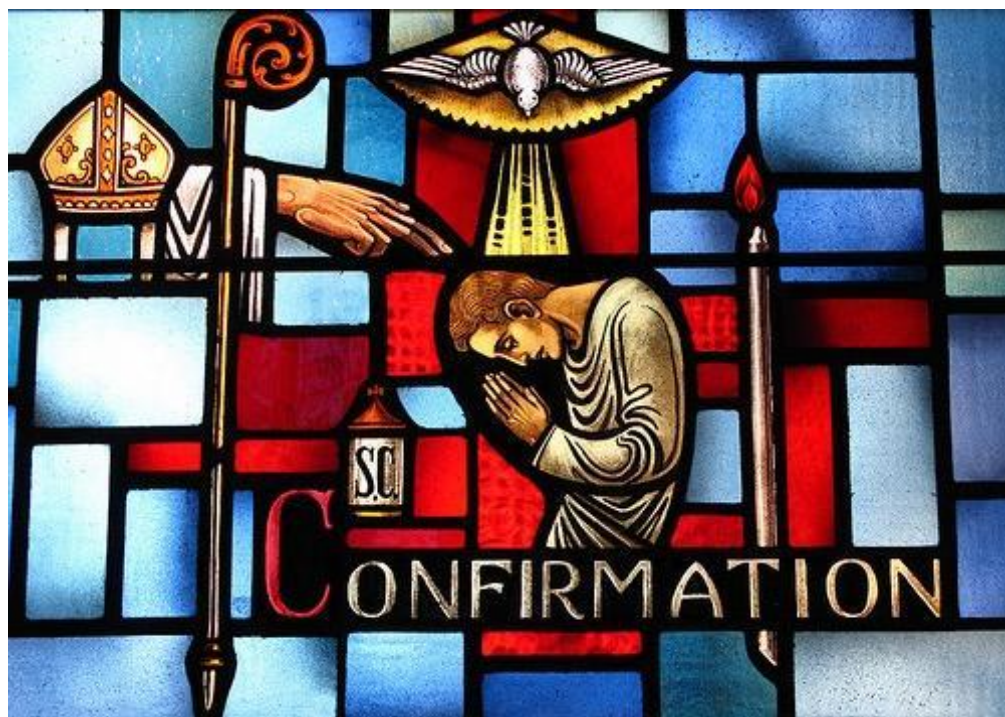


Confirmation Preparation Guidebook

Catholic Churches of Chippewa Falls
Fall 2023



"Be who you were created to be,
and you will set the world on fire."

St. Catherine of Siena

WELCOME

We look forward to accompanying you as you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Sacramental preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth, and camaraderie. You will be given the opportunity to prepare spiritually and intellectually for the reception of Confirmation in the spring.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of Christian initiation— Baptism and the Eucharist being the other two. They are necessary for entering into the fullness of the Catholic Church. Confirmation is the completion of Baptismal graces in the soul of the believer. Jesus established this sacrament when He fulfilled the promise of sending the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to his Apostles on Pentecost. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a particular strength of the Holy Spirit in the same way the Apostles were on Pentecost. We are then obliged to spread and defend the faith, like them, by word and deed. CCC 1285.

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints an indelible spiritual mark (*character*) on the Christian soul; for this reason, one can receive this sacrament only once.

WHO MAY BE CONFIRMED

Confirmation candidates who:

- Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and the Eucharist.
- Are practicing their Faith.
- Are in a state of grace (without mortal sin)
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities of a member of the Catholic Church.
- Are aware of the initiation aspect of the Sacrament of Confirmation and are committed to continuing study and practice of the Faith.
- Have a sincere desire to receive the sacrament, as well as an appreciation of sacramental life.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Our goal is to prepare Confirmandi for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation program requirements are intended to help develop a healthy, active faith life for our students. Confirmation classes meet on select Sundays throughout the school year, from 5:30 - 6:45 pm. Please see the Confirmation schedule for the dates and location details.

REQUIRED PREPARATION ACTIVITIES

- Attendance at twelve Confirmation classes; parents attend the first session with their child
- Students not receiving faith formation at school are also asked to attend Life Teen sessions on Wednesday evenings.
- Regular attendance at weekend Mass.
- Turn in priest-signed weekly bulletins at Confirmation classes beginning January 12 or email their DRE/CRE a photo of themselves with the priest who celebrated the Mass they attended.
- Attend a brief interview with their parish Pastor
- Choose a qualified sponsor (must be Confirmed and practicing Catholic)
- Participate in the Confirmation Enrollment Mass (see schedule)
- Choose a Confirmation name (commonly inspired by a saint) and familiarize yourself with him or her.
- Participate in the Confirmation Retreat (see schedule) and Confirmandi-Sponsor Dinner
- Complete any additional assignments given to Confirmandi.

CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK

There is a \$40.00 sacramental fee for the Confirmation program. The fee is used for staffing, resources, and other expenses associated with Confirmation. Please either pay online or make checks to your parish with a note: for the Confirmation fee.

Confirmandi not baptized at their current parish will have to submit a copy of their Baptismal Certificate by the date indicated on the program dates sheet from each parish.

The Confirmation information sheet should be returned by the date indicated on the program dates sheet.

The Sponsor Form should be filled out and signed by the Sponsor's parish pastor. It should be returned by the date indicated on the program dates sheet.

