



Confirmation Class of 2026

Confirmation Preparation Guide



Confirmation Second Year Preparation 2025- 2026

(for Students in the St. Irene Religious Education Program being confirmed in Spring of 2026)

SACRAMENTAL DOCUMENTS DUE ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 4, 2025:

- Copy of Baptismal Certificate (If not baptized at St. Irene and not already on file)
- First Reconciliation & First Communion Dates (If received other than at St. Irene and not already on file)

FINAL COPY OF ASSIGNMENTS DUE ON OR BEFORE DATES LISTED BELOW:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| ● Confirmation Name Worksheet** | Due: November 11, 2025 |
| ● Confirmation Registration Form Due | Due: December 16, 2025 |
| ● Confirmation Name Report** | Due: January 13, 2026 |
| ● Sponsor Affidavit | Due: January 13, 2026 |
| ● Letter to the Pastor | Due: January 27, 2026 |
| ● Thank You Letter to Sponsor | Due: Bring to February 7, 2026
Candidate Sponsor Retreat |
| ● Complete three (3) Eighth Grade Service & four (4) Spiritual Growth Requirements | Due: March 10, 2026 |

MEETING DATES:

- Candidate / Parent Meeting - During Class time on September 30, 2025. One parent must attend or make an appointment to meet with the Director of Religious Ed.
- Candidate / Sponsor Gathering - Saturday, February 8, 2026 at 10:00 AM in the ACL.
- Confirmation Interviews - This is for the candidate, parents and sponsor (if the sponsor is available) on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 beginning at 6:00 PM in the School or Saturday, March 21, 2026 beginning at 10:00 AM in the school, lower level.

>> 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat - Joliet Diocese is planning a retreat for March 2026. Details to be announced. An alternative will be found for those who were not able to attend.

>> Confirmation Practice - TBD - May of 2026

>> Sacrament of Confirmation - TBD - May of 2026 at St. Daniel the Prophet Church

SERVICE COMPONENT:

- Spiritual Growth - Each Candidate is required to complete four (4) Experiences focusing on helping you to Grow in your Faith. The Confirmation Retreat and Candidate/Sponsor Retreat are included in this.
- Service - Each Candidate is required to complete three (3) Service Experiences, one being with your Family, an Individual and a Class (one service experience in each area).

**Additional copies of all forms and assignments are available at www.st-irene.org under the Faith Formation tab, from your catechist or the RE office.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

"I will give them an everlasting name."- Isaiah 56

What's in a name?

When you were born, your parents chose your name. They may have chosen your name in honor of a special person in their lives: a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or close friend. They may have chosen your name for the meaning behind it. Perhaps they chose your name because they felt a close connection to a holy man or woman of our faith- one of the saints. Maybe they just really liked your name! Most likely, it was a combination of many factors. (If you do not know why your parents chose the name they did for you, why not ask them about it?)

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. Throughout our lives, we will identify ourselves with many names- the name of the mascot of our school, the name of the region of the country we live in, the title of the career we choose. However, there is a name above all names that, through our Baptism, we should strive to be known to the world by- and that name is Catholic Christian. At your Baptism, you were called by name, and christened to become a child of God. You entered into the Catholic community by name.

Now it is your turn!

As a part of your preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you have the privilege and responsibility, just like your parents did when you were born, to choose a name.

- Your Confirmation name should reflect your closer identification as a member of the Catholic Christian community.
- The name you select can be associated with someone in your life, your parish, or your community whom you respect and admire. Many Confirmation candidates select a name from a parent or grandparent, honoring them for their example of love and holiness.
- Your Confirmation name needs to be the name of a canonized saint.
- You can choose your baptismal name if it is the name of a canonized saint, or you can choose a completely new name.
- PRAY! Just as you should pray about any decision you have to make, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you choose a saint as your patron/patroness.

REMEMBER: Do not choose a name just for the name itself- choose for the story behind the saint and how that saint can help you as you go forward in life.

Make sure your saint is Roman Catholic- just because there is "Saint" in front of the name does not mean he or she is Catholic.

