

CONFIRMATION 2019 PREPARATION PROGRAM



Overview of
Requirements
and
Responsibilities

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Faith Formation Office
789 Dartmouth Street
Dartmouth, MA 02748
508-992-7505

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Confirmation Preparation Requirements and Responsibilities

Under the guidance of the pastor, the candidate's "home parish" is responsible for the preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

WHO MAY BE CONFIRMED?

To be confirmed, one must:

Be a baptized person who has not been confirmed

Be in the 9th grade or above.

Have received Faith Formation from grade 1 and have received Faith Formation for the 2-year preparation process in the Diocese of Fall River, with an adequate attendance record.

Give evidence of knowledge and understanding of responsibilities of being a member of the Catholic Church, as well as some appreciation of sacramental life with a sincere desire for the sacrament

REDISCOVER JESUS BOOK

How well do you know Jesus?

If there is one person that we should each get to know in a deeply personal way, it is Jesus – the carpenter from Nazareth, the itinerant preacher, the Son of God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the Lamb of God, the new Adam, the Messiah, the Alpha and the Omega, the Chosen One, the Light of the World, the God-Man who wants good things for us more than we want them for ourselves, the healer of our souls.

The best time to rediscover Jesus is right now when you are preparing to Confirm your Faith. I don't know what God has in store for you, but I am excited for you. There are some questions that we all ask ourselves in different ways: Who am I? Who is God? What am I here for? What matters most? What matters least? What are my unique talents and abilities? What will my contribution be?

We discover the answers to these questions most completely by encountering Jesus. He longs to help us discover deeply personal answers to our deeply personal questions.

PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATION PROCESS

"The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and His Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life. Sunday is the day on which the Paschal Mystery is celebrated in light of apostolic tradition and is to be observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the Universal Church." (CCC#2176"

During the preparatory year for Confirmation, candidates should embrace their commitment to the Church, which is the People of God, as a whole. Included in that commitment is the obligation to participate in the Sunday Eucharistic Celebration. Faithfulness to their this obligation will serve as an indication of each candidate's desire and commitment to embrace the life and obligation that accompany full membership in the Catholic Church. Participating in all in class sessions and completion of all home sessions will also ensure the preparedness of the candidate.

PRAYER

It is expected that all Candidates entering the Preparation Program know and understand the most fundamental prayer of our faith. The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, Apostle's Creed, Seven Sacraments and the 10 Commandments.

CONFIRMATION NAME

Baptism is the first of the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation). Any initiation entails entry into a community of people who share a common set of ideas, values, goals and mission. It stands to reason, then, that initiation (a ritualized form of the entry) into a group involves learning about that group's shared identity and value system. To be initiated into the group means to take on the group's shared identity as part of one's own personal identity. Initiation into the Catholic Church is to take on the identity of the Catholic Church as part of one's own personal identity. In fact, it means to take on a life of discipleship in Christ, that is, to live as Jesus lived. In other words, it means to live a life in imitation of Christ in conjunction with the whole of the Catholic Christian Community which constitutes the Body of Christ.

What is the significance of names in the scheme? Almost everyone has two names: a first name and a last name. A person's first name indicates their individual identity while the last indicates the family of origin. Additionally, names are a sign of power. At baptism, all sin is forgiven in the Name of the Father, of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. A "Christian" name – the name of one of the saint or heroes of the Bible, for example is given as one's "patron". Likewise, many examples can be found in the New Testament of the Apostles' curing and forgiving in the name of Jesus as well as stories in the Old Testament Scriptures in which a person's name was changed to emphasize a new dimension in a person's relationship with God.

The Sacrament of Confirmation – a once in a lifetime sacrament – involves entry into a new phase in one's faith journey in which one enters more deeply in relationship with God and with His Church. The selection of a new name is a customary way of signifying this new phase in one's relationship with God and the Catholic Christian Community. A saint 's name is generally selected based on that saint's exemplary characteristics and service to God, which the candidate also wishes to emulate in his/her new phase of their faith journey. This "Confirmation name" is used in the ceremony when the candidate is sealed in the Holy Spirit with oil.

