

# Confirmation Preparation Guidebook

*Catholic Churches of Chippewa Falls, WI  
Fall 2021*



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

**St. Catherine of Siena**

## WELCOME

We are looking forward to sharing this journey of faith with you as you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth, and fun. You will be given the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

## WHAT IS CONFIRMATION

Baptism, the Eucharist and Confirmation together are the “sacraments of Christian initiation”. Confirmation is necessary for the completion of Baptismal grace. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit, and are obliged to spread and defend the faith 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.

A Christian does not live as a child of God through his or her own efforts alone, but through the grace of God. We see this in a practical way when we look back on our own lives and the lives of others, even the lives of saints. Therefore, it is our duty to seek the grace that God offers us to live our lives as Christians in the way that God intends.

## WHO MAY BE CONFIRMED

Confirmation candidates who:

- Have received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist.
- Are practicing their faith.
- Are in a state of grace.
- 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

We wish to prepare Confirmandi for the Sacrament of Confirmation and for life as adults in the Church. The Confirmation program requirements are intended to help develop a healthy adult faith life for our students. Confirmation classes meet from 7:10 - 8:30 pm on select Wednesdays throughout the school year. Please see the Confirmation schedule for the dates and location details.

## REQUIRED PREPARATION ACTIVITIES

- Attendance at fourteen Confirmation classes; parents attend first class (see schedule)
- Regular attendance at weekend Mass.
- Turn in priest-signed weekly bulletins at Confirmation classes beginning January 12 or email their CRE a photo of themselves with the priest who celebrated the Mass they attended.
- Attend a brief interview with Parish Pastor (if required by your parish)
- Choose a qualified sponsor (Confirmed and practicing Catholic)
- Participate in the Confirmation Enrollment Mass (see schedule)
- Choose a Saint for your Confirmation name and familiarize yourself with him or her
- Participate in the Confirmation Retreat (see schedule)
- Complete any additional assignments given to Confirmandi

## CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK

There is a \$50.00 sacramental fee for the Confirmation program. Money from the fee are used for staffing, resources and other expenses associated with Confirmation. Please make checks out to your parish with a note in the memo line "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 of the program dates sheet.**

## REQUIRED EXPECTATIONS IN DETAIL

### ATTENDING CONFIRMATION CLASSES CONFIRMANDI AND PARENTS(S)

The Chippewa Falls churches combine for Confirmation classes to be held on scheduled Wednesdays from 7:10 – 8:30 pm. Classes are discussion based and 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 important social service can legitimately excuse one from the obligation of Sunday rest. The faithful should see to it 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 important way that parents demonstrate to their children the importance they place on the faith they are passing 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-signed bulletin for each week or email their CRE a photo of themselves with a priest who celebrated the Mass they attended.

## **CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWS**

The Confirmation interviews are designed to be a one-on-one experience to determine where students may want help in growing closer to Christ. They are a time to ask questions about the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Catholic Faith and explore individual's gifts and their place in the Church. The intention is to provide a safe place with someone who will listen and respond 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 Catholics who attend Mass regularly, are 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 (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 both the Old and New Testament, 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 one of 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, 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 CONFIRMATION MASS

For Confirmation, the Sponsors will present the Confirmandi to the Bishop for Confirmation. 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 disciple of Jesus. This can be done by being an altar server, Reader, 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 for Religious Education classes or assisting at St. Francesca. Christ calls us to action and with joy we should respond to that call. We are also called to financially support our parish to the best of our ability.

## COORDINATORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Holy Ghost and St. Bridget

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