Confirmation Name Report

Due January 13, 2026

At Baptism, you may have been given a Christian name. This baptismal name may be used at Confirmation signifying that Baptism and Confirmation are connected as two steps in the process of becoming an adult Christian. You may, however, wish to choose another name as your Confirmation name. **The name you choose, however, needs to be the name of a canonized saint.**

The name should be picked because it represents the name of a saint that you would like to imitate. The meaning or significance of that name should be the first reason to consider the name.

Only names approved by the Church may be chosen. If in doubt, please check with your teacher or the director before you make your final selection.

To complete your report, you will:

1. Decide upon a Confirmation Name. You may choose to keep your Baptismal name or choose another name.
2. Research the name you choose and write a summary of the saint who has this name. Your report must:
 - a. Include a picture of this saint on your cover page. The cover page must also include your name and class session.
 - b. Explain what virtues this saint is known to have shown.
 - c. Explain how you will model these virtues.
 - d. Explain what obstacles this saint had to overcome during his or her lifetime.
 - e. Explain how this saint witnessed his or her faith.
 - f. Explain how this saint can still be a model for Christians today.
 - g. What about this saint caused you to choose this name as your Confirmation Name?

All these points must be covered in your report for it to be accepted!

Confirmation Name Worksheet

Due: November 11, 2025

Where should I begin to choose a Confirmation name?

There are a variety of books depicting the lives of the saints and a book is a great place to start! Some of the books tell the life story of one saint in particular, and others give a brief story about the lives of numerous saints so you can read about many holy men and women all in one place. Check out your local library or feel free to contact your teacher for help! There are many books about saints in the Religious Education classrooms.

You can also use the internet to research the saints. You can Google a saint name, just be sure you check the source (is it Catholic?). DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA. Here are a few sites to check out that we have found helpful:

<http://saints.sqpn.com/>

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

<https://mycatholic.life/saints/>

Possible Names for Confirmation:

1. _____

What I liked about this saint:

Source: _____

2. _____

What I liked about this saint:

Source: _____

LETTER TO THE PASTOR

Due January 27, 2026

Every student getting confirmed is required to write a *typed* letter requesting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This letter should be free of spelling and grammar errors and have no smudges or use of white out. Your letter is to be written to Fr. Gregory Rothfuchs, Pastor of St. Irene Parish in Warrenville. This format ***must*** be followed while expressing your personal desires in your own words:

Greeting

Begin your letter as follows: *Dear Fr. Gregory Rothfuchs,*

Body of the Letter

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Tell who you are, what you like to do, what is important to you (family, faith, etc.).

Paragraph 2: Request the sacrament of confirmation and explain why you are ready to be confirmed. Show Father that being confirmed matters to you by giving several reasons why you want to be confirmed. Indicate that you are freely choosing to receive the Sacrament.

Paragraph 3: Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, the classes you've attended, people you've encountered, the types of service you have offered, why you chose your particular confirmation Saint, who your sponsor is and why you chose him/her, and so on. Express how your feelings about Confirmation have changed during your Confirmation Preparation years.

Paragraph 4: Tell how you will continue to live out your life of faith after Confirmation. Explain how you will continue your loving service to God and others through the power and grace of the Holy Spirit which you will receive in Confirmation. Explain what you desire God to do in you and in your life through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Elaborate on how you will keep your faith alive in the future (by joining Youth Ministry, joining the choir, being a greeter or usher at Mass on Sundays, maintaining a commitment to daily prayer, continuing to read about your faith, reading the Bible, going on retreats and mission trips etc.).

Paragraph 5: Ask any questions or state any reservations you may have about Confirmation

Conclusion

End your letter with: *Sincerely,*
and write your complete name and add your signature.

