



2026 CONFIRMATION
PARENT/CONFIRMANDI
HANDBOOK



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Parent and Candidate Meeting

- TBD

Baptism Certificates and Confirmation Information Sheet Due

- December 21st, 2025
- Religious Education Office (119 E Water St, Sidney: Attn Matt Casey) or matt@nw7family.com (if using the downloadable form below)
- [Downloadable Confirmation Candidate Information Form](#)
- [Candidate Confirmation Information Google Form](#)

Retreat Permission Forms and Fees

- TBD

Sponsor Affidavit

- December 21st, 2025
- [Sponsor Eligibility Form](#)

Patron Saint Report

- Not required

Student Interviews

- To be completed with Catechist throughout course of CCD

Parent-Family Letters of Love

- March 8, 2026 to Religious Education Office (119 E Water St, Sidney: Attn Matt Casey) or matt@nw7family.com
- Between 4-7 letters per student

Confirmation Practice

- Wednesday April 8, 2026
- 7:00-8:00pm at Holy Angels Church

Confirmation

- Sunday April 12, 2026 at the 11 AM Mass (Holy Angels Church)
- Celebrant: Archbishop Robert Casey

Confirmation

The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For “by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence,

they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” CCC 1285.

Although Confirmation is sometimes called the “sacrament of Christian Maturity,” we must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth, nor forget that the baptismal grace is a grace of free, unmerited election and does not need “ratification” to become effective. St. Thomas reminds us of this: *Age of body does not determine age of soul. Even in childhood man can attain spiritual maturity ... Many children, through the strength of the Holy Spirit they have received, have bravely fought for Christ even to the shedding of their blood.* CCC 1308

Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit – his actions, his gifts, and his biddings – in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands. CCC 1309

It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. CCC 1301

Gifts & Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit help us live our lives more fully committed to Christ.

***The Seven Gifts:* Knowledge, Understanding, Wisdom, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety and Fear of the Lord.**

***The Twelve Fruits:* Charity, Kindness, Joy, Goodness, Peace, Generosity, Patience, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control and Chastity.**

The Prayer of Saint John Paul II

Holy Spirit, I ask you for the gift of Wisdom to better know You and Your divine perfections, for the gift of Understanding to clearly discern the spirit of the mysteries of the holy faith, for the gift of Counsel that I may live according to the principles of this faith, for the gift of Knowledge that I may look for counsel in You and that I may always find it in You, for the gift of Fortitude that no fear or earthly preoccupations would ever separate me from You, for the gift of Piety that I may always serve Your Majesty with a filial love, for the gift of the Fear of the Lord that I may dread sin, which offends You, O my God. Amen

Eligibility

At Holy Angels Parish final preparation for Confirmation is in the eighth-grade academic year.

Attendance in classes provided through the Religious Education program (“CCD”), Holy Angels Catholic School or an approved home-schooling program are required. In addition, all Confirmands participate in the Confirmation

Retreat, receive an interview, ~~complete their Saint Report~~. Baptismal Certificates must be provided if baptized outside Holy Angels Parish. Sponsor Affidavits are required and must be signed by a priest before returning (unless Sponsor is a member of St. Joseph Pillar of Families parish) to vouch for the Affidavit.

According the Catechism of the Catholic Church, to receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit. More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act. CCC 1310

Role of the Parents

Parents play the most important role in their children's continuing initiation into full membership in the Christian community. Parents of Confirmation Candidates:

- Are the primary educators of their children;
- Represent the Church by showing their child a Christian example and the importance of faith;
- Serve as models for their child by being committed Christians;
- Require their child to worship with the parish community weekly at Mass;
- Reinforce and promote belief in the home;
- Encourage their child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation;
- Are not permitted to be Confirmation Sponsors for their own child;
- Assist their child with the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, and service;
- Stress the initiation aspect of the Sacrament by encouraging their child to continue learning about their faith in the parish life and programs into the high school years;
- Help their child in understanding that service is the beginning of a life committed to Christ, serving any one we can.
- Commit to daily prayer for the Candidates.

Role of the Candidate

As the Candidates continue preparing for Confirmation, they should (or must):

Listen attentively and participate willingly in Religious Education, Parish School and/or Home-School Confirmation preparation instruction.

- Ask questions, as this helps to promote a mature understanding of Christian beliefs.

- Attend Sunday Mass and all Holy Days of Obligation
- Invite a practicing Catholic to be their Confirmation Sponsor
- Return all necessary paperwork by the dates indicated on the calendar (page 1)
- Attend and participate in the Confirmation Retreat
- Be interviewed
- Remain an active part of the Catholic community by continuing to learn and practice their faith

Sponsor Requirements

A Sponsor is required for the Candidate being confirmed. Canons 872 and 874 of the Code of Canon Law lists those requirements for the valid and lawful sponsorship in Confirmation:

- The Sponsor's role is to assist the person in Christian initiation.
- The Sponsor's role, together with the parents, is to present the child for the Sacrament and help him/her live a life befitting a baptized Catholic.

