

Confirmation

2017-2018

Confirmation preparation is offered for all registered parishioners in grade 8. The Diocese of Toledo Policy on Sacramental Preparation tells us that the content of faith that we wish candidates to have before receiving the sacraments will be communicated in a Catechetical Instruction Program, based on the approved diocesan course of study. This instruction can take place in a parish based religious education program (PSR), a non-parochial Catholic school (NCS) or a homeschooling program which is verified by the parish.

The personal act of faith is to be formed and nourished by an exclusively parish-based "Sacramental Preparation Program." The elements of this sacramental preparation program should *not* include a general catechesis on the faith so as not to repeat the catechetical instruction given in the programs above.

Before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, children must enroll in a Confirmation Preparation Program in their parish and must be *concurrently* enrolled in one of the Catechetical Instruction Programs listed above.

The parish Confirmation Preparation Program should include:

1. Formation sessions for candidates, parents, and sponsors
2. A pre-Confirmation parish-based retreat experience
3. Opportunities for works of charity
4. Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
5. Two conferences (interviews) with the pastor or his delegate

The formation sessions should be specifically related to the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is not to be of a general catechetical nature. We presume that the youth are receiving an overview of the faith as well as the doctrine of the Sacrament of Confirmation from the Catechetical Instruction Program in which they participate. This formation should be designed to cultivate and nourish the personal act of faith of candidates, parents, and sponsors.

The retreat should be conducted with the members of the candidate's parish. A retreat at a school (parochial or non-parochial) or at another parish would not satisfy this requirement. It is permitted for multiple parishes to come together for a single retreat, provided that it is geared to all parishes involved and not one "host" parish in particular.

"Service hours" is not a term that best describes the life of charity which is central to every Christian life. No requirement of any particular number of hours may be imposed upon a candidate for Confirmation. We cannot earn the Sacrament, which is a free gift from God. Candidates for Confirmation should, nevertheless, be active in works of charity. This is "verified" during the conference described below. While no amount of "hours" or specific categories of work can be required, someone who does not put their faith into action in works of charity may not be ready to complete their Christian Initiation at this time. It is desirable that the parish offer opportunities for all parishioners to engage in works of charity. These opportunities may at times be tailored to the experience of those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The conferences with the pastor are opportunities to ascertain the candidate's readiness to complete his/her Christian Initiation. Where it is not possible for the pastor to carry out these conferences personally, he may delegate another to conduct them on his behalf. The conferences should not take the form of a "test" or "quiz," but rather are best thought of as conversations of accompaniment. It is suggested that one conference take place at the beginning of the Confirmation Preparation Program, and another take place one to two months prior to the reception of the sacrament. In the context of these conversations, the pastor should be able to ensure that candidates have a proper understanding of the nature of the Sacrament of Confirmation, and that they are open to receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and are prepared to live out the fruits of Confirmation in the context of the Church (especially their parish).

Confirmation will be held at Rosary Cathedral, Toledo on March 10, 2018 at 11:00 am. Msgr. William Kubacki will be the celebrant. All confirmands and sponsors are expected at the Cathedral by 10:00 am. There is no reserved seating for families but families are encouraged to attend and seating is plentiful.

Program Requirements

- ✓ Registered parishioner of St. Paul
- ✓ Weekly attendance and participation in Sunday Mass
- ✓ Complete required application including registration fees
- ✓ Provide hard copy of Baptism certificate if not on file with parish
- ✓ Selection of a Sponsor (to be present at several sessions and Confirmation)
- ✓ Participation in all sacrament preparatory sessions/retreats
- ✓ Participation in catechetical program
- ✓ Celebration of Reconciliation prior to Confirmation
- ✓ Engagement in works of mercy
- ✓ Complete all conferences/interviews