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

A Confirmation sponsor **MUST** be:

- A **PRACTICING CATHOLIC*** who has received the **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION** in the Catholic Church - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
- At least 16 years old and mature enough to undertake this responsibility
- A good **CHRISTIAN WITNESS**, willing to give good example to the candidate and also willing to participate in this preparation process

***A PRACTICING CATHOLIC**

- Belongs to a Faith Community - (is registered at a Catholic Church and **PARTICIPATES** and **SUPPORTS** that Church by contributing of their **TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE**)
- Worships God through the **REGULAR** reception of the sacraments - especially through the **EUCCHARIST** and **RECONCILIATION** (someone who does not attend Sunday Mass regularly is **NOT** a practicing Catholic)
- Shows their gratitude to God for all that has been given to him/her by giving of his/her time, talent, and treasure to serve others

Jesus said "Let your light shine before people so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father." Mt. 5:16

A Confirmation Sponsor **MAY** be:

- The Candidate's Baptismal Godparent;
- Either male or female
- A relative (other than a parent), a good friend of the family, a teacher, a catechist, neighbor, etc.

A Confirmation Sponsor may **NOT** be:

- The Candidate's parent

A Confirmation Sponsor **SHOULD** be:

- Someone the candidate likes and admires
- Someone with whom the candidate feels comfortable
- Someone who will talk to a young person about topics of Faith, God, Life and Religion
- Someone who will be there to listen to the candidate

A SPONSOR AFFIDAVIT included in this packet needs to be signed by the sponsor and signed and sealed by the sponsor's Church.

THANK YOU LETTER TO YOUR SPONSOR

Bring to the Candidate/Sponsor Session on February 7, 2026

“GIFTED SPONSORS”

God gives each of us special gifts. Some people have the gift of listening. Others have the gift of teaching. Some have the gift of kindness. No matter what gifts we possess, God calls us to use them to share His message with others.

When we use these gifts, the Spirit reveals in us the Fruits of the Spirit—charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.

You must have recognized some of these gifts in your sponsors.

Write a letter to your sponsor, thanking him/her for using his/her gifts to help build the Body of Christ in their family and parish community. Include at least two gifts you see in your sponsor, tell how you see your sponsor using his/her gifts, write about the fruits you see as a result of his/her work, and thank him/her for doing God’s work.

DRESS CODE POLICY

As every candidate knows, a Sacrament is an outward (visible) sign instituted by Christ to give grace. Therefore, it is important we focus on both the outside appearance and the internal conversion during all of our Sacramental ceremonies.

At the Sacrament of Baptism, we wear special gowns; at the Sacrament of First Communion we wear white dresses or suits; at our Marriage we wear formal gowns or tuxedos. It is with this same consideration that we consider our outward appearance during the Sacrament of Confirmation.

While the church greatly respects the uniqueness and individuality in each of its members, it holds that **modesty** is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and that “Teaching modesty to children and adolescents means awakening in them respect for the human person.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 25234)

It is in this spirit of fostering respect for each other and for sanctity of the Sacrament of Confirmation that we set forth a code of dress consistent with our culture’s view of modesty. Formal or semi-formal, modest attire is appropriate to the solemn beauty of this occasion. The liturgical color for Confirmation is red, to signify the Holy Spirit who confirmed the apostles on Pentecost and gave them courage to practice their faith. Catholics believe that the *same Holy Spirit* confirms us during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives us the same gifts. Confirmation candidates will receive a red stole to wear on Confirmation day.

Young Men Attire:

- Suit or sports coat and dress pants
- Tie and dress shirt
- Dress shoes

Young Women Attire:

- Modest dress, skirt and blouse, pant suit or dress pants and blouse
 - Dress or skirt must be no shorter than one inch above knee
 - Chest, back and shoulders must be covered
 - Dress may not be tight or see through
- A sweater may be provided by the director if the attire is unacceptable
- Dress shoes

When fixing your hair, your forehead must be uncovered for anointing from the Bishop. Please sign and return the dress code acknowledgement by January 14, 2026.

God Bless,
Director of Faith Formation
630-393-2400 x122

DRESS CODE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This is to acknowledge that I have received and read a copy of the Dress Code Policy and I understand that it contains important information regarding the Confirmation ceremony. I agree to abide by the policy.

Teen's Printed Name

Signature

Date

Parent's Printed Name

Signature

Date



Confirmation Registration Form

The following information will be entered into the Parish Confirmation Registry.

