

CONFIRMATION

The third of the Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation brings us into full communion with our church. It completes the process of initiation and nourishes us to accept the full responsibility of our faith. The Holy Spirit first came to the apostles on Pentecost and gave them the courage to go forth and live the good news of Christ.

“When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak. There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages.” Acts 2: 1-6

Preparation for Confirmation is conducted within the parish in which you are registered. If your child is in the 8th grade or older, has been baptized and you wish them to be confirmed, please contact Pat Krause at the parish office at 419-668-6044 or patk@stpaulchurch.org. Preparation as a parish typically begins in the fall of each year and notice is sent out to all registered parents of 8th graders in our PSR program and in the Norwalk Catholic School. Both the PSR and the NCS 8th grade curriculum focuses on preparation for Confirmation.

I am not a registered parishioner at St. Paul, can my child be confirmed here anyway?

We understand that children often want to receive their sacraments with their friends and classmates. As sacraments are community celebrations the diocese encourages that the sacraments are celebrated within the parish in which the family is registered. If you have determined that this is not your desire, we encourage you to have this discussion with your pastor.

What other requirements are there?

First Reconciliation and First Communion are sacraments that must be received prior to Confirmation. Your child can be prepared for these sacraments as well as Confirmation if needed. The Confirmation candidates are invited to participate in the Rite of Enrollment early in their preparation at a Sunday Mass so as to help connect the larger parish support of our young people preparing for this Sacrament and their families.

When is Confirmation held?

Confirmation will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, April 28, 2012. Bishop Blair will be here to celebrate this sacrament with us this year. The only reserved seating for Confirmation is for the candidate and their sponsor. All other seating is on a first come, first serve basis. The Gathering Space will be available for extra seating if needed. After the celebration, there will be reception in the Gathering Space, where Confirmands, family and friends can gather for refreshments and pictures with the Bishop. **Confirmation practice will take place on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 in the Church at 7:00pm.** Candidates and Sponsors are to attend. If a sponsor is not available, then a parent can sit in for them at the practice.

What are Service Hours?

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation includes involvement in Christian service activities. The candidate reaches beyond him or herself to help others and responds to the Gospel challenge to love our neighbor as Jesus loves us. All service is done free of charge. The candidate is to accept no personal compensation of any kind. A minimum of 20 hours of service is to be completed prior to Confirmation.

Who can be a sponsor?

Each person being confirmed must have a sponsor. Canon Law #893 outlines the qualifications and intentions of performing the role as:

- "have completed the sixteenth year" (be 16 years of age)
- be designated by the one to be confirmed and by the parents
- "be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken."
- "not be bound by an canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared:
- "not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized"
- "It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at Baptism be sponsor for Confirmation"
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What does a sponsor do?

The renewed Rite of Confirmation seeks to return importance and a spiritual dimension to the role of the Sponsor/Godparent. In the early church, St. John Chrysostom called sponsors "spiritual parents who instructed spiritual children in Christian living."

The new Rite of Confirmation seeks to restore to the Sponsor/Godparent an authentic ministry, with the sponsors giving personal witness to the faith of the Church, and guidance to their candidates both before and after reception of the sacrament. Sponsors and Godparents are for life.

Sponsors will attend all scheduled gatherings with the candidate and is encouraged to meet individually throughout the year to support the candidate's faith journey.

How do I pick a Confirmation name?

Ideally, the parent, sponsor and candidate are all involved in the choosing of a Confirmation name. Diocesan policy states "It is preferable that the baptismal name be chosen for Confirmation or a new name be selected. It is to be a Christian name." (pg. 45)

There are many resources on our great saints that will be shared throughout the preparation program. Candidates are encouraged to choose a name that has significance or meaning to them, perhaps someone they see as a role model.