

CONFIRMATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Confirmation is one of the sacraments of initiation and the beginning of a new chapter in your journey as a follower of Jesus Christ. Recall the apostles, who, after the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, were empowered to be Christ's witnesses "in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The same outpouring of the Holy Spirit awaits you! What exactly will the Holy Spirit do for you, a baptized Christian, through the sacrament of Confirmation? According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Confirmation will

- Increase and deepen the grace you received at your Baptism.
- Root you more deeply as a son or daughter of God the Father.
- Unite you more firmly to Christ.
- Increase the gifts of the Holy Spirit in you.
- Strengthen your bond with the Church.

It is expected that candidates for the sacrament of Confirmation will take their preparation seriously. After all, you are preparing not to "graduate" from the Catholic Church but to live your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. At Holy Family Parish we expect that you will

- Attend Mass every Sunday and on holy days.
- Receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once before your Confirmation.
- Cultivate a habit of daily prayer.
- Attend all six Confirmation group sessions.
- Attend at least 10 Life Teen events.
- Attend at least one parish retreat/conference.
- Serve your parish, community, and the poor.
- Be respectful to your small group leaders and fellow candidates.

If you do not meet these expectations, you indicate to the Church that you are not ready to commit to a life of discipleship. In such a case, the youth minister or a priest will counsel you to wait to receive the sacrament.

After attending the Parent & Teen Meeting, you will schedule an entrance interview via Sign Up Genius. Please bring the following items with you either to the entrance interview or to the first group session:

- Baptismal Certificate (if not baptized at Holy Family)*
- Sponsor Form & Candidate Commitment Form
- Materials fee of \$35 (includes *100 Saints Every Catholic Teen Should Know*)**

If you have any questions about Confirmation preparation, please contact us. Be assured of our prayers as you begin the journey toward Confirmation.

In Christ Jesus,

Abby Gresser, Youth Minister
Kathy Chadsey, Secretary

(330) 688-6412 x271

gresser@holymfamilystow.org
chadsey@holymfamilystow.org

*To obtain a copy of your baptismal certificate, call the parish where you were baptized and ask the office staff to send a certificate with the parish seal to the Holy Family Rectory Office at 3450 Sycamore Drive, Stow, OH 44224.

**If this fee is a financial burden, please let us know. Checks may be made payable to Holy Family Parish. You may pay online by going to <https://www.holymfamilystow.org/confirmation>.

2021--2022 Confirmation Important Dates

Event	Date	Time	Place
Parent & Teen Meeting	August 8 or 15	7-8 pm	church hall
Entrance Interview	August; Sign Up Genius will be emailed	20 minutes	room 3 or rectory office
Turn in Sponsor Form	Sunday, September 19	--	--
Turn in Confirmation Name Form	Sunday, December 5	--	--
Life Teen	Most Sundays	12:45-2 pm	Rooms 1, 3&4
Confirmation Group Session I	Sunday, September 19	12:45-2 pm	church hall
Confirmation Group Session II	Sunday, October 31	12:45-2 pm	church hall
Confirmation Group Session III	Sunday, December 5	12:45-2 pm	church hall
Confirmation Group Session IV	Sunday, January 23	12:45-2 pm	church hall
Confirmation Group Session V	Sunday, March 13	12:45-2 pm	church hall
Confirmation Group Session VI	Sunday, May 1	12:45-2 pm	church hall
Life Teen Retreat*	January 7-9, 2022	7 pm Friday— 2 pm Sunday	Hiram House Camp in Chagrin Falls, OH
Steubenville Youth Conference*	TBA (Summer 2022)	10 am Friday— 2 pm Sunday	Franciscan University of Steubenville
Exit Interview	July 2022; Sign Up Genius will be emailed	20 minutes	TBA
Practice with Sponsors	TBD—September 2022		church hall
Confirmation Mass	TBD—September 2022		church

*These retreats/conferences will allow candidates to meet the expectation of attending at least one parish retreat/conference.

CANDIDATE COMMITMENT

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”—Jeremiah 29:11

As a baptized Catholic, I am preparing for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which I will be more perfectly bound to the Catholic Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith as a witness of Christ.

As a candidate for Confirmation, I promise the following:

- I will attend Mass every Sunday and on holy days.
- I will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once before my Confirmation.
- I will cultivate a habit of daily prayer.
- I will attend all six Confirmation group sessions.
- I will attend at least 10 Life Teen events.
- I will attend at least one parish retreat/conference.
- I will serve my parish, my community, and the poor.
- I will approach my Confirmation journey with an open mind and an open heart.
- I will be respectful of the leaders and facilitators of the programs and show appreciation for their time and effort.
- I will show respect to those in my class who are on the journey with me.

As I make these promises, I ask God to give me the grace to be open to his plans for my life—plans he reveals to me in prayer, in my talents and aspirations, and in the encouragement of those who know and love me. I place myself in the loving embrace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in asking for help in fulfilling this commitment.

Name of Candidate (Print)

Signature of Candidate

Date

Witnessed by: _____

Signature(s) of Candidate's Parent(s)/ Legal Guardian(s)



**HOLY FAMILY
PARISH**

About your Confirmation Sponsor



Your sponsor will have three main roles:

1. To assist you in preparing for Confirmation
2. To present you to the bishop at the celebration of Confirmation
3. Along with your parents, to help you live out your Christian life faithfully long after the celebration of the sacrament

Your Confirmation sponsor must be all of the following:

- An active, practicing Catholic who has already celebrated the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and, if married, is married validly in the Church*
- At least 16 years of age
- Not one of your parents
- May be a male or a female (does not need to be the same sex as you)
- Mature, more informed, and more experienced in the ways of our faith and culture than you
 - An older sibling might not be the best choice. It is suggested that in choosing an older sibling, that he/she be mature enough to guide you through the process.
- A person who already has a relationship of trust with you and with whom you can speak freely
- Willing to share his or her faith with you
- Willing to make a commitment to continue assisting you in your faith journey long after the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation
- Able to be at the practice before Confirmation and the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation. Please have your sponsor mark his or her calendar for these dates.

You should spend some time praying about your choice of a Confirmation sponsor. It is also a good idea to talk with someone (your parents, priest or youth minister) about your choice.

Any questions about someone's eligibility to be a sponsor should be directed to a priest or to Abby Gresser.

**If your Sponsor is not a member of Holy Family Parish in Stow, he/she will have to ask his/her Catholic parish for a Sponsor's Certificate. Certificates may be mailed to the rectory office:*

3450 Sycamore Dr.
Stow, OH 44224
Attn: Abby Gresser

Complete the Confirmation Sponsor Form (over) and return it by September 19.



Confirmation Sponsor Form for _____

SPONSOR INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Parish: _____ Parish City & State: _____

What relation is your Sponsor to you? _____

Describe your relationship with your Sponsor.

Why do you think your Sponsor is a good example of one who lives as a disciple of Christ?

Return this form at the group session on September 19. It is important to choose your sponsor at the beginning of the preparation process so you can have his or her support throughout the entire year of preparation.