

Guidelines for the Preparation and Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

The Candidate

Each baptized Catholic can and should receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Candidates may request the Sacrament if they:

1. Are baptized and able to renew baptismal promises
2. Are open to receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit
3. Have received their First Communion and are participating in the Sunday Mass and in the sacramental life of the Church
4. Are willing to commit to active involvement in the parish Confirmation preparation process
5. Are willing to continue to grow in faith following Confirmation and throughout their lifetime

The Parents or Guardian of the Candidate

Parents/Guardians are called to be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation process. The role of the parents is an extension of the commitment they undertook at their child's Baptism. Parents must:

1. Continue their own faith growth
2. Indicate a willingness to support the candidate's faith journey
3. Support their adolescent candidate in choosing a sponsor
4. Support their candidate in prayer throughout the preparation process

The Parish

Because the parish community has a responsibility to give witness of its faith to the candidates, the community should participate in the preparation and celebration of Confirmation. The parish should:

1. Be responsible for developing and implementing a preparation process for teens desiring to receive the sacrament of Confirmation
2. Post-Confirmation, offer opportunities for the newly confirmed to continue to grow in their faith, share their gifts and their faith, and learn more about being Catholic

The Sponsor

Sponsors represent in a personal way the witness and support of the parish community. Sponsors must:

1. Be at least 16 years of age and may be of either sex (i.e. a female sponsor for a male candidate)
2. Be practicing Catholics
3. Have received all of the Sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation)
4. Be someone who the candidate can identify with in terms of Christian living
5. Be someone who can share the faith journey of the candidate
6. Assist in all aspects of the candidate's preparation and celebration of the sacrament, accompany their candidate to celebrate the sacrament, and continue to support the candidate to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit after the reception of the sacrament

Parents may not be sponsors (they already share another relationship with the candidate). It is appropriate that the sponsor be the baptismal Godparent. If that is not possible, the sponsor may be selected by the candidate.

Confirmation Name

1. The candidate may use his/her baptismal name or choose an additional name
2. Must be a saint's name

Candidate's Dress Code for the Celebration of the Sacrament

1. Dress modestly and in "Sunday best"
2. Dress shoes – no sandals, flip-flops or sneakers
3. Young men
 - a. Dress pants (no jeans or cargo pants)
 - b. Dress shirts (button with collar)
 - c. Necktie encouraged (sport coat/suit optional)
4. Young women
 - a. Dresses or skirts must be an appropriate length to allow one to sit or walk modestly
 - b. Shoulders must be covered (no spaghetti straps or halter tops)
 - c. Dress slacks may be worn (no jeans or tight fitting pants)