A workshop will be held in November to help the candidates with the selection, study, reflection and writing process for his/her Saint Report and Project. The Confirmation Name is due by December 17, 2019.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

An essential element to the preparation process is the Community Service Component. Because the Sacrament of Confirmation is, for many candidates, the last of the Initiation Sacraments, it carries with it serious connotations of commitment to the life and mission of the Church. Being of service to others in the community brings meaning to each candidate's identity as a Catholic Christian and so, we will, throughout the year provide some opportunities for Community Service but it is the responsibility of each candidate to complete 10 hours by April 2019. Community Service outside of the parish must be approved by the Faith Formation Office.

Approved Community Service can take several forms and are derived into categories that emphasize four aspects of the life of Discipleship.

Parish Service – Helping with the Parish Activities like VBS, Faith Formation Program and Parish Social Events.

Serving Others as a Community – Serving the surrounding community, March for Life, Thanksgiving/Easter Baskets, Food Pantry, Soup Kitchens, Nursing Home)

Praying and Worshipping as A Community – Altar Servers, choir members, Lectors

LETTER TO THE FR. RODNEY

Before the celebration of Confirmation, the Pastor and the Bishop are required to know that the candidates have been properly prepared. They should also know that the candidates have a desire for and knowledge of the sacrament. An outline and specifications are included in this packet to assist the candidate with the composition of his/her letter. The letters are due on or before February 1st, 2019.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Interviews will take place before the prospective candidate registers for the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. These interviews will take place in May and June. This interview will take place after the candidate has completed the Confirmation Prep Assessment which will be taken on May 7th. A second assessment will be given in March 2019 to confirm that each candidate has prepared his/her self fully.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Candidates choose a Sponsor that will be a faith mentor for them as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

CANNON 892 Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in the sacrament.”

Requirements for a Sponsor:

1. Be chosen by the Candidate
2. Be 16 years of age or older
3. Lives a life of harmony with the faith
4. Be a fully initiated, practicing Catholic by Attending Mass, and have received all the Sacraments of Initiation. (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation)
5. Not be the mother or father of the Candidate
6. If married, in the Roman Catholic Church

Role of a Sponsor

1. Model how a person of faith lives in today's world
2. To guide and be a good listener
3. A friend who knows the candidate and can witness to the maturing of their faith
4. A mentor who will continue after Confirmation to walk the faith journey with the candidate.

Expectations of a Sponsor

1. Attend the Sponsor/Candidate Session on October 14th, 2018
2. Attend specific gatherings (retreat, day of reflection, rehearsals and Mass)
3. Participate in all formal liturgical rites and rehearsals in the Confirmation process
4. Meet/talk regularly with the candidate, to encourage and assist them in their growth of knowledge, prayer, service, worship and participation in the parish community

Candidates and Sponsors should meet/talk several times during the preparation process. Also required is a Sponsor Eligibility Form, which must be filled out and returned to the Faith Formation Office by September 1st, 2019. It is recommended that godparent be chosen as a sponsor.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

The Confirmation Retreat, which is yet to be scheduled is a required event. As a vital part of the preparation process, the retreat provides an opportunity in a formatted space and time for the candidates to reflect on the spiritual significance of their physical (service projects) and intellectual (classroom and home studies) activities as they prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Confirmation retreat is structured to enable the candidates to listen to the testimony of Christian Adults, to engage in group discussion with other candidates, and to participate in group activities and prayerful exercises. This will help them to realize their identity as Catholic Christians with greater clarity and to discern God's call to them to enter more fully into relationship with Him and others through the life of the Christian community.

CONFIRMATION ROBES

All Confirmation Candidates will wear a red confirmation robe for the Confirmation Ceremony. The candidates will be measured for their robes and all fees are included in the Registration Fee.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Parish requests three choices to the Diocese of Fall River to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in April and May. As soon as the Diocese Office informs the Parish Faith Formation Office of the date, parents and candidates are informed. There is a required rehearsal for the candidates and candidate sponsor's that will take place the Sunday before the Rite of Confirmation at 6pm.