A Sponsor:

1. Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility.
2. Must have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
3. Must be no less than 16 years of age at the time of Confirmation.
4. Must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who goes to Mass every Sunday and all Holy Days of Obligation, receives the Sacraments regularly and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family.
5. Must be a member of the Catholic Church and canonically free to carry out this office.
6. Must not be the father or mother of the one being Confirmed.

If a Sponsor is unable to attend the Confirmation, a Proxy may stand in. If necessary, a parent may serve as Proxy. Being a Sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative.

Parents cannot be sponsors for their children because they are already their child's most important teacher. Candidates may choose one of their Godparents to be their Sponsor to show the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation or they may choose a different person. This person should be a confirmed Catholic whom the candidate admires and who bears witness to the Gospel in his/her everyday life.

A Sponsor also plays a vital role in the Candidate's continuing initiation into full membership in the Christian community. A sponsor of a Confirmation Candidate:

- Supports the Candidate in their commitment to a Christian life;
- Must know the Candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the Candidate;
- May help the Candidate prepare for Confirmation; ▪
- Must be reasonably informed on Church teachings.

Confirmation Name

Each Candidate will choose to take a new name for Confirmation; however, it should be a name from a list of recognized saints of the Catholic Church. Candidates may choose to keep their baptismal name if it is a Christian name. Names of Saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed.

Candidates should choose a patron whose Christian life and virtues can be imitated. ~~A Saint Report will be completed. The Confirmand should research and write 1-2 page report on the history and biography of their Saint and then write with depth on why they chose that Saint as their Confirmation Name. Candidates at Holy Angels Catholic School will turn in their report to their Religious Education teacher. Candidates in the Religious Education parish program or who are home-schooled will turn in their Saint Reports to the Director of Religious Education program, Religious Education Building, 119 East Water Street, Sidney. Holy Angels school students will turn their work in at school.~~

A sample list of patron Saints is listed in Appendix A of this handbook to help candidates begin thinking about the Saint's name they might choose and why.

Retreat

As part of their preparation, each Candidate has the option to attend the Confirmation retreat (local or remote/away). The purpose of the retreat is to set the spiritual tone needed to prepare the Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Confirmation Retreat Schedule:

TBD and Announced

Interviews

Confirmation Candidates will be interviewed *before* Confirmation by the director of religious education, coordinator of youth ministry, or religious education instructor (Catechist). The interview is brief (5-10 minutes) and gives the opportunity for the candidates to talk about their experiences in preparing for Confirmation through their service work, instruction, ~~report~~, and prayer life. In addition, the Candidate should understand and know the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and should have discerned how, and why, the Gifts are needed in their journey. Please see Appendix B of this handbook for sample interview questions and responses. We encourage parents to help prepare their Candidate for the interview process by discussing the questions with them.

Rehearsal and Mass

Attendance at the Confirmation rehearsal is **strongly encouraged** for the Candidate and their Sponsor (or Proxy). If a Sponsor cannot attend, a parent will need to stand in for him/her. Confirmation is a special occasion celebrated in the Church. Appropriate attire is strongly encouraged.

Confirmation Mass Attire Guidelines are as follows:

In the spirit of fostering respect for one another, and for the sanctity of the Sacrament of Confirmation, we set forth a strongly encouraged code of dress consistent with the Church's view of modesty. With that in mind, the following attire is strongly encouraged for Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors.

Confirmandi: Confirmand's forehead should be uncovered for anointing from the Archbishop.

Ladies' Guide:

Ladies may wear a blouse and skirt of conservative length (middle of the knee or below), or a dress of similar fashion. Please no tight-fitting clothing, low cleavage-revealing tops, or shirts. Shoulders should be covered, no

sheer clothing or spaghetti straps. Open back dresses or tops must be covered. Color is the choice of the candidate (female sponsors may wear dress pants, if preferred).

Gentlemen's Guide:

Suit or sports jacket strongly encouraged. Men should wear a collared dress shirt, light color-preferably white, a solid-colored tie and dress pants. Shirt should be tucked in. Dark solid colors for pants, jacket or suit. A belt and dark dress socks should be worn.

Shoe Guide: (ladies and men)

Please no sneakers, boots, or sandals of any kind.

Ladies' heels should be of a conservative height, if any. Closed toe shoes are preferable. Gentlemen's dress shoes should be a dark color.

