

ABOUT CONFIRMATION

Confirmation, like all the Sacraments, is a major encounter with Christ. Confirmation is not just a hoop to jump through. Confirmation is not graduation from CCD, the Church, or a life of faith. It is just the opposite.

Definition

Confirmation (from Latin confirmation = strengthening, consolidation): Confirmation, like Baptism and the Eucharist, is one of the three sacraments of initiation of the Catholic Church. As the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples who were gathered on Pentecost, so the Holy Spirit comes to every baptized person for whom the Church requests the gift of the Holy Spirit. It secures and strengthens him to be a living witness to Christ.

Explanation

Confirmation is the Sacrament that completes Baptism; in it the gift of the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon us. Anyone who freely decides to live a life as God's child and asks for God's Spirit under the signs of the imposition of hands and anointing with CHRISM receives the strength to witness to God's love and might in word and deed. He is now a full-fledged, responsible member of the Catholic CHURCH.

When a coach sends a soccer player onto the playing field, he puts his hand on his shoulder and gives him important instructions. We can understand Confirmation in a similar way. A hand is placed upon us. We step out onto the field of life. Through the Holy Spirit we know what we have to do and we have been given the power to do it - He has motivated us. His mission resounds in our ears. We sense his help. We will not betray his trust or disappoint him; we will win the game for him. We just have to want to do it and listen to him.

What does Sacred Scripture say about the sacrament of Confirmation?

In the Old Testament, the People of God expected the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Messiah. Jesus lived his life in a special Spirit of love and of perfect unity with his Father in heaven. This Spirit of Jesus was the "Holy Spirit" for whom the people of Israel longed; this was the same Spirit whom Jesus promised to his disciples, the same Spirit who descended upon the disciples fifty days after Easter, on the feast of Pentecost. And it is again this same Holy Spirit of Jesus who descends upon everyone who receives the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the Acts of the Apostles, which were written a few decades after the death of Jesus, we see Peter and John traveling about to confirm new Christians by imposing hands on those who previously "had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus," so that their hearts might be filled with the Holy Spirit.

What happens in Confirmation?

In CONFIRMATION the soul of a baptized Christian is imprinted with a permanent seal that can be received only once and marks this individual forever as a Christian. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the strength from above in which this individual puts the grace of his Baptism into practice through his life and acts as a "witness" for Christ. To be confirmed means to make a "covenant" with God. The confirmand says, "Yes, I believe in you, my God; give me your Holy Spirit, so that I might belong entirely to you and never be separated from you and may witness to you throughout my whole life, body and soul, in my words and deeds, on good days and bad." And God says, "Yes, I believe in you, too, my child-and I will give you my Spirit, my very self. I will belong entirely to you. I will never separate myself from you, in this life or eternally in the next. I will be in your body and your soul in your words and deeds. Even if you forget me will still be there-on good days and bad".

CONFIRMATION CHECK LIST WITH TENTATIVE DATES

- Regular attendance in Religion classes. Unexcused absences will affect a candidate's ability to move forward in the program and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Excessive absences will be reason for a candidate to return for a second year of formation.

- Saturday, November 13, 2021/Sunday, November 14, 2021
Rite of Enrollment Mass - In this ceremony, candidates make their official commitment to enter into preparation for the Sacrament. Prior to Rite of Enrollment, candidates should seriously and prayerfully think about what will be required of them.

- February 16, 2022 Confirmation Application

- April 13, 2022 About My Sponsor Form

- May 18, 2022 Eligibility Certificate from another parish if NOT from Our Lady of Hope

- June 5, 2022 Attend a Sponsor/Candidate Pentecost Program

- November 1, 2022 Confirmation Name and Written Saint Reflection

- April 12, 2023 Documentation of 20-Service Hours

- Spring of 2023 Retreat

- Spring of 2023 Readiness Interview

- To Be Announced Letter to the Confirming Bishop

- To Be Announced Pre-Sacrament Reconciliation

- To Be Announced Confirmation Practice

Selection of a Confirmation Sponsor

Each person seeking Confirmation must have a sponsor who possesses the following qualifications:

- Must be at least 16 years of age and have a personal relationship with God.
- Must be a practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church, who attends Mass weekly.
- Must be a registered member of a Catholic parish* and have been initiated in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- If married, the sponsor must be married according to the norms of the Catholic Church.
- Must be willing to spend time with the Confirmation candidate in order to share his/her faith with the candidate.
- May be the same sponsor the individual had at Baptism.
- May be a new sponsor selected specifically for Confirmation.
- May be either male or female for any candidate.
- Note: Parents are not eligible as sponsors. (1983 – Code of Canon Law)

The Sponsor represents the Catholic community and should be seen as a life-long role model and guide for the Candidate.