Please type or print: NO NICKNAMES

Confirmand's Full Baptismal Name:

Last

First

Middle

Confirmation Saint Name Chosen: _____

Baptismal Information: (COMPLETE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION IS REQUIRED)

Baptized on _____,
(Month) (Day) (Year)

At: _____
(Church Name)

(Street Address)

(City/State/Zip)

Parents' Full Names:

Father: First Middle Last

Mother: First Middle Maiden

Sponsor's Full Name:

First Middle name or Initial Last

Please turn in completed form to your Catechist or to the Religious Education Office by December 16, 2025:

Religious Education Office
St. Irene Parish
28W441 Warrenville Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

Confirmation Sponsor Affidavit



This form is to be completed by the SPONSOR, signed and sealed by HIS/HER PASTOR.

Candidate for Confirmation: _____

Print Candidate's Name

Sponsor's Name:

Address:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Parish where sponsor received the Sacraments of Initiation

Sacrament	Church	City/State
Baptism		
Holy Eucharist		
Confirmation		

Sponsor Testimony

Whereas, I, _____

(Sponsor's first and last name- please print)

- ***I am a baptized member of the Roman Catholic Church.***
- ***I am at least 16 years of age***
- ***I have made my First Holy Communion and received the Sacrament of Confirmation.***
- ***I am a practicing Catholic in good standing.***
- ***I understand and accept the responsibility which I undertake as a sponsor for this person. I will help this person, by example, word, and action; to live as a faithful Christian in communion with, and according to, the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.***

Sponsor's Signature

This is to certify that the person named above is a member of this parish, is a practicing Catholic, and is qualified to act as a Catholic sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Date Pastor's Signature

Name of Church

Affix Seal City/State

Please turn in completed form to your Catechist or to the
Religious Education Office by **January 13, 2026**

Religious Education Office
Warrenville, IL 60555

SERVICE & SPIRITUAL GROWTH FORMS

Forms due March 10, 2026

St. Irene Parish has a rich tradition in service ~ giving to others and making a difference in their lives. During your 8th grade year of Confirmation Preparation, you will exhibit your willingness to give of yourself and share your goodness with others. You have many months to complete the service and spiritual growth opportunities; below are guidelines:

- **You are to perform three different types of service:**
 - **A family service experience**
 - **An individual service experience**
 - **A class service experience**
- You are to perform your service Free of Charge and with a positive, helpful attitude.
- Get signatures as soon as you perform the experience...don't wait!
- Watch for God's presence during your experience!
- Service opportunities should extend outside of your home. As part of a family, you have home responsibilities. We invite you to go beyond your normal call to serve.
- No service credit is given during the school day. As a part of your school community, you have responsibilities. We invite you to go beyond your normal call to serve.
- If you have questions about service opportunities, ask your teacher.

As you mature in faith, you will discover increased responsibilities in this area of your life too. It is not enough that you know about your religion. How do you live your faith? Do you go out of your way to help others? Do you take time to help the people that you see every day? Take time to think about your interests and abilities, your talents and gifts; then think how you can use what God has given you to help others.

Forms should be turned into your teacher as service is completed. Service over the summer between 7th and 8th Grades does count!

In addition to the service opportunities outlined above, students are required to reflect on **4 Spiritual Growth Experiences** each year (not including Sunday or Holy Day Masses). Some of these experiences will happen as a class, such as the Confirmation Retreat, and some will need to be sought out on your own. Examples include; the Parish Advent/Lenten Mission, and monthly First Friday Eucharistic Adoration/Reconciliation/Rosary.

SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE POLICY

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have understood that being a Christian isn't a private matter. We are called to be Christians together; while we can and should engage in the private worship of God throughout the week, our primary form of worship is public and communal, which is why Sunday Mass is so important.

The Catechism teaches: *"The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin."* (CCC 2181)

And further: *Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of reconciliation before coming to Communion.*" (CCC 1385)

Regular attendance at Sunday Mass and regular reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is required of our Confirmation Candidates.

Attendance at Mass will be monitored via the use of weekly Mass Reflection Sheets. These will be different each week and contain a few brief questions reflecting on the Sunday readings. They will be handed out in class each week for the upcoming Sunday, and collected at the following class session.

It is strongly encouraged that this is made into a family assignment each week: parents should work with their child reflecting on the questions and completing the responses.