The actual date for Confirmation is determined by Archbishop Casey's office. The 2026 Candidates will be confirmed on Sunday, April 12th 2026. **Confirmands and Sponsors should arrive at the church 30 minutes prior to Mass beginning** in order to maintain the sacred nature of this time and place, photography and videography are prohibited in the church. Time for pictures will occur after the Mass in the church.

Appendix A – Patron Saints ... *discuss with your parents and sponsor*

Actors	Genesis	Leaming	Ambrose, Catherine of Alexandria
African Americans	Martin de Porres, Charles Lwanga	Lithographers	John the Evangelist
Those with Alcoholism	Matthias	Loneliness	Rita
Animals, Birds	Francis of Assisi, Nicholas of Tolentino	Machinists	Hubert
Archeologists	Damasus	Married Couples	Joseph, Anthony
Archers	Hubert, Sebastian	Mass Servers	John Berchmans
Architects	Thomas, Barbara, Benedict	Mathematicians	Hubert
Artists	Luke, Catherine of Bologna, (Bl) Fra Angelico	Those with Mental Illness	Dymphna
Astronomers	Dominic	Men in Armed Forces	George
Athletes	Sebastian	Merchants	Francis of Assisi
Authors	John the Evangelist, Francis de Sales	Military Chaplains	John of Capistrano
Aviators	Therese of Lisieux, Joseph of Cupertino	Miners	Barbara
Accountants / Bankers	Matthew	Missionaries	Francis Xavier, Therese of Lisieux
Blacksmiths	James	Monks / Farmers	Benedict
Blind people	Lucy, Thomas	Mothers	Mary, Mother of God, Monica, Anne
Booksellers	John of God, Thomas Aquinas	Musicians / Church Music	Cecilia / Gregory the Great
Boy Scouts	George	Nurses	Camillus de Lellis, Elizabeth of Hungary
Bricklayers	Stephen	Orators	Anthony of Padua
Builders	Barbara, Vincent Ferrer	Orphans	Jerome Emiliani, Ivo of Kernartin
Cabinetmakers	Anne	Painters	Luke, (Bl) Fra Angelico
Cancer patients	Peregrine Laziosi	Parish Priests	John Mary Vianney
Carpenters	Joseph, Thomas the Apostle	Pharmacists	Luke
Catholic Charities	Elizabeth of Hungary, Vincent de Paul	Photographers	Veronica
Catholic Schools	Elizabeth Ann Seton	Poets	David, Columba
Catechists / Catechumen	Julie Billiard/Robert Bellamine	Police Officers	Jude, Michael
The Universal Church	Peter	Politicians	Thomas More
Chefs	Martha, Lawrence	The Poor	Anthony of Padua, Lawrence
The Universal Church	Peter	Potters	Catherine of Alexandria
Civil Engineers	Ferdinand III of Castille	Pregnant Women	Gerard Majella, Margaret of Antioch
Civil Servants	Thomas More	Prisoners	Vincent de Paul
Clergy	Charles Borromeo	Public Schools / Services	Martin de Porres
Climbers / Skiers	Bernard	Publishers	John the Evangelist
Clock Makers	Joseph	Right to Life	Margaret of Castello, Guadalupe
Comedians	Lawrence, Genesis	Sailors	Brendan, Nicholas of Myra
The Compassionate	Benjamin	Salespersons	Lucy
Composers	Cecile	Scholars	Bridgid of Ireland, Thomas Aquinas, Jerome
Computers/Computer Science	Isidore of Seville	School Teachers	Gregory, John Baptist de la Salle
Contemplative Life	Mary Magdalene / Madeleine	Scientists	Albert the Great, Dominic
Conversion of Heart	Paul	Sculptors	Claude, Luke, Louis
Craftsmen and Women	Dymphna	Scotland	Margaret, Andrew
Dancers	Genesis	The Sick	Camillus
Deacons	Stephen	Singers / Performers	Cecile, Andrew