**Sponsor must provide a letter of eligibility from their parish stating they are a parishioner in good standing. Sponsors from our parish will be verified through the Religious Education Office and do not need to provide a separate letter of eligibility.*

The Role of a Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate and can help him/her on his/her spiritual journey and can share his/her own faith. Ideally, it should be someone who has been already involved in the spiritual formation of the candidate, such as a godparent or member of the local parish.

Confirmation sponsors accompany the Confirmation candidate when they receive the sacrament, present them to the Bishop and support and help them to fulfill their baptismal promises with the help of the Holy Spirit.

If the sponsor is not available on the date of Confirmation, you may name a proxy. A proxy must meet all of the above criteria and must be available on the date of Confirmation.

The following are some ways in which you as a sponsor can assist the Confirmation candidate and fulfill our common goal:

- **Dialogue.** Share your faith with the candidate. Discuss the significance of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord).
 - Periodically **review** with the candidate what he or she is learning.
 - **Pray** for your candidate every day. Pray with your candidate often!
 - Of course, not all sponsors will be able to do all of these things due to distance, prior commitments, and other various reasons. The important thing is that the sponsors **act as mentors** to the candidates and do whatever they can to make the experience of Confirmation preparation meaningful.
-
-

Selecting a Confirmation Name

Choosing a new name for Confirmation is an ancient and biblical tradition. Taking a new name is symbolic of a new stage in life and a new beginning in your faith life. It also follows in the scriptural tradition found in Isaiah 45:3-4 “I have called you by name.” In the Hebrew Scriptures, Abram became Abraham, and Jacob became Israel, signifying their new beginning. This was also true in the New Testament when Simon was renamed Peter and Saul to Paul.

Confirmation Name Reflection on your Confirmation Saint

“Christians treat the name of a person reverently, because the name is profoundly connected with that person’s identity and dignity. From time immemorial, Christians have selected names for their children from the list of the saints; they do so in the belief that the patron saint is an example for them and will intercede with God for them in a special way.” (YOUCAT #361)

1. Why did your parents choose the name they gave you? Were you named after a beloved relative or a favorite saint? If so, who? What about this person inspired them to name you?

2. What does your name mean? (Ex: “George” means “farmer” - www.BehindTheName.com)

3. What is the name of someone whom you see as a good role model of faith?

4. What does that person’s name mean?

5. What are a few other names that you like (because they are strong names, pretty names, etc.)?

(Over)

6. What does each of these names mean?

7. Who is your favorite Saint? What does this name mean?

8. What is a personality trait(s) of a holy person that you would like to develop? (Ex: patience, piety, humility, etc.)

9. What name(s) mean these traits? (Ex: Irene is a female name that means “peace”)

Now that you have several meaningful names to work with (your birth name and numbers 3, 5, 7, and 9), you need to choose one that will be your Confirmation Name. Once you have chosen a name, find a Saint that is associated with that name. If there is no Saint with your name, try to find a Saint with a derivation of your name (i.e. Giovanni, Joan, Janis, Johanna, Sean, Ivan, Juan, and Jean are all derivations of John).

This Saint, who is associated with your Confirmation Name, will be your personal Patron for the rest of your life. Take some time to pray over your decision.

Pray, reflect, and let the Holy Spirit guide you in your search.

Write a Saint reflection. It should be at least one page typed in length and you are encouraged to include either a symbol or depiction of the saint. Be sure to put your name on the top of the paper or on the cover sheet. This is a personal reflection paper. It is not a research paper; however, you should use reliable sources for your information about your saint. At the end of your paper, please include a reference list of any sources that you have used. Use Internet resources with caution, as they are sometimes unreliable.



Saint Reflection should include but are not limited to:

- a summary of the saint's life.
- the event(s) in his/her life that most impresses you.
- the virtues he/she possessed.
- how you can imitate this saint today?
- why the saint name is now significant to you in your Confirmation journey?

The websites below are helpful resources that may be used to help find a saint that you may find of interest.

