

# Confirmation Preparation Guide Book



**“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 with you this journey of faith as you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. As you will see, 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?**

Confirmation is the Sacrament in which one is enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the Church. It strengthens us and obliges us to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It is the Sacrament in which one enters into full membership in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation perfects baptismal grace and roots us more deeply as children of God. It incorporates us more firmly into Christ, strengthens our bond with the Church, associates us more closely with her mission, and help us to bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible 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 in order 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 the faithful 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 Confirmation students not only for the Sacrament of Confirmation, but also for life as adults in the Church. The Confirmation program requirements are not meant to simply be items or activities to check-off on a list, but are components that will help develop a healthy adult faith life for our students. Confirmation classes meet from 7:00-8:30pm at the Goldsmith Religious Education Center (the GREC 22 S. Prairie St. Chippewa Falls) on select Wednesdays throughout the school year. Please see the Confirmation schedule for these dates.

### **REQUIRED PREPARATION ACTIVITIES**

- Attendance at fourteen Confirmation classes, parents attend five (see schedule)
- Participation in parish stewardship opportunities (see handout)
- Regular attendance at Weekend Mass; turning in signed bulletins
- One interview with Parish Pastor
- Choosing a qualified sponsor (Confirmed and practicing Catholic)
- Participation in the Confirmation Enrollment Mass (see schedule)
- Choosing a Saint for your Confirmation name and familiarize yourself with him or her
- Participation the Confirmation retreat (see schedule)
- \$50 Confirmation fee, Baptismal Certificate, Information Form, Sponsor Form

### **REQUIRED EXPECTATIONS IN DETAIL**

#### **ATTENDING CONFIRMATION CLASSES- STUDENTS AND PARENT(S)**

Classes are held at the Goldsmith Religious Education Center. They begin at 7:00 pm and go until 8:30pm. Classes are discussion based and a combination of live and video presentations. See the schedule for class dates.

“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* paragraph 2252)

Therefore, parents are expected to:

- Attend seven confirmation classes with their child (see schedule).
- Worship with their families regularly.
- Be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation of their child.
- Engage in discussions about the material studied and share their understanding and perspective.
- Encourage their child to reflect upon and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Pray for your child’s spiritual growth.
- Encourage completion of assignments, activities, and expectations.
- Participate in the celebration of the sacrament (see schedule).
- Assist in events (retreats, meetings, classes, etc.) when needed.

-Faithfully bring your teen (and yourself when necessary) to program events.

### **PARISH STEWARDSHIP/SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Service is an essential component of the life of the disciple of Jesus. Part of being an adult practicing adult in a parish setting meaning giving your talents and time to Christ through active service in the parish. This can mean being an altar server, lector, gift bearer, member of the choir, usher, extraordinary minister of the Eucharistic (once confirmed), serving on parish committees and apostolates, or serving through parish groups or events. Christ calls us to action and with joy we should respond to that call.

### **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 handing on to their children. Through worshipping as a community we build up the Body of Christ. **Confirmandi are expected to attend Mass weekly and will be asked to turn-in signed bulletins each week.**

### **Mass Attendance Policy**

As a Catholic, you are expected to attend weekly Sunday Mass. It is also a requirement for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. During your time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, we will be tracking your weekly Mass participation. Each confirmand is expected to take a Sunday bulletin from the Catholic Mass they attended that week, and have it signed by the priest. Our hope here is twofold. We want this to create a moment every week where the confirmand is in contact with their priest and we also want to hold them accountable to the universal weekly Mass participation precept.

During each Wednesday confirmation meeting, boxes with file folders will be placed in the meeting room. Each parish will have a box containing files for the individual confirmand. Please place your signed (by the priest) bulletin in the file that has your name on it. Also remember to write your own name on the top of the bulletin.

If you were unable to attend Mass that week, forms will be available for you to explain why you missed Mass. Please fill out this form and place it in your folder. If you missed Mass and had to fill out one of these forms, you will need to stay after class and meet with your parish leader. We will evaluate your reason for missing Mass and decide whether it was an excused or unexcused absence.

If you did attend Mass but forgot to get a signed bulletin, or if the priest was unavailable to sign it for some reason, you must provide a letter, signed by both the confirmand and a parent or confirmation sponsor, stating that you did in fact go to Mass.

If all of this seems too complicated, take a selfie with priest holding that week's bulletin with the date visible and email (don't text) it to your parish leader (Paula, Angie, or Greg) BEFORE WEDNESDAY. We will print it off and put it in your folder for you.

The first Mass bulletin we will collect is from the weekend of October 12-13 and will be turned in at class on October 16, 2019. Please know upfront although your child has come to Confirmation classes, it is still possible that delaying reception of Confirmation may be suggested by the Pastor. Confirmation interviews will take place April 8th. At that time a final decision will be made as to student readiness/disposition for receiving the sacrament of confirmation. Mass attendance and completion of other confirmation program requirements will be factors in this decision. If it happens that a decision is made to delay the sacrament, the Pastor/CRE will meet with the family to discuss future progression.

### **Chippewa Falls Area Mass Times**

<b>Saturday:</b>	4:00pm	St. Charles
	4:30pm	Notre Dame
	5:00pm	Holy Ghost
	6:30pm	St. Peter
<b>Sunday</b>	7:30am	St. Charles
	8:00am	Holy Ghost, Notre Dame
	9:00am	St. Peter
	9:30am	St. Bridget
	10:00am	Notre Dame
	10:30am	St. Charles
	11:00am	Holy Ghost
	7:00pm	Notre Dame

### **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 and the Catholic Faith as well as explore each 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 individual student's needs.

### **CHOOSE A QUALIFIED SPONSOR**

Your confirmation sponsor should be a person who has been 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. Your sponsor 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 you in your commitment to the Christian life.
- Know you 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 Church where they practice their faith.
- Be willing to accompany you to special liturgies and preparation events.
- Not be your parent.

- Be present at your Confirmation Mass and present you to the Bishop for Confirmation.

### **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 church community. We will ask the parish to pray for Confirmation students and help them in their Confirmation journey in any way possible.

### **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 you began at Baptism, or the beginning of a new mission. Therefore, there are two options when deciding on a Confirmation name:

- Because Confirmation is the strengthening of the work that God began in your life at Baptism, you may decide to give first preference to your Baptismal name. This shows the integral link between Baptism and Confirmation.
  
- Perhaps you see Confirmation as the beginning of a new mission for you and a fresh beginning in your faith journey. Then you may choose a new name for Confirmation. Your Confirmation name should be that of a Saint you admire.

There are many helpful websites available to assist you 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 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.

### **CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK**

There is a \$50.00 sacramental fee for the Confirmation program. Monies 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.

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.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Holy Ghost and St. Bridget	Paula Hanson	<a href="mailto:holyghostccd@gmail.com">holyghostccd@gmail.com</a>
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