

# Confirmation Preparation Service Requirements

Confirmation Candidates must take part in at least four acts of service over the course of the year of preparation. One act of service will be the candidate's primary focus and will involve working with an adult or small group to plan and carry out a project. Primary acts of service are to be approved by the Confirmation Team in advance. The other three acts of service will be secondary.

## *Primary acts of service can be:*

- **Being an aide in a Religious Education class for a semester.** (day school or homeschool students only)
- **Being an aide at Vacation Bible School**
- **FIAT events as a planner or with significant responsibilities.**
- **Planning and carrying out a series of visits to nursing home residents.**
- **Planning a "Clean-up Day" for elderly parishioners.**
- **Preparing and presenting the Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10 a.m. Mass for a month.**
- **Volunteering on a regular basis at Woodlane, the library, the Humane Society, a Nursing Home...** (must meet that organizations volunteer requirements)
- **Committing to an hour of Adoration each week between Friday 8 a.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. for a couple of months.**
- **Other long-term or involved acts approved by the Confirmation team.**

## *Secondary acts of service can be:*

- **Cleaning the church for Christmas and/or Easter.**
- **FIAT events as a participant.**
- **Serving for weddings and funerals without pay, in addition to fulfilling regular weekend assignments.**
- **Packaging and delivering Christmas baskets with the St. Vincent de Paul Society.**
- **Providing baked goods or other foods for the Blood Drive or funeral lunches**
- **Spending an hour in prayer for someone else's needs**
- **Babysitting without pay so that parents may attend meetings and educational opportunities**

If at all possible, candidates should participate in at least one act of service with their sponsor.

Candidates will be expected to report back to their teachers in writing after each act of service. Reports will include what was done and how the candidate grew closer to Jesus & His Church by doing service and how what they've done fits in with the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. These reports are key to the service component in that they will help the candidate focus their reactions and learn something from the service experience!

# Confirmation

(from paragraphs 1302 - 1303 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.)

“...the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, “Abba! Father!”
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.”

Confirmation is the loving action of the Holy Spirit in our lives and as such requires a loving response from us. The purpose of preparation for Confirmation at the Junior High and High School level is to draw forth this loving response from the candidates by helping them to feel and appreciate God’s tremendous love for each of them.

We do this by:

1. attempting to give them as much information as possible in classes.
2. offering experiences of prayer & community.
3. calling on sponsors and other adults to help them become more responsible members of the community through participation in service projects.
4. calling on sponsors to be spiritual companions through regular contact with their candidate, attendance at classes with their candidate and participation in the Confirmation ceremony.

**The ultimate decision to receive Confirmation rests with the candidate.**

If, at the end of the period of preparation, a candidate does not desire Confirmation for a serious reason, we are open to discussing the postponement of Confirmation with the candidate, parents and sponsor. However, we ***strongly*** encourage the candidate to fulfill all requirements so the choice is theirs, not ours, and is based on a fuller appreciation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Requirements are:

- attendance at class and completion of assignments,
- completion of 4 acts of service as outlined below,
- participation in the Confirmation retreat.

## **Confirmation Sponsors**

The Confirmation sponsor is an important person in the candidate's faith development. The sponsor stands as the candidate's guide into a fuller life in the Church. The sponsor should be willing to search for answers with the candidate and to walk by his/her side during the preparation, so that on the day of Confirmation when the sponsor stands by the candidate while the Bishop anoints, he or she will be confident that the candidate has prepared and is willing to accept the increased responsibilities that go along with receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Diocesan guidelines for sponsors state the following:

- Preference should be given to the Baptismal godparent.
- A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic who has received all of the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
- Each candidate should have only one sponsor for Confirmation.
- Sponsors ought to be someone who will actually be present at the Confirmation. Proxy or "stand-ins" are discouraged.
- Parents may not present their own child for Confirmation.

In choosing a Confirmation sponsor our parish team recommends that you take the following into consideration:

- Choose a person who is actively living their Catholic faith, who will be a good role model for the candidate.
- Choose a person with whom the candidate is comfortable communicating.
- Choose a person who shares or compliments your family values.