Saint Websites:

www.catholic.org/saints

www.ewtn.com/catholicism/saints

mycatholic.life/saints

<http://saints.sqpn.com> (use on-site search)

<http://wordbytes.org/saints/index.html>

www.scborromeo.org/patron_s.htm

www.americancatholic.org (click on "saints")

You shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the Lord.

You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem held by your God.
Isaiah 62:2-3

COMMUNITY SERVICE - CONFIRMATION WORKS OF MERCY PROJECTS

Complete 20 hours of service during your 7th and 8th Grade years. Please provide documentation and supervisor signatures.

Why?

An important part of the Christian life is to be of service to others. Voluntary service to others shows you are ready to live out the commitment to love God and love others.

Serving others helps you take what you have learned in their preparation for Confirmation and bring it to life and make it tangible.

Community service is the giving of ourselves to help others rather than a project completed or hours counted. As Jesus said, “For the Son of Man also came not to be served, but to serve” (Mark 10:45).

It enables us to **experience what it means to help people** not because we want to be nice, or because we expect to get something back in return, but because of a genuine concern. Service is one of the most powerful ways to put your faith into action.

Often charity is reduced to a service project or nice action. While it is important to serve others (by donating clothes, serving at a soup kitchen, etc.), charity goes far beyond just random acts of kindness. Living charity means that **we put God and others first**. It means that we love and treat others as we want to be loved and treated. It means recognizing the presence of God in every human being and treating him or her with the dignity and respect he or she deserves.

Pope Benedict said in his encyclical on charity: “Love of God and love of neighbor are thus inseparable – they form a single commandment. But both (come) from the love of God who has loved us first. No longer is it a question, then, of a ‘commandment’ imposed from without and calling for the impossible; but rather of a freely bestowed **experience of love** from within, a love which by its very nature must then be shared with others. Love grows through love. Love is ‘divine’ because it comes from God and unites us to God.” (§18)

Service Suggestions

Service is a way that our faith comes to life. Here are a few suggestions for good, meaningful service opportunities.

IN THE PARISH

Below is a list of common annual service opportunities in our parish post COVID restrictions.

- † **Lenten Fish Fry** (Fridays between March 4th- April 8th)
 - Serve, bus tables and clean up.
 - Check the bulletin for sites and times.
- † **Vacation Bible School** (early Summer)
 - Assist a group leader, run a craft/game center, or present a Bible skit.
- † **Parish Festival** (August 10th – August 13th)
 - Help with setup and clean up.
 - Volunteer to help run a festival game.
- † **Fall Cleanup for Seniors**
 - Participate in our Fall Cleanup weekend. Rake leaves, trim shrubs and do general yardwork.
- † **Chimbote/Catholic Charities CCD Annual Fundraisers**
- † **Santa Breakfast/Happy Birthday Jesus** (December 2022)
 - Check bulletin for volunteer information for dates and locations.
- † **Advent Program or Christmas Pageant** (December 2022)
- † **Adopt a Family.**
 - Christmas shop with a special purpose by sponsoring a St. Vincent de Paul family.
 - Contact Lou Reda at 412-736-6969 for more information.
- † **Altar Server** (During weekend Masses)
 - Serve at weekend Masses. Typically, altar servers are scheduled to serve once every 3–4 weeks; we ask servers and their parents to be flexible as to the Mass time their child may be asked to serve.
- † **Bingo** (Every Tuesday at 7:15 p.m. in Frawley Hall)
 - Setup crew arrives at 5:00 p.m.
 - Contact Bill Hirsh at 412-835-8673 to volunteer.
- † **Choir**
 - Contact Kyle Davies at 412-835-7720 for more information.

(Over)

IN THE COMMUNITY

- **Produce to People**

- Help the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank at one of the eight Produce to People site. Volunteers help distribute fresh produce like potatoes, onions, cabbage, plums, and apples. These large-scale distributions increase fresh food access for our neighbors who have limited access to healthful and affordable food.

- **Care packages for College Kids**

- Give a boost to a college student by assembling, packaging, and mailing a care package filled with microwave popcorn, chewing gum, chips, cookies, and candy. When sent near the end of the Fall semester, it can be a real boost for final exam time.

- **Stockings for Soldiers**

- Send a member of our troops a taste of home for the holidays. Decorate a stocking and fill it with Christmas cheer with items like snacks, health care items, etc. This project is done in cooperation with Beinhauer-Connell Funeral Home.