REQUIRED EXPECTATIONS IN DETAIL

ATTENDING CONFIRMATION CLASSES CONFIRMANDI AND PARENTS(S)

The Chippewa Falls churches come together for Confirmation preparation sessions. They will be held on scheduled Sundays from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Classes are discussion-based, with a combination of live and video presentations. See the schedule for class dates and location details.

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, prayer, and all the virtues. They have the duty to provide as far as possible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC, 2252*)

Therefore, parents are expected to:

- Attend the first Confirmation class with their Confirmand.
- Attend Mass with their family regularly.
- Be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of their Confirmand.
- Engage in discussions about the material studied and share their understanding and perspective.
- Encourage their Confirmand to reflect upon and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Pray for your Confirmand’s spiritual growth.
- Encourage completion of assignments, activities, and expectations.
- Participate in the celebration of the Sacrament (see schedule).

KEEPING THE LORD’S DAY HOLY

Just as God “rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done,” human life has a rhythm of work and rest. The institution of the Lord’s Day helps everyone enjoy adequate rest and leisure to cultivate their familial, cultural, social, and religious lives (CCC, 2184).

On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body. Family needs or critical social services can legitimately excuse one from the obligation of Sunday rest. The faithful should see that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life, and health (CCC, 2185).

PARTICIPATION IN WEEKEND MASS

The Confirmation candidate and his or her parents must have a sincere intention of participating in Mass every week. Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of Confirmed Catholics. This is also an essential way that parents demonstrate to their children the importance they place on the faith they pass on to their children. Through worship as a community, we build up the Body of Christ. Confirmandi are expected to attend regular weekend Sunday Mass. Confirmandi will be asked to turn in a priest or deacon-signed bulletin each week.

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWS

The Confirmation interviews are designed to be a one-on-one experience to determine where students may want help growing closer to Christ. They are a time to ask questions about the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Catholic Faith, as well as explore their gifts and their place

in the Church. The intention is to provide a safe place with someone who listens and responds to the individual student's needs.

PARTICIPATION IN CONFIRMATION ENROLLMENT MASS

Candidates, sponsors, and families are asked to attend the Confirmation Enrollment Mass. At this Mass, there will be a special ceremony where Confirmation students profess their intention to become Confirmed in front of their parish community. We will ask the parish to pray for Confirmation students and help them in their Confirmation journey in any way possible.

CHOOSE A QUALIFIED SPONSOR

The person chosen to be a Confirmation sponsor should be a strong role model as a faith-filled Catholic. This person will be a companion in your faith journey and will be your support when and after you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Confirmation sponsors should:

- Be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass regularly, is active in the Church, and lives according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Support the Confirmand in their commitment to the Christian life.
- Know the Confirmand well and be willing to serve as a strong, long-lasting Christian influence.
- Be fully initiated into the Church (has received Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation).
- Submit verification from the Catholic parish where he/she practices their faith.
- Accompany the Confirmand to special liturgies and preparation events.
- Not a parent of the Confirmand.
- Be present at the Confirmation Mass and present the Confirmand to the Bishop for Confirmation.

CHOOSE A CONFIRMATION NAME

In the Old and New Testaments, when God had a new mission for someone, He often gave them a new name. Even without a new name, your name has always told others who you are. God calls on each of us to fulfill a special mission. It may be converting non-believers, helping the poor, being a peacemaker, or many other callings. Confirmation may be the continuation of a mission that began at Baptism or the beginning of a new mission. Therefore, there are two options when deciding on a Confirmation name:

Some of you may decide to give first preference to your Baptismal name because Confirmation is the strengthening of the work that God began in your life at Baptism. This shows the integral link between Baptism and Confirmation.

Others may see Confirmation as the beginning of a new mission and a fresh beginning in your faith journey. They may want to choose a new name for Confirmation. Your Confirmation name should be that of a Saint you admire.

RESOURCES FOR CONFIRMATION NAMES

There are many helpful websites available to assist Confirmandi in gathering information about the saints:

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>

<http://www.catholic-pages.com/dir/saints.asp>

<http://www.theworkofgod.org/Saints/>

PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Retreats provide a unique opportunity for the candidates to spend an extended time in discernment and reflect on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, their relationship with God, and their faith life. **It is therefore required that each candidate attend the Confirmation retreat hosted by the parishes.** Please see the Confirmation Schedule for the date.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFIRMANDI-SPONSOR DINNER

This dinner will take place the evening before Sunday Confirmation, and all Confirmands and their sponsors are asked to attend. It is a dress-up event. The leaders of the preparation process will be serving the dinner to our confirmandi, and afterward we will have a short period of Eucharistic exposition and adoration, along with an opportunity to go to Confession.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFIRMATION MASS

For Confirmation, the Sponsors will present the Confirmandi to the Bishop. The Sponsors, families, and parish community attending witness the commitment to the faith of those being Confirmed. Please see the Confirmation Schedule for the Confirmation Mass date.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Part of being a practicing adult in a parish setting means giving your time and talents to Christ through active service in the parish. Service is an essential component of the life of the disciples of Jesus. This can be done by being an altar server, lector, gift bearer, member of the choir, usher, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion (once confirmed), serving on parish committees and apostolates, or serving through parish groups or events such as volunteering at the Sojourner House or assisting at St. Francesca. Christ calls us to action, and with joy, we should respond to that call. We are also called to support our parish to the best of our ability financially.

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