

Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Spiritual Preparation

In addition to preparing through study, candidates should prepare personally and spiritually through daily prayer, attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, using the Sacrament of Reconciliation when opportunities are given, and other means of living our Catholic faith. In particular, Sunday Mass attendance must be taken very seriously. The Sunday Eucharist is the heart of Catholic life. A candidate who does not attend Mass regularly is not yet ready for Confirmation.

Bishop's Questions

Candidates must memorize the list of questions the Bishop has determined to be the foundational knowledge of the sacrament, which will be explored throughout the preparation process. These questions summarize your understanding of Confirmation and show that you are willing to continue learning and growing in faith. Sponsors can be instrumental in helping candidates to memorize and to understand the questions. The *Bishop's Questions* are available at www.stambrosehaven.com/confirmation. ***Candidates will be asked to recite the answers to the Bishop's Questions during the rehearsal.***

Confirmation Name

A new name is a sign of a new identity. Like Baptism, the Sacrament of Confirmation changes us permanently. Candidates may use their Baptismal name for Confirmation, since Confirmation brings our Baptism to its maturity. Or another name may be chosen. It is preferable to choose a saint's name, but any name is acceptable as long as it is not un-Christian or otherwise inappropriate.

Check out <https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/> for the "Biggest and Best List of Confirmation Saints (for Guys and Girls)."

Each student will provide his/her saint information in the letter to Bishop Schlert.

Sponsor

Just as, when we are baptized, we have godparents to help bring us up in the faith, we also choose a sponsor for Confirmation. Confirmation empowers us to live our Catholic faith as mature adults in a world where it is often very challenging to be faithful to Jesus Christ. The sponsor's role involves supporting the candidate and serving as a role model of living the Catholic faith. Therefore, universal Church law requires that a sponsor be:

- At least 16 years old
- NOT the father or mother of the candidate
- A fully initiated Catholic (he/she received Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion)
- Living a life in harmony with the Catholic faith (attends Mass every Sunday; validly married in the Catholic Church or, if single, living the chaste life of a single Catholic)

One of the candidate's Baptismal godparents may serve as the Confirmation sponsor, or another person may be chosen. Please put careful thought into your choice of sponsor. Do not ask someone to be a sponsor unless you are certain he/she fulfills the above requirements.

If a sponsor cannot be physically present at the Confirmation, he/she can be represented by proxy.

Please share the *Sponsor Role* sheet with your child's Sponsor. The sheet is available at www.stambrosehaven.com/confirmation.

Talking about faith can be awkward and must be practiced. Sponsors are encouraged to use the *Sponsor and Candidate Discussion* sheet to facilitate faith-life discussions with the candidates. The sheet is available at www.stambrosehaven.com/confirmation.

Letter to Bishop Schlert

Bishop Schlert requests that each candidate submits a letter to him prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Schlert reads every letter to help him better know and understand the candidates. The guideline for developing the letter is available at www.stambrosehaven.com/confirmation.

Mass Reflections

Bishop Schlert asks that candidates write a weekly reflection after participating in Mass. What did you hear/see/experience within the Mass, and what did it draw you to consider? Parents/sponsors are asked to review and discuss the reflections with their child. The Mass reflections will be incorporated into Level 8 PREP.

Additional Documentation

- 1) If the candidate was NOT baptized at St. Ambrose, then a copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate must be provided.
- 2) If the candidate is NOT a member of St. Ambrose Church, then the candidate's pastor must send a letter to Msgr. Zemanik granting permission for the candidate to be confirmed at St. Ambrose.

Blessing of Candidates (Date TBD)

At St. Ambrose, we observe the tradition of blessing candidates who are in the immediate preparation phase. Candidates in Level/Grade 8 are presented to the parish community and publicly recognized as candidates for Confirmation. The entire parish community is asked to pray for and to support the candidates.

Retreat (Feb. 27th 10 am to 2:30 pm @ Nativity BVM High School)

A retreat for candidates in Level 8 is a special time of prayer, talks, and activities that help candidates to reflect on this important step in their lives and experience God's presence in a new way.

TO DO LIST

As soon as you and your child discern the Sponsor, do the following:

- ☐ Ask the person to request the Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility from his/her parish.
- ☐ Provide the person with the *Sponsor Role* sheet.
- ☐ Provide the person with the *Sponsor and Candidate* Discussion sheet.

Research a Saint Name.

- ☐ Compile the information for inclusion in the letter to the bishop.

If needed, complete the following:

- ☐ If the candidate was not baptized at St. Ambrose, then submit a copy of the child's baptismal certificate.
- ☐ If the candidate is a member of another Catholic Church and plans to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Ambrose, then request the letter of permission from your pastor.

By December 13th, please submit the following to the DRE:

- ☐ Confirmation Registration (Google Doc)
- ☐ Sponsor Form (Certificate of Eligibility)
- ☐ Letter to Bishop Schlert
- ☐ Copy of Baptismal Certificate (if needed)
- ☐ Pastor Letter of Permission (if needed)

On the day of the retreat, please submit the following to the DRE:

- ☐ Retreat Permission Form