- **Ronald McDonald House**

- There are many ways to get involved with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh. You can provide a meal for families, join the baking club, or make breakfast bags to go. Work with a group or as an individual. Just know that by participating in one of the meal programs, you are helping families who are far from home while their children can receive life-saving medical care.

- **South Hills Interfaith Ministries** (5301 Park Avenue - Bethel Park, PA 15102)

- **SHIM** is a small organization doing the work of a large organization. Volunteers contribute their unique talents, skills, and knowledge of our community to provide personalized attention to families in need.
- To volunteer at SHIM contact Natalie Klimas at 412-854-9120 ext. 10, email nklimas@shim-center.org, or complete their online registration form (<http://shim-center.org/give-help/volunteer/>), and she will be in touch to schedule an orientation session for you!

- **St. Vincent De Paul Society**

- This Catholic lay organization is inspired by the Gospels. The Society leads women and men to spiritual growth through person-to-person service to those in need. Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice.
- Call 412-831-8312. There are numerous ways you can be involved.

LETTER TO BISHOP

Guidelines:

This letter should be one page, typed.

Letters cannot be written until the parish is informed of the date of Confirmation and the name of the Confirming Bishop.

Topics to be communicated are:

Why you want to be confirmed?

Remember that it is now your choice to complete your Initiation into the Catholic Church. You will have traveled a faith path with your fellow candidates, parents, and sponsor. You have all allowed the Holy Spirit to lead you. Although you journeyed with others, it is your personal decision to be confirmed at this time in your life.

What Confirmation name have you chosen and what is the relationship with the Church?

The tradition of taking on a new name to show a new role can be traced back to the Old Testament. When Abram was called to lead his people to believe in the one God, his name was changed from Abram to Abraham, “Father of many nations”. Again, in the New Testament, we find Simon’s name changed to Peter, meaning “rock”, because he was to become the rock upon which Jesus founded his Church.

Who is your sponsor and why did you choose him or her?

A sponsor is a person who knows the candidate and can help him/her on his/her spiritual journey and can share his/her own faith. Ideally, it should be someone who has been already involved in your spiritual formation like a godparent or member of the parish.

What gift or gifts of the Holy Spirit did you use, or did you feel grew in you most as you served your parish and your community?

Never should the importance of service to the parish and the community be underestimated. Tell what you did, how you felt God’s presence while you served, and with what project(s) you will continue to serve.

Preparation for confirmation should lead you toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit. You want to communicate to the bishop that your confirmation preparation has awakened a sense of belonging to the Church as well as the parish community.

CANDIDATE/SPONSOR DRESS CODE

Females

Dress or skirts:

- Should not be any shorter than 1” above the knee.
- Spaghetti Straps, Sleeveless, or Strapless Dresses **MUST** be covered by a sweater, scarf, or jacket.
- Plunging necklines are prohibited.

Shirts:

- Spaghetti Straps, Sleeveless, or Strapless tops **MUST** be covered by a sweater, scarf, or jacket.
- Plunging necklines are prohibited.

Dress pants:

- Pants should not be skintight or low riding.

Shoes:

- No flip-flops or tennis shoes.

Males

Dress pants:

- Chino and dress pants are appropriate.
- Jeans and athletic apparel are prohibited.

Shirts:

- Collared shirts are recommended. T-shirts are prohibited.
- Jackets and Ties are recommended for the Confirmation ceremony.

Shoes:

- No flip-flops or tennis shoes.

Please do not bring personal media devices to retreats, rehearsals, or to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT



Come 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.

Important Forms Section

Completed forms can be:

- Mailed to Maryann Wellinger
Faith Formation Office/Our Lady of Hope
2709 Mesta Street
Bethel Park, PA 15102

- Emailed to mwellinger@olhpgh.org

- Dropped off at Our Lady of Hope Parish Office
St. Germaine Church
7003 Baptist Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102

- Handed in to Mrs. Phil @ St. Gabriel School

If you have questions about Confirmation paperwork, please call Maryann Wellinger, Faith Formation Secretary @ 412-835-3780.

Candidate Confirmation Application

Due by February 16, 2022

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____
(City) (State) (Zip)

Email _____

Best Contact Phone Number _____ Cell _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

What school do you attend? _____ Grade _____

Where have you attended Religious Education?	Years Attended
_____	_____
_____	_____

How often do you attend Mass? _____ weekly _____ monthly _____ occasionally

How have you served your parish in the past year? _____

How have you served your community in the past year? _____

What kind of activities are you involved with at school? _____

(Over)

How often do you pray? What do you pray about? _____

Why do you want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? _____

Do you have a sponsor in mind yet who can support you in this Confirmation process? Who are they, and why do you think they would be a good choice?

