

Confirmation



...a sacrament of
initiation

...a celebration of what
God does for us

...to be sealed and
empowered by the
Gifts of the Spirit

...to be more fully
immersed in the life
of God's Church

Holy Trinity Information Guide

2010-2011

Revised July 22, 2010

HOLY TRINITY PARISH LENEXA, KS

**Parish information and guide for those
young people seeking to receive the
sacrament of Confirmation.**

INTRODUCTION

...Confirmed by the gift of the Spirit, that they give witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love...”

General Intercession from the
Rite of Confirmation

As a sacrament of initiation, Confirmation is intimately related to Baptism and the Eucharist. Christians are reborn in Baptism, strengthened by Confirmation, and sustained by the food of the Eucharist. Specifically, in Confirmation, they are signed with the gift of the Spirit and become more perfect images of their Lord. Confirmation renews and strengthens the Christian’s baptismal call to bear witness to Christ before the world and work eagerly for the building up of His Body.

Confirmation

- † **welcomes us and deepens our belonging to the faith community**
- † **deepens our relationship to God, as Creator, Redeemer and Spirit**
- † **strengthens us as disciples.**

Sacraments are first and foremost a celebration of what God does for us— His love and His mercy. At Baptism we become members of Christ’s Body. In Confirmation our attention is focused on the gift of the Spirit. This sacrament seals us with the Holy Spirit—gives us the strength to commit to follow Jesus daily. Although formation for this sacrament begins at baptism, a more intense, focused preparation occurs nearer the celebration. This booklet addresses the immediate preparation and is in addition to regular religious formation/ education that occurs in school or parish programs. In the formation process of this sacrament we respect the freedom of each person to accept or delay celebration of Confirmation. Parents, however, have a right and an obligation to provide their children with reasonable encouragement to attend the program whether they decide to be confirmed or not. In our diocese, confirmation is typically celebrated in 8th grade. Those older than 8th grade wishing to be confirmed are asked to call the Christian Formation Office.

What is the Rite of Confirmation?

A ritual is a patterned way of doing something. The *Rite of Confirmation* is a prayer ritual of the Church that witnesses to the sacrament. The Rite usually takes place within Mass. Most of it will feel familiar to you. Some special parts of the rite include:

Presentation of Candidates to the Bishop Renewal of Baptismal Promises

A chance to promise again that we will be open to God and strive to be faithful.

Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil

Like a friend putting their hand on your shoulder or a parent’s loving embrace, gestures can make love and support feel real and connected. God’s love and support is made visible through these signs which call upon the Holy Spirit.

“Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that ‘the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time,’ for without Confirmation and Eucharist, Baptism is certainly valid and efficacious, but Christian initiation remains incomplete” (CCC #1306).

PARISH EXPECTATIONS & FORMATION PROCESS

Confirmation is a major step in the development of spiritual growth in Catholics. It should not be taken lightly or for granted. It is a serious commitment to the “Faith” and to the “Lord”. To facilitate a deeper celebration of this sacrament our parish has set forth certain expectations and requirements for those at this point in their faith journey.

Expectations

- Candidates are involved in the life of the church (attend mass weekly and participate in the sacraments)
- Candidates need to participate regularly in spiritual formation (religious education) prior to being confirmed.
Holy Trinity School
Sunday evening Junior High Ministry
Other (Home-school, etc)
- Candidates are involved in service to the parish and wider community.
Three reflection pages required.
- Candidates will have a sponsor, who will walk this journey of faith and help their candidate to celebrate Confirmation.

Process

- * Parents will attend an orientation session in October 2010.
- * Candidates and Sponsors are invited to attend a short session and the Rite of Blessing in November.
- * Candidates will experience a Confirmation Retreat (REAP)
- * Candidates and sponsors will attend 3 sessions to reflect on the rite of confirmation and what it means “for me” (*parents also welcome*)
- * Candidates will write a letter to the Archbishop requesting the sacrament of Confirmation .
- * Candidates and sponsor (or parent) will attend a rehearsal program.

Parents have the primary duty in preparing their sons/daughters for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parental support and cooperation (through attendance at meetings, assisting “not forcing” in the decision to be confirmed, and supporting their candidate through this faith journey) is IMPORTANT to make the Sacrament a memorable occasion with lasting effects in the life of the candidate.

