

Confirmation

A direct relationship exists between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. By being sealed with the gift of the Spirit, confirmation enriches the baptized with the Holy Spirit, binding them more perfectly to Christ and the Church, and strengthening them in their witness to Christ by word and deed and in their work to bring to its fullness the Body of Christ. Confirmation is conferred through anointing with chrism and the laying on of hands. The grace received by the sacrament of Confirmation is the same grace Jesus promised to His Apostles when He said, *"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be witnesses for Me...even to the very ends of the earth."* ~ Acts 1:8

The sacrament of Confirmation is not so much an end to Catholic formation, but rather the beginning of life-long discipleship, where young people begin to understand what it means to grow in faith and in relationship with our Lord and discover and share the gifts they've been given for the benefit of the entire body of Christ. In the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, we are told that by this sacrament, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence the baptized are true witnesses of Christ and more strictly obligated to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

It would seem unwise, then, to initiate an adolescent into a community about which he or she knows little. Some background and experience seem essential. A certain amount of instruction is an important element in the preparation for Confirmation. Frequent celebrations of the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation are also necessary. It is assumed that candidates have already been in religious education previously and that they are involved in service with their family. This is a time to deepen their opportunities for liturgical ministry and service to others, as well as to understand basic church teachings well enough to ask for Confirmation. Through their parish preparation, time in service and conversations with their family and sponsor and time spent in reflective prayer, our hope is that each candidate will encounter Christ in an ever deepening relationship.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the age for confirmation?

In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, children who were baptized Catholic before the age of 7 are to be confirmed between the ages of 12 and 16 years of age.

Can confirmation be refused to those who request it?

Confirmation can be refused to those who have not reached the age of 12, those who are not prepared, or those who are not properly disposed.

What if my child does not want to be confirmed?

Parents cannot demand that their child be confirmed. It is the candidate (**not the parents of the candidate**) who must desire confirmation. Confirmation must be the free choice of the individual. *Parents, however, have the right to insist their children participate in sacramental preparation.*

How many sponsors will each candidate need?

Only one person should be designated as the liturgical sponsor who will present the candidate for confirmation.

May parents be confirmation sponsors?

No, but their role in the faith development of their children should not be underplayed or minimized.

May a priest or a member of a religious order be a confirmation sponsor?

A priest may act as a confirmation sponsor. A member of a religious order may act as a confirmation sponsor unless there is a specific restriction in their order's constitution. If a priest will serve as a sponsor, please contact the DRE so arrangements can be made for the priest to concelebrate.

May someone who cannot be present be a sponsor and someone else fill in as a proxy for confirmation?

Yes, however it is recommended that if the godparent cannot be a good sponsor, someone nearby be chosen as the sponsor so that he/she can become more intimately involved in the candidate's preparation.

Who can serve as a confirmation sponsor?

Canon law states that it is desirable that the person who undertook the role of sponsor at Baptism (a godparent) should also be the sponsor at Confirmation. Canon law also states that the role of the sponsor is to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament. If, however, the godparent is unwilling or unable to undertake the responsibility of Confirmation sponsor, the candidate should choose a confirmed, practicing Catholic whom he or she admires and who bears witness to the Gospel in everyday life. The sponsor should be willing to share his/her faith in God and accompany the candidate in searching for God in his/her own life. A sponsor should also be able to serve as a mentor by regularly spending time with the candidate.

The qualifications for a Confirmation sponsor according to Canon 874 are: the sponsor must

- be designated and asked by the one to be confirmed;
- be at least 16 years old;
- be a Catholic who has been confirmed and who has received the sacrament of Eucharist and leads a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken;
- not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared (e.g., May not be divorced and remarried without an annulment);
- not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.

What are the responsibilities of the parent(s)?

Parents have the responsibility to provide religious education by enrolling their children in a parish religious education program, a Catholic school, or a parish-approved home school program. Parents also have the responsibility to help their candidate clear their Sunday morning schedules and to bring them to every preparation session, unless they have a valid excuse. In the rare excused absence, parents will need to oversee the makeup session at home.

Are service hours required?

No. Confirmation cannot be earned and requiring a particular number of service hours makes it seem like the candidate is earning the sacrament. Service is, however, a crucial part of Christianity and candidates should be made aware that service throughout life is part of what they are requesting in Confirmation.

Do Confirmation candidates need a new name?

No. When Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist were celebrated as one rite of initiation, the candidate chose a new name to indicate that this person was no longer the same person he/she was as a pagan, but had assumed a Christian lifestyle. Today, in order to show the unity between Baptism and Confirmation, the baptismal name ought to be used at Confirmation.

