

DIOCESE OF TULSA & EASTERN OKLAHOMA

CONFIRMATION FAQS

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WHAT CHANGES ARE BEING MADE TO CONFIRMATION?

Preparation for Confirmation will be completed and will be held in the third grade instead of during high school. This change was discerned based on the work of the Diocesan Confirmation Commission which included priests, deacons, catechetical leaders, parents, and diocesan staff reflecting the various parish and school dynamics of the diocese.

2

WHY IS THE AGE BEING CHANGED?

The celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation at the age of reason provides the graces, fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit for children and youth to navigate the modern culture. Furthermore, by celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation with First Communion, the children receive the sacraments parallel to adults in the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. Evangelization and catechetical efforts will better reflect a lifelong journey of faith rather than the “graduation” mindset.

3

HOW ARE PARISHES GOING TO TRANSITION FROM CONFIRMATION AT 16 YEARS OF AGE TO CONFIRMATION IN 3RD GRADE?

The transition from high school to 3rd grade Confirmation may look different in each parish based on the dynamics of the parish community, the number of catechists, size of classroom space, and parish size. The implementation process is anticipated to take five (5) years to ensure all children and youth are Confirmed preceding First Communion. Please contact your parish directly if you have a 3rd grade student or older in need of the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Communion. After 3rd grade, children and youth are expected to continue faith formation.

4

WHAT WILL THE CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROCESS ENTAIL?

The pastor and local parish catechetical leaders will discern how to best prepare children and youth of their parish for the sacrament of Confirmation and First Communion. Confirmand and First Communicants should have an opportunity for a retreat and service. Parents and sponsors should be involved in the sacramental preparation and faith formation processes of their children.

5

I AM A CATECHIST. WHERE CAN I FIND RESOURCES TO TEACH SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION THIS YEAR?

Email the Department of Evangelization & Catechesis Director at religiousformation@dioceseoftulsa.org for a list of resources or for additional assistance.



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HOW CAN I PREPARE MY STUDENT AT HOME FOR CONFIRMATION?

Every family should be attending weekly Sunday Mass and living an active Christian life. Parents play a critical role in the sacramental preparation process. Parents model the commitment to personal prayer, living as disciples themselves, fellowship with other believers, communal worship, and engagement with the life and mission of the parish. Parents are the primary educators of their children. The parish's role is to support the parental efforts of teaching the faith to their children with parental formation, child/ren formation, materials, and resources so as to become missionary disciples.

7

MY CHILD IS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE SCHEDULED CLASSES AT MY PARISH, CAN I JOIN ANOTHER PARISH FOR CONFIRMATION AND FIRST COMMUNION OR PREPARE AT HOME?

If students are unable to attend sacramental preparation offered by their parish, they should contact their Director of Religious Education to discern a path forward to receiving the Sacrament. The sacraments should be celebrated in the Confirmand and/or First Communicant's parish community with their peers.

8

WHO SHOULD MY CHILD CHOOSE AS THEIR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR?

The Church highly recommends the baptismal godparent to more clearly solidify the connection between Baptism and Confirmation. The sponsor should be another adult in the life of the candidate who models the commitment to personal prayer, living as a missionary disciple, fellowshipping with other believers, communal worship, and engagement with the life and mission of the parish. According to Canon Law, the sponsor must be Confirmed, practicing Catholic, and sufficiently mature for this role. Parents cannot be Confirmation sponsors for their own children.

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WHAT WILL STUDENTS BE REQUIRED TO WEAR FOR CONFIRMATION?

Every student, parent, and sponsor should also wear clothing appropriate for Mass.

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WHEN AND WHERE WILL CONFIRMATION BE HELD?

Confirmation and First Communion will take place at each parish. Bishop desires to be in every parish celebrating Mass annually. This Mass can include Confirmation and First Communion. Bishop is open to returning to the parish for the implementation of the policy within the 5 year implementation plan or as required by the dynamics of the parish community. Please note: during the implementation process, Confirmation and First Communion dates may need to be scheduled for weeknights, not just weekends, to accommodate all 78 parishes in the Diocese.