*Note: If you are concerned your child **can not** meet these requirements due to unusual circumstances or special needs please call the Christian Formation Office to discuss possible alternatives.*

OBJECTIVES

The goals and objectives of the Confirmation Formation process are many, but some important ones are:

1. To “fan into flame” the gift of the Spirit given at Baptism;
2. To explore the meaning of saying “yes” to Christ;
3. To deepen our awareness of God’s presence in our daily lives.
4. To increase the young person’s awareness of their own gifts and of living a Spirit-filled life.
5. To come to a deeper understanding that stewardship is a way of life in response to the gifts and call of God.

Parish responsibility

“*Preparation* for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, and his bidding - in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands” (CCC #1309).

Confirmation should be a time of spiritual growth for the whole family and the entire parish. Everyone should be “reborn” in the Spirit. If this Sacrament is to be really effective in our midst, the whole parish must strive to help those who are seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation to receive it more fruitfully. Therefore, we ask Holy Trinity Parish to pray for and seek other ways to encourage those who are on this faith journey. Sponsors, as a sign of the parish and even the larger church community, are especially encouraged to attend and/or assist in any sessions or planned events.

SERVICE

Confirmation is the sacrament of Christian witness. In choosing Confirmation, you are accepting the mission of Jesus—You are choosing to live a life of service. Service projects or activities are not done to get confirmed. We do works of charity and justice because we are Catholic Christians following the example of Jesus.

Confirmation candidates will be asked to complete a reflection page on three different service activities they were involved in. One activity is to be within the parish community, one is to involve the wider community, and the third is of their choice. We encourage, but do not require the third activity to involve the candidate’s family. We hope that through these experiences the candidates will come to a deeper understanding of stewardship—to be aware of their gifts and how to use them to build up God’s kingdom. All forms that are turned in are subject to review.

Special Note: (Holy Trinity School may require service hours as part of their student expectations.)

SPONSORS

The 1983 CODE OF CANNON LAW clearly states that parents are **NOT** to be sponsors for their own children. Church law expects a sponsor: 1) to be a fully initiated Catholic (they have been Baptized, Confirmed and receive Eucharist); 2) to be at least 16 years of age; 3) to be designated by the parents or guardians; 4) to have indicated a willingness to undertake this obligation; 5) to be leading a life in harmony with the Faith.

The code also suggests that one's sponsor at Confirmation is most appropriately one's sponsor from Baptism. In this way, the important task already accepted by the baptismal sponsor is continued and brought to completion. However, if the baptismal sponsor's (god-parent) current situation (such as, living a great distance from the candidate) limits their ability to fulfill the duties and obligations of a confirmation sponsor, another should be chosen.

CONFIRMATION NAME

The practice of taking a new name for Confirmation has been used to indicate a sense of new mission and also as a way of honoring a particular saint whose patronage we invite. In choosing a name, candidates are asked to research and pick a saint whom they admire or wish to emulate. However, due to the intimate relationship of Confirmation with Baptism, those to be confirmed are encouraged to use their name given at baptism, rather than taking on a new name.

How do I know if I'm ready?

None of us are ever ready, worthy or deserving of a sacrament. What is needed is an openness to how God will strengthen you and continue to be present in your life. We can make an effort to be prepared to celebrate Confirmation in a way that shows our sincerity; we can participate all the way, making our responses come alive and keeping our eyes and ears tuned to the movements of the Holy Spirit. The community is here to help you to feel prepared.



Important Dates

Orientation meeting - *parents only*

Oct 7, 2010; 7-8:30pm, FQC, 2nd floor

or

Oct 9, 2010; 9-10:30am, Social Room

Information Form due Nov 1, 2010

“Who me?” followed by Nov 7, 2010
Rite of Blessing @ Mass 3:30pm, FQC
candidates & sponsors

Confirmation retreat Jan 17, 2011

Stewardship reflections due Jan 31, 2011

Sessions on the Rite

“I believe....” Jan 25, 2011

“Receive the gifts....” Feb 22, 2011

“Be sealed...” Mar 29, 2011

Candidates & Sponsors

(parents always welcome)

TBA

Letter to Archbishop

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confirmation Rehearsal

Confirmation Celebration