



ALMOST
Everything
You Need to Know
for Confirmation!

Important Dates Fall 2020:

Video Series and Responses Schedule:

Friday, July 17 Video #1 Due

Friday, July 31 Video #2 Due

Friday, August 14 Video #3 Due

Friday, August 28 Video #4 Due

Friday, September 11 Video #5 Due

Friday, September 25 Video #6 Due

Monday, September 21- Confirmation Paperwork Due

Monday, October 5- Candidate's Written Piece Due

Monday, October 26- 6-7:30pm Mandatory Practice

(Candidates: 6-7:30pm, Sponsor 6:45-7:30pm)

Thursday, October 29- 4pm Confirmation

What types of service should my child be taking part in?

Jesus calls all of his followers to serve God and others and to share our gifts. Service to others is a primary focus in Confirmation preparation as the students move toward becoming fully initiated members of the Church. We invite you as parents and guardians to guide your child in their choices for meaningful service.

Service can range from simple acts of charity around the home to participating in organized community projects. Service should be approached as a change in mind and heart to try to help others whenever possible and not the meeting of "hourly requirements".

These suggestions are only some of the ways other Confirmation candidates have chosen to serve. This list may give your child some ideas of what you can do or perhaps they have their own special service in mind.

- Serve at Mass
- Help in the PREP program
- Visit the elderly at home or in a nursing home
- Help a needy family
- Write cards or letters to hospitalized children
- Collect toys for poor children
- Make casseroles for St. John's Hospice
- Make gifts/favors for hospitals or nursing homes
- Assist with young children's sports activities

How does our child choose a Sponsor?

A sponsor is someone who walks with your child on the journey of faith leading to Confirmation. Their sponsor is a person who shares his or her faith, knowledge, and experience of being a Christian with your child.

During the ceremony the sponsor presents your child to the Bishop and to the community as a sign of their readiness to receive the Sacrament. The relationship does not end with the ceremony- a sponsor has the important task of continuing to help your child as they grow in faith.

Your child chooses their own sponsor for Confirmation. Their sponsor should be somebody who has already had a good influence on them and their life in the Church. If they have that kind of relationship with their baptismal sponsor, they may choose him/her.

A sponsor:

- Must be a practicing Catholic who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Must be sufficiently mature (at least 16 years of age) to guide and assist
- Cannot be a parent or step-parent
- Needs to present a Certificate of Eligibility from his/her parish that he/she can be a sponsor

** If your child's sponsor cannot attend **Confirmation**, a proxy may stand in their place. A proxy must meet the above criteria and **cannot be a parent**.

How does our child choose a Confirmation Name?

Confirmation is an opportunity to enter into a new relationship with God and with the Church. One Confirmation custom is to choose a new name to symbolize this relationship. This name is used in the ceremony. Your child may choose their baptismal name, if they like, because there is a close relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.

If a new name is taken, however, it must be the name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church. If their baptismal name is not that of a recognized saint, a new name should be chosen for Confirmation. Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for your child. They should choose a patron saint's name, not because of the attractiveness of the name, but because of the attractiveness of the Christian life the Saint led.

They should find out more about their patron saint's life:

- Feast Day
- Saint's place of birth
- Saint's family, occupation, life and/or death
- What virtues did this saint practice in his/her life?
- What aspects of this person's Christian life attracted you?
- How is this saint a model for Christians today?

What other paperwork needs to be completed before Confirmation?

Parents/Guardians need to complete the *Application for the Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation* and return along with Sacramental preparation fee and supporting documents (baptism certificate if not baptized at Nativity BVM) by **Monday, September 21st**.

What is the written piece that the student needs to complete?

In lieu of Confirmation interviews, all students are required to submit a written piece of work prior to Confirmation. The guidelines and structure for this written piece are included in this booklet. We hope that this will serve as an opportunity for them to reflect on their preparation for Confirmation, service they have performed and their future role as Catholics. ***The assignment should be typed or neatly handwritten and is due by Monday, October 5th***.

How many guests can attend Confirmation?

Due to the size of our Church, we normally require tickets for the Mass. The student receiving Confirmation and sponsor do NOT need tickets for Confirmation. The number of tickets per family will be determined in September depending on Covid-19 phase and safety regulations in place at that time.

Why is practice mandatory?

It is mandatory that all students attend the practice on Monday, October 26th from 6-7:30pm so that they know how to process into the Church, see where they are sitting and understand the responses for Confirmation. The students and sponsors are in assigned seats during the Mass to allow them to walk up together when the student is presented to the Bishop. If a sponsor is not available to attend the practice, then a parent/guardian needs to come to the practice in their place. After practice you will receive: tickets for Confirmation, your child's Confirmation robe and order form for the group photo.

What do students wear on Confirmation?

Confirmation robes are provided for all students. If you have a robe from an older sibling, you can deduct \$15 from the Confirmation Sacramental Preparation fee. While the students will be wearing robes, proper attire is expected for reception of a Sacrament.

Boys should wear a dress shirt (with a tie if desired), dress pants or khakis (NO JEANS or SWEATPANTS) and shoes (NO SNEAKERS). Since boys are wearing robes, jackets/blazers should not be worn underneath. Girls should wear a dress or skirt outfit and appropriate shoes (NO flipflops or really high heels). Hair should be worn off the forehead to allow for the anointing with chrism.

What time do students need to arrive on Confirmation day?

Students will need to be at the Brick Building by 3pm on Thursday, October 29th. They should be dressed in their robe. Please be sure your child has a snack before they arrive.

Families and Sponsors should go directly to the Church before Mass. Sponsors will have assigned seating. **Tickets will be necessary to enter the Church for Confirmation. Please be sure to bring them with you that day!**

How long is the Confirmation Mass?

The Confirmation Mass can last 1 ½ to 2 hours, depending on the Archbishop's homily and talk to the candidates. After the Mass, the students process back to the Brick Building for a group photo. Again, if you would like to purchase a group photo, order forms will be distributed at practice.

**Nativity BVM Parish Confirmation Candidate's
Written Assignment**

Answers should be typed or very neatly written on separate paper. Responses should be well thought out and clearly presented. This assignment is due by Monday, October 5th and can be handed into your teacher, dropped off to the Rectory or emailed to nativitybvmprep@gmail.com. **Please be sure your name is on it.**

1. Describe how the Saint you have chosen for your Confirmation name exemplified the *Fruits of the Holy Spirit* in their lifetime? Be sure to provide the Saint's full name and give specific examples using the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
2. List the *Gifts of the Holy Spirit*.
3. Jesus calls all of his followers to serve God and others and to share our gifts. How have you shared your gifts and talents with others through service? Include specific acts of service you have performed.
4. Who is the Holy Spirit?
5. What is the Church? What does membership in the Church community mean for you especially after Confirmation?
6. Explain the differences between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your Love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, Who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Nativity BVM Parish

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