



Readiness for Confirmation

Readiness for celebrating a sacrament cannot be determined by the calendar. The meaning of the rite for those celebrating it, and its total impact on their faith-lives, will be strongly affected by many developmental factors besides age. These factors may include: the maturity of the candidate, the depth of his/her faith development, the degree of his/her commitment to Christ and the faith community, the extent of his/her involvement in the Mass, and knowledge and understanding of the basic teachings of the Church.

The primary responsibility for determining when the candidate is ready for the sacrament lies within the individual candidate himself/herself. Because Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation, the decision is to be made in dialogue with the representatives of the faith community into which the candidate is being initiated. (Catechists, Coordinator, Priest, Parents)

Parents may decide for their child that he/she will be instructed for Confirmation; however, the decision to be confirmed rests with the young person.

William J. O'Malley, S.J., in his book, *Sacraments: Rites of Passage*, says:

To be genuine, Confirmation cannot be a treadmill onto which one is "expected" to climb at a certain age because all the other boys and girls are doing it. It has to be a reasoned, free choice. In adolescence, young people can be invited to the world of adult responsibilities and commitments. But they can't become adult unless free to make their own commitments. That means they may choose to make no commitments for a while. . . . That also means they may make commitments contrary to the ones that have given meaning to their parents' lives. But love is not love unless it is freely given (175).

Attendance

Candidates are expected to **attend Mass** on a regular basis, attend classes, participate in class and attend any group services and or workshops and retreat.

Mass attendance is required and a bulletin signed by a Priest after Mass must be handed in by the student to their catechist weekly.

A student may NOT miss 4 (four) classes or more.

A Parent MUST call the office if the candidate is to be absent that week. Please schedule all extracurricular activities (sports, plays, Dr. Appointments, etc) for a time other than when the class, Grade Mass or their retreat is scheduled.

- PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ABSENCES ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY— FOR ANY REASON, INCLUDING ILLNESS OR FAMILY EMERGENCY. THEREFORE, RECURRING ABSENCES MAY NECESSITATE A CANDIDATE POSTPONING CONFIRMATION UNTIL MAKE-UP PREPARATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED.

Expectations of Those Preparing for Confirmation

The decision to be confirmed is a serious one, for it indicates that a young person wishes to accept the Church. In Confirmation, one willingly assumes an active participation in the Church's mission.

The preparation for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation happens throughout a young person's lifetime, and includes all the years of catechesis that have led to this moment. The year will focus primarily on two things: individual projects that are symbolic to the sacrament and the preparation involved in receiving the sacrament. The following are a list of the projects required by St. Francis of Assisi:

- **Mass Attendance-** Candidates must provide proof of attendance by submitting a bulletin signed by the presiding Priest AFTER Mass and handed in weekly to their catechist.
- **Community service hours-** how can they be more involved in their community; church and area. This year all service projects must be approved by the Coordinator or assistant BEFORE starting a project.
- **Letters of Faith-** to learn and understand our faith, or another faith, more intimately with our own questions we may have for others to answer. 10 are required
- **Saint report-** It is important to remember that as members of the Church, we are never alone, as St. Paul said, 'We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses' ([Hebrews 12:1](#)). These witnesses are the saints who continually intercede for us (CCC 956); in choosing a confirmation saint, we are choosing a special friend to intercede for us in heaven and after whom we can model our lives while here on earth.
- **Letter of intent** written to designated Bishop asking for the sacrament of Confirmation.
- **Final exam-** to see how much the student has retained over the years and if they have been paying attention mostly this year.

Role of the Sponsor

(see sponsor certificate for more)

Every Candidate should have his or her own individual sponsor.

The sponsor may be either male or female, regardless of the sex of the candidate.

(Parents MAY NOT be sponsors for their own children. A Baptismal God Parent is preferred.)

The sponsor is an invaluable assistant to parents in transmitting the faith that is why no parent or step parent may be a sponsor.

The sponsor needs to be able to fulfill several requirements:

- Sponsor must be Catholic
- The Church requires that the sponsor be an active, practicing Catholic who has already celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation. The Church recognizes that a person cannot transmit what the person does not have.
- It is important that the sponsor is more mature, more informed, and more experienced in the ways of our faith and culture than the candidate is
- The sponsor should be a person who already has a trusting relationship of some sort with the candidate
- The sponsor is one who is willing to share his or her faith with the candidate
- The sponsor is an assistant to the parents as the prime transmitters of the faith.