Signed (Candidate) _____

About My Sponsor Form

Due by April 13, 2022

Name: _____

A sponsor is a responsible person, a companion on your journey of Confirmation preparation. Your sponsor is a special kind of friend, one who shares with you his or her own knowledge, and experience of being a Christian. Describe the qualities of your faithful friend, the person you have chosen as a person committed to traveling on the way of Christ.

- ♦ If your sponsor is a member of Our Lady of Hope Parish, simply complete the information on this page – we will verify information to parish records.
- ♦ If your sponsor is not a member of Our Lady of Hope Parish, he/she will need to obtain a **CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY** from his/her parish, stating that he/she is eligible to serve as a sponsor for Confirmation. Please have the Certificate sent to you, and **NOT** our office. Please attend to this early so that it is received by the appropriate time.
- ♦ **Please provide our sponsor's Certificate of Eligibility by May 18, 2022.**

Sponsor's Name: _____

Sponsor's Parish: _____

(Name of Church)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

Why did you choose your sponsor?

If your sponsor will NOT be present for the Rite of Confirmation, another adult may stand in for your sponsor as proxy. A proxy MUST be a practicing Catholic and may NOT be the candidate's parent. A proxy MUST meet all of the same requirements as the sponsor information listed above.

Proxy's Name _____ Parish _____

**A proxy must also obtain a CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY from his/her parish if not a member of Our Lady of Hope.*

Certification to serve as
Confirmation Sponsor
Our Lady of Hope Parish

(St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, St. Germaine, Nativity, and St. Valentine)

PART ONE: TO BE COMPLETED BY CANDIDATE

Name of candidate to be Confirmed: _____

Name of sponsor: _____

PART TWO: TO BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR

As one seeking to fulfill the role of sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation, I affirm the following:

1. That I am fully initiated into Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation,
2. That I am at least 16 years of age,
3. That I take an active part in the life of the Catholic Church, primarily through the weekly celebration of the Eucharist,
4. (for those who are married) That my marriage is according to Church regulation.
5. That I realize I assume a great responsibility in becoming a sponsor and that I am committed to giving support to the person I am sponsoring by my life of prayer and Christian example.

Sponsor signature

PART THREE: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE SPONSOR'S PASTOR

I hereby attest that the above-named sponsor is an active Catholic, a registered member of this parish and, to the best of my knowledge, eligible to serve as a Sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

PARISH
SEAL

Pastor

Date

Parish

Address

SERVICE REFLECTION - CONFIRMATION WORKS OF MERCY

Name: _____

- Complete 20 hours of service during your 7th & 8th grade year.
- Provide documentation & supervisor signatures.
- **Due dates:** All hours are due by **April 12, 2023**.
- Completed hours are to be returned to the Religious Education Office.

Project Name _____

Organization _____ Length of Service _____

Supervisor Signature _____

Description of Service/What I Did

Provide an example/give a description of someone who benefited from your volunteer work.

What do you think will be the social impact of your volunteer work?

*“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.
The Father will honor whoever serves me.” – John 12:26*

SERVICE REFLECTION - CONFIRMATION WORKS OF MERCY

Name: _____

- Complete 20 hours of service during your 7th & 8th grade year.
- Provide documentation & supervisor signatures.
- **Due dates:** All hours are due by **April 12, 2023**.
- Completed hours are to be returned to the Religious Education Office.

Project Name _____

Organization _____ Length of Service _____

Supervisor Signature _____

Description of Service/What I Did

Provide an example/give a description of someone who benefited from your volunteer work.

What do you think will be the social impact of your volunteer work?

*“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.
The Father will honor whoever serves me.” – John 12:26*

SERVICE REFLECTION - CONFIRMATION WORKS OF MERCY

Name: _____

- Complete 20 hours of service during your 7th & 8th grade year.
- Provide documentation & supervisor signatures.
- **Due dates:** All hours are due by **April 12, 2023**.
- Completed hours are to be returned to the Religious Education Office.

Project Name _____

Organization _____ Length of Service _____

Supervisor Signature _____

Description of Service/What I Did

Provide an example/give a description of someone who benefited from your volunteer work.

What do you think will be the social impact of your volunteer work?

*“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.
The Father will honor whoever serves me.” – John 12:26*