Those in the Diplomatic Service	Gabriel	Social Workers	Louise de Marillac, John Francis Regis
Doctors, EMTs	Luke	Soldiers	Joan of Arc, Sebastian, Ignatius of Loyola
Eloquence, sacred	Anthony, John Chrysostom	South America	Rose of Lima, Guadalupe
Emigrants	Francis Xavier Cabrini	Spiritual Directors	Charles Borromeo
Enemies of Religion	Sebastian	Stockbrokers	Matthew
Environment / Ecology	Francis of Assisi	Those with Stomach Disorders	Timothy, Charles Borromeo
Those with Epilepsy	Genesius	Stone Workers	Louis, Stephen
Equestrians	James	Students	Catherine, Thomas of Aquinas, Lawrence
Those with Eye Diseases	Raphael	Tax collectors	Matthew
Those Falsely Accused	Raymond	Teachers	Francis de Sales, Catherine of Alexandria
Families	Joseph, Maximilian Kolbe	Teenagers	Maria Goretti, Aloysius Gonzaga
Farmers	Isidore the Farmer	Telecommunications	Gabriel
Those suffering from Fevers	Genevieve (Genofeva)	Telephones / Television	Clare
Firefighters	Florian	Theologians	Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Catherine of Siena
Fishermen	Peter, Andrew	Travelers	Raphael, Joseph, Christopher
Florists	Therese of Lisieux, Rose of Lima	Translators	Jerome
France	Joan of Arc, Therese of Lisieux	Those with Tuberculosis	Theresa
Friendships	John the Apostle	Unborn Children and Mothers	Gianna Beretta Molla
Gardeners	Agnes, Rose of Lima, Fiacre, Adam	Unity	Gregory
Goldsmiths / Jewelers	Dunstan, Luke	Veterinarians	Blaise, James
Grandparents	Anne	Vocations	Alphonsus Liguori, Andrew
Hairdressers	Mary Magdalene/Madeleine	Waiters, Waitresses	Martha
Hardware	Sebastian	Workers	Joseph
Holy Cross Academy	Leonie Aviat	Workers, Youth	John Bosco
Homeless Children	Jerome Emiliani	Writers	Francis de Sales, John the Evangelist
Homemakers	Anne, Martha	Youth	Aloysius Gonzaga, Maria Goretti, John Berchmans Raphael, John Bosco, Stanislaus Kostka
Horses	Martin of Tours, Hippolytus		
Hunters / French Horn players	Hubert		
Impossible Situations	Rita of Cascia, Jude		
Ireland	Patrick		
Lawyers	Thomas More		

More? See:

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>

<http://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php>

Appendix B – Reflection Questions

Here are some good questions to reflect upon. These questions are meant to help you focus on important aspects of our faith & your journey. They will guide the interview.

1. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ? With God?
2. What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?
3. What are the characteristics of a faithful Catholic?
4. With what activities or ministries in the parish or community have you helped? Do you have gifts or talents leading you to a particular ministry in the parish community?
5. How much is prayer a part of your life?
6. How much is reading the Bible a part of your life?
7. How much is weekly Sunday Mass a part of your life?
8. Is the pattern of celebrating Mass every week the center of your life as a Catholic?
9. What Saint did you choose for your Confirmation name? Why was this saint so inspiring to you?
10. What two actions can you take to improve your participation in Mass?
11. What has your experience of Religious Education classes been like (HA School, PSR & Home School)?
12. Why do you want to be confirmed?

Religious Education Questions

1. What is Confirmation?
2. What does Confirmation accomplish in me?
3. Who is the Holy Spirit?
4. Who is the minister of Confirmation?
5. How is Confirmation administered?
6. What is Sacred Chrism?
7. What are the words spoken by the Bishop?
8. Why am I anointed with Sacred Chrism?
9. Who can receive Confirmation?
10. Who should be chosen as a Sponsor for Confirmation?
11. Why is Confirmation so important at this time?

Do you know?

You should know the following information before you are confirmed in the Church. You can find answers in the Catechism. An on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website: usccb.org

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
3. Ten Commandments
4. Seven Sacraments
5. Apostles' Creed
6. Act of Contrition
7. Gifts of the Holy Spirit
8. Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Religious Education Answers to above questions

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments which are outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace. In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way.

What does Confirmation accomplish in me? Confirmation does three things for me:

1. Binds me more closely to the Church.
2. Deepens my commitment to love, study, defend and spread the faith.
3. Confers an indelible or permanent mark that consecrates me to be a witness to Christ.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God and the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Who is the minister of Confirmation?

The minister of Confirmation is the Bishop, but priests may confirm with special permission.

How is Confirmation administered?

Confirmation is administered by tracing a cross on the person's forehead with Sacred Chrism and saying the proper words.

What is Sacred Chrism?

Sacred Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam blessed by the Bishop on Holy Thursday.

What are the words spoken by the Bishop?

The words spoken while being confirmed are:

Bishop: *"(Candidate Saint Name) be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit".*

Candidate response: *"Amen".*

Bishop shakes the hand of the newly confirmed and says, *"Peace be with you,"*

Candidate responds: *"And with your spirit".*

Why am I anointed with Sacred Chrism?

I am anointed to set me apart for a special mission which is to give witness to Christ.

Who can receive Confirmation?

Any baptized person who has never been confirmed may receive Confirmation.

Who should be chosen as a Sponsor for Confirmation?

A sponsor should be a practicing Catholic whose duty is to support the candidate in living the faith and by good example.

Why is Confirmation so important at this time?

Confirmation is important because I am making the decision to choose Christ and the Church for myself and to accept the grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation to be a witness and follower of Christ.