out the Christian way of life. Many opportunities to serve will be made available to allow the Confirmation candidates to share their gifts with our parish and the community.

It is up to each candidate to decide if, when, and how they will choose to share their gifts. Ministering to people in need within our schools, neighborhoods, and within our community is part of the Christian lifestyle we are affirming. Therefore candidates, sponsors, and team members will be sharing ministry experiences throughout the Confirmation process.

We will be offering various volunteer opportunities throughout our program that will serve our parish and community. You can also choose your own volunteer opportunities. While we won't require a certain number of hours, we do ask that you get involved in at least three different Christian service opportunities that are meaningful to you. We will provide a form for you to fill out and have signed by the supervising adult.

Confirmation fees:

We are not asking for fees this year, but we will make a snack schedule and ask that the candidates take turns providing a snack for each class time. We will also include our Christmas celebration and retreat in that schedule.

Confirmation Team

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