If a young person was confirmed at baptism or was confirmed through the RCIA process, may he or she be confirmed again in adolescence?

No, because confirmation may not be repeated. Young people who have been confirmed may participate in a parish's confirmation preparation, though. Just as their peers were encouraged to celebrate their baptism and confirmation at an Easter Vigil, they are encouraged to celebrate the confirmation of their peers at the mass where the Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated.

Is the rehearsal mandatory?

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati expects candidates to rehearse before the actual rite. As noted on your schedule, we will hold this rehearsal on the Saturday preceding the rite. Candidates are to attend this with their sponsors. Sponsors are to make every effort to attend this rehearsal with their Candidate. If a sponsor is bring a candidate, the parents will not need to attend.

Is the retreat mandatory and why is it held *after* Confirmation?

The retreat is an important part of Confirmation and the expectation is that everyone will attend the retreat. And besides, the retreat is fun! Every year, even the reluctant retreat goers return home in a good mood. In an effort to help the newly confirmed understand this sacrament as more of a beginning than an ending, the retreat is held after the rite is celebrated. This retreat will reinforce that they were confirmed into a church of service and ministry and that this is what will be expected of them for the rest of their lives.



Mary, Help of Christians Confirmation Schedule 2016-2017



Date	Description	Where	Time
Septmeber 11	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
September 18	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
September 25	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
October 2	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
October 9	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
October 16	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
October 23	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
October 30	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
November 6	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
November 13	Ministry Prep #1	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
November 20	Ministry Prep #2	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
November 20	Liturgical Ministry at mass	Church	11:15
November 27	No Session		
December 4	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
December 8	Immaculate Conception Holy day of Obligation	Church	
December 11	Journey through Bethlehem	Parish Center	9:00-1:30
December 18	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
December 25	No Session		
January 1	No Session		
January 8	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
January 15	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
January 22	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
January 29	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
February 5	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
February 12	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
February 19	Ministry Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
February 19	Liturgical Ministry at mass	Church	11:15
February 26	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00



Mary, Help of Christians Confirmation Schedule 2016-2017



Date	Description	Where	Time
March 5	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
March 12	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
March 19	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
March 26	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
April 2	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
April 9	Confirmation Prep	Parish Center Rm.2	9:45-11:00
April 16	No Session		
April 22	Confirmation Practice	Church	10:00
April 23	No Session		
April 23	Rite of Confirmation	St. Peter in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati	2:00
April 29	Confirmation Retreat	Transfiguration Retreat Center, West Milton	9:00-3:00

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION:

CANDIDATE'S NAME: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (current): _____

(last year): _____

(PSR, Catholic School, or Home School)

RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION:

PARENTS NAME: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

FATHER'S NAME: _____

MOTHER'S NAME: _____

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: _____

Has your child received the Sacrament of Confirmation? _____

If your child was baptized at MHC, we can access the records, but we need you to submit the date of baptism and any name changes: _____. All candidates baptized elsewhere need to submit a copy of their baptismal certificate.

Please return this form as soon as possible to the Rectory Office or to the Religious Education Office in St. Francis Hall. Forms may be placed in the collection basket, if inside an envelope with: Attention: Molly Hynes Collinsworth, They may also be mailed to Mary, Help of Christians, DRE; 954 North Maple Ave; Fairborn, Ohio 45324. If you have any questions, please call Molly at 878-7325.

Parents and Confirmation candidates,

Please fill out the information below and return it to Molly Hynes Collinsworth as soon as possible or no later than **October 2, 2016**. You may mail it (954 N. Maple Ave, Fairborn, OH 45324) or drop it off at St. Francis Hall or the rectory office. You may drop it in the Sunday collection basket if it is inside an envelope clearly marked for Molly Hynes Collinsworth.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Please Print

CANDIDATE NAME: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____ PLACE: _____

DATE BAPTIZED: _____

(If Baptism or First Eucharist not celebrated at MHC, you must attach copy of Baptismal certificate or contact the church of Baptism to Fax a copy to us @ 937-879-8800 by the above deadline date)

CHURCH: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

PARENTS: (first and last name)

MOTHER: _____

Maiden Name

FATHER: _____

*** Include letter from sponsor's parish unless sponsor is a member of Mary, Help of Christians.**

SPONSOR NAME: _____

IS THIS A GODPARENT? _____

PROXY (IF SPONSOR/GODPARENT CANNOT BE PRESENT): _____

Liturgical Ministry Form

Please return this form by October 1, 2016.

