

Confirmation Preparation Process Year TWO

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH



Goal

Our parish confirmation preparation process is designed to help our young people come to a deeper understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in our lives and in the life of the Church, and to a deeper appreciation of how being open to the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in our lives can draw us closer into relationship with our Lord, Jesus.

Prerequisites for Confirmation Year TWO (all completed before the first session)

- One or More Years of Formal Religious Education

Young persons who wish to participate in the Confirmation Year TWO must have been actively involved in a Catholic faith formation program for one or more years immediately prior to participating in Holy Spirit's Confirmation Year TWO program (e.g., for the 2019-2020 program, the child must have been enrolled in religious education in 2018-2019 academic year). More specifically, this means attendance for ONE YEAR (8 sessions) in Holy Spirit's Confirmation Year ONE program or attendance at St. Joseph School. Other faith formation programs must be evaluated by the Youth Minister to see if they meet prerequisite requirements.

- Entrance Meeting with Youth Minister

Each candidate, with parent(s) or guardian(s), must have met with the Youth Minister in Confirmation Year ONE (meetings are held in the Fall semester) in order to assess the individual needs of the candidate.

- Completed Annual Confirmation Registration Packet

Each year, parents are required to turn in the Confirmation Registration Packet for that academic year. This packet can be picked up outside the church office or online on the Holy Spirit Catholic Church Website (www.holyspiritcatholic.org). The Registration Packet includes: General Information Form, Medical & Liability Release, Code of Conduct Form, and Safe Environment Form. If ANY of these forms are not completely filled out, your child's registration is not considered completed.

- Baptismal Certificate

Each family must provide a copy of the candidate's Baptismal Certificate (even if you have given it to our office before). If the candidate was Baptized at Holy Spirit Parish we do not need the certificate.

Program Requirements

Formation Sessions

Formation sessions will be held monthly on Wednesday or Sunday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm (please see the Confirmation Schedule for session dates). We use the curriculum from Loyola Press called, "Confirmed in the Spirit". Each candidate is required to attend ALL sessions (8 sessions). If a session is missed, make up work must be turned in at the next class. If more than 3 classes are missed, a meeting with the catechist, youth minister, or pastor will be required (see Attendance Policy Agreement).

Personal Prayer & Observance of Catholic Obligation

We expect that each candidate be in a year of personal prayer and discernment especially while preparing for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Although we do not monitor attendance, we do have expectations for meeting this requirement. We expect each candidate to participate in weekly celebration of Mass on Sundays (or vigil on Saturday evening) as well as on other Solemnities and Holy days of Obligation. In addition, our youth ministry program provides many opportunities to learn about and participate in prayer through youth group, monthly Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship music, and retreats that help teens to encounter the Lord in different ways. Please encourage your teen to practice personal prayer daily and consider making church events that promote these practices a priority in your family life.

Select a Sponsor

Each candidate must select a person to accompany them in their lifelong faith journey, known as their Confirmation Sponsor. See Handout ("Choosing Your Sponsor") for more information about the requirements for being a sponsor and how to select someone to fill this very important role in the candidate's life.

Sponsor & Candidate Meetings

It is very important that the candidate and their sponsor can pray together and openly discuss their faith on a regular basis. In order to facilitate conversations between Candidates and their Sponsors, sponsors will receive a resource called, "Faith to Faith". This resource has 6 conversations to be had between Sponsor & Candidate. It is our hope that the Sponsor and Candidate will meet on a monthly basis (for 6 months) to discuss these topics during Confirmation Year TWO. The first of these conversations will occur during our Fall Retreat Day in November (If a sponsor cannot attend, a parent may attend in their place). The remaining 5 conversations are the responsibility of the candidate and sponsor to arrange according to your own schedules.

Select a Confirmation Name

Candidates are encouraged to research and choose a saint's name. To help with this process, we have a worksheet and a short paper we ask each of the candidates to complete. See the handout, "Choosing your Confirmation Name", for more information about the process of selecting a name and each of the assignments.

Serving God's People

Becoming disciples of Christ means learning the importance of living a life of service to others. Candidates will be required to complete monthly Works of Mercy and a short reflection worksheet. Works of Mercy worksheets must be turned in at each class (beginning in November; instructions and examples provided on the worksheet). In addition, Candidates will participate in the Fall Retreat Day on Saturday, November 3rd with their sponsor or a parent. Other service projects are recommended but not required. See the Youth Minister for ideas for service opportunities in the parish or larger community.

Reconciliation

Per canon law, Catholics are required to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once per year. In order to help fulfill that obligation, Holy Spirit offers two communal Reconciliation Services per year: once in Advent, and again during Lent.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend at least one of these services and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Conversation Stations

Candidates and Sponsors are asked to come to this event to discuss and review all that the candidate has learned in their preparation for the sacrament. At this event, there are 15 faith stations dedicated to important aspects of our faith where candidate and sponsor will spend time in conversation and prayer. This event will happen in May.

Readiness Interview

Each candidate will participate in an informal interview with the Youth Minister to help assess his or her own readiness to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents are asked to attend with their child, and the meeting duration is approximately 45 minutes for each candidate.

Retreat

Each candidate will participate in a day retreat of service in the Fall and an overnight retreat in August. The Fall Retreat is centered around service and building relationship between candidate and Sponsor. The August retreat provides the opportunity for each candidate to spend time in discernment, reflection, and building fellowship with their peers in the program.

Letter to the Bishop

As the Bishop is the usual minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation, candidate is asked to write a letter to the Bishop. Please see the "Letter to the Bishop" handout for more information.

After Confirmation

Candidates are expected to continue their religious formation through 12th grade in the parish youth ministry program.

Optional Events & Opportunities

Youth Group

The goal of youth group is to dedicate time to growing in personal relationship with Jesus and to foster a fellowship of faith among the candidate and their peers. We highly encourage each candidate to participate in Middle School Youth Group which will meet every Wednesday night from 6:00-8:00pm (that is not dedicated to Confirmation Preparation). Please see the Holy Spirit Youth Webpage for more detailed information about meeting dates.

Retreats, Camps, Mission Trips & More!

Holy Spirit Youth Ministry is dedicated to providing opportunities for spiritual growth outside of our parish and in a variety of ways. Please see the Holy Spirit Youth Webpage for more detailed information about the opportunities available through our parish.

Diocesan Confirmation Day

Each year, the Diocese hosts an event for all candidates preparing to receive that sacrament of confirmation in the diocese. This is an event hosted at the Cathedral in Owensboro and typically takes place from noon to 5pm Mass in January.

Diocesan Chrism Mass

Each year during Holy Week, the Diocese of Owensboro celebrates a special Mass where the sacramental oils are blessed by our Bishop and distributed to all of the parishes in the Diocese. Candidates and their families and sponsor are encouraged to attend this Mass to learn about the Sacred Chrism that will be used by the Bishop later that year during the Rite of Confirmation at Holy Spirit.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Youth Minister,

Allison Steen-Baker at allison@holyspiritcatholic.org