NAME _____ SCHOOL _____

ADDRESS _____ GRADE _____

CITY _____ PHONE _____

All candidates for Confirmation are encouraged to involve themselves in a Sunday ministry other than as an assembly member. You may select from the following, by circling the number next to the choices and writing in your preferred mass time next to the selected ministry. (If you are already involved in a ministry, please include that choice unless you plan to stop. You may still try a new ministry.)

1. Lector* (proclaiming the readings from the ambo)
2. Eucharistic minister * (eighth grade and above)
3. Usher/ Greeter (must be friendly)
4. Server
5. Choir member
6. Cantor* (singing responsorial psalm- must be part of choir)
7. Sacristan (preparing for the Liturgy before the mass and cleaning up the vessels after the Eucharistic celebration. Can be done as a family.)

*Requires Approval

You will be expected to undergo any necessary training upon selection approval. You will then be scheduled for rotation with the other parish ministers and a schedule will be sent to you. If, for some reason, you cannot make your scheduled time, it is your responsibility to find another minister to trade dates/times with you. You may also check each Saturday/Sunday to see if subs are needed for your ministry. Training will begin as soon as possible.

Ministers will not be scheduled until a new schedule is printed, but may substitute as soon as training occurs.

Please remember that you will not select this ministry in order to be confirmed. You will be scheduled until you let the scheduler know otherwise.

CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ASKED BY ARCHBISHOP SCHNURR

1. How many Sacraments? 7
2. What is the definition of a Sacrament? A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.
3. What are the criteria for a Sacrament? (Or what are the 3 things that make a Sacrament a Sacrament?)
 - A. “Outward sign-It is something I can see and hear. It tells me about something I cannot see or hear. Something that represents something more.
 - B. It has to be instituted by Christ.
 - C. It always confers or gives the gift of grace.
4. What are the Sacraments of Initiation? Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation
5. BAPTISM
 - A. Outward sign (see) water, white garment (hear) “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
 - B. Instituted by Christ-Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist
 - C. Gives grace-washes away Original Sin.

EUCHARIST

- A. Outward sign (see) bread and wine (hear) words of consecration “This is my body...” “This is my blood... do this in remembrance of me.”
- B. Instituted by Christ-at the Last Supper.
- C. Gives grace-nourishes our body and soul so we can be the Body of Christ in and to the world.

CONFIRMATION

- A. Outward sign (see) chrism oil and laying on of hands (hear) “...be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
 - B. Instituted by Christ-at Pentecost.
 - C. Gives grace-being “sealed” with the Holy Spirit.
6. Why is Confirmation important?
- Confirmation gives us special strength. With this strength we are bound closer to Jesus and the Church. It gives us the courage that we need to spread and defend the faith through words and deeds as true witnesses of Christ.
- Candidates also need to know the Archbishop’s name and the Auxiliary Bishop’s name (Bishop Binzer). They need to know everything on this page and feel confident enough to raise their hands. If they are called upon, they need to speak loudly.

Before the Rite of Confirmation, every Candidate for Confirmation must memorize one of the following two definitions for Sacrament, and must be able to list the seven Sacraments. They should also know a basic definition for each Sacrament. In addition, they should have at least some understanding of the Nicene Creed. They should also know the prayers of the mass.

What is a Sacrament? An outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.
Or
a visible sign given to us by Christ, through which we share God's grace.

It is a ritual recognition and reception of God's grace.

What are the seven Sacraments?

(Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the Initiation Sacraments).

Baptism- the first Sacrament we receive; the doorway into the Church; when we receive the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation- the Sacrament that strengthens and continues Baptism; a celebration of the Holy Spirit; a sealing of the Spirit.

Eucharist- Literally translated as *Thanksgiving*. The Sacrament we celebrate every Sunday where we are nourished by the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the elements of bread and wine, and in this nourishment, we are to become the Body of Christ for the world.

Reconciliation- the sacrament through which our relationship to God and community is restored through forgiveness of our sins
by Christ
through the absolution of a priest.

Anointing of the Sick- the Sacrament by which the seriously ill (physically or mentally) is anointed by the priest, sins are forgiven, and the community, along with the priest, prays over the person for their spiritual health.

Holy Orders- the Sacrament by which men are permanently ordained for life as deacons, priests or bishops.

Matrimony- when a baptized man and a baptized woman enter into a lifelong covenant modeled after Christ and the Church, promising to procreate and care for one another until separated by death.