
Confirmation Requirements

- **Confirmation Information Form:** *Due Wednesday, December 10*
 - If your child **was not** baptized at the Church of St. Joseph, please submit an *official copy* of your child's baptismal record. We must have a new copy (issued within 6 months of our receipt of the certificate) of the baptismal record in order for your child to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. New copies of the Baptismal record can be obtained by calling the parish of Baptism and requesting a copy of the baptismal record to be sent to St. Joseph (attn. Michelle Orso).
- **Sponsor Good Standing Letter:** *Due Wednesday, December 10*
 - The Church requires in canon 874 of the *Code of Canon Law* that the sponsor for Confirmation meet the following requirements:
 - I. Be a registered/practicing Catholic in a parish.
 - II. Have received the sacrament of Confirmation and be at least 16 years old.
 - III. Be willing to take on the responsibility of being a sponsor (i.e. Encouraging the practice of the Faith and providing a good Catholic example).
 - Due to the seriousness of this role, we ask that any sponsor who is not a member of St. Joseph in Red Wing to obtain the signature of his/her pastor.
- **Confirmation Retreat: September 20th**
 - All candidates must attend a retreat through [NET Ministries](#) or a Parish retreat.
 - Please let Michelle Orso know the dates your son or daughter is attending.
 - Registration and more information about NET Ministries, may be found on their [website](#).
 - If unable to attend Net Retreat, contact Michelle asap.
- **Saint Report on the Confirmation Name Saint(confirmation 2):** *Due Wednesday, December 10*
 - Explanation of why you chose this saint to be your confirmation saint – more details available on the website.
 - These essays will be presented to small groups throughout the spring.
- **Letter to the Pastor from the Candidate(Confirmation 2):** *Due Wednesday, December 10*
 - The letter will express the intention of the candidate to receive the sacrament as well as giving 3 reasons why he/she desires to be confirmed.
 - The template for the letter is on the parish website.
- **Letter to the Pastor from the Sponsor(Confirmation 2):** *Due Wednesday, December 10*
 - Each candidate's sponsor must write a letter to the pastor expressing his/her belief that the candidate is prepared to receive the sacrament.
 - The template for the letter is on the parish website.

- **20 Service hours and Report:** *Due Wednesday, March 11*
 - Service hours need to be related to one of the 7 Corporal Works of Mercy or service at the parish.
 - It is highly encouraged that one of the service hours is completed with the sponsor.
 - Service hour forms can be found on the parish website.
- **Interview with the Pastor:** TBD
 - Fr. Brandon Theisen will meet with each candidate.
 - Will include a brief review of what they have learned and why they want to be Confirmed.
- **Parent Meeting**
 - During confirmation class time October 22nd
 - This is a time for Parents to get answers to their questions about Confirmation.



<https://www.stjosephredwing.org/confirmation>

Areas of Readiness

The purpose of the preparation program for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation is to assure the readiness of the candidate. Although it is tempting to determine the readiness of the candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation by simply basing that readiness on age, grade or other quantifiable criteria, there are many factors that need to be included in this assessment. The Church of St. Joseph asks students to show their readiness to receive the sacrament of Confirmation through the areas described below.

Confirmation Small Groups

Confirmation 1 (9th Grade or above) Wednesdays 7:15-8:30

Confirmation 2 (2nd year) Wednesdays 7:15-8:30

Students will meet in small groups according to the calendar to cover topics according to the curriculum in “Chosen” an Ascension publication. There will also be other experiences, prayer and service opportunities that will be incorporated in each year.

Confirmation students are asked to strive for full participation as it is hard to “make up” a group experience. We understand that sometimes there are circumstances out of our control (illness, family emergency, etc) that may keep the student from being able to attend, but we ask that you let Michelle, Faith Formation Coordinator, know of these situations.

Mass

“It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than to do without Holy Mass.”

-St. Pio of Pietrelcina

Confirmation students are expected to be attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. All Saints Day on Wednesday, November 1 can be attended together as a small group, or you can choose to sit with your family. Ash Wednesday is another opportunity to set together as a small group, or again you can attend with your family.

There is monthly “Youth Mass” on Sunday at 9 am. Each Confirmation small group will have an assigned Youth Mass to participate in the readings, petitions, and presenting the gifts to the altar. Please watch for communications throughout the year for other opportunities for participation.

Service Hours

One of the most important lessons Jesus taught us was that we must be willing to be a servant to all people in His name. This means that we must actually DO something to be a disciple of Christ! By doing parish and community service, we demonstrate a willingness to show Christian responsibility to our mission. Candidates should participate in some type of parish and community service individually as well as a family unit.

Service to others does not need to be elaborate or complicated and.... it can be FUN! Baking a plate of cookies for an elderly friend, mowing grass for someone whose health is failing, and helping with a project at a nursing facility serves others as Christ commanded.

A service report is required by April 15, 2026. The service hour sheet is a tool that is intended to help the students think about the importance of their service to others. Please make sure you log your hours and the person receiving the service signs the form.

You may start collecting your service hours during your Confirmation 1 year. You will need to complete **25 hours of service** hours by April 1st of the year you will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Service Hours Defined:

Community (10 Hours): Any “Free” service you do as an individual or as a group to help out the community in which we live. For example: volunteer in one or more non-profit organizations in town, participating on clothing or food drives, service projects done for boy & girl scouts, 4-H, school groups, etc. Working with younger students for which you do not receive any payment.

Church (10 Hours): Any “Free” service you do as an individual or as a group to help out our Church. For example: Serving at Mass, singing in the Choir for Mass, being a reader for Mass. Working at the Pancake Breakfasts, helping during the All-Community Advent and Lent events, helping during the Parish Festival, joining the Green Thumb team during the summer (to take care of the church grounds), etc.

Family (5 Hours): You must give your family 5 hours of “Free” service helping them beyond what are your normal chores. For example: raking leaves, cutting grass, put screens on the house, cook a meal for them, etc. Family can include grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters. Helping your neighbors with chores around their homes also counts towards your family hours.

Other ideas:

- Visit the elderly – in senior citizen center/residences or homes.
- Perform volunteer work in your neighborhood or school.
- Join the Gardening Team (Green Thumb) at St. Joseph's.
- After Mass, straighten books, seats, and kneelers.
- Help a handicapped person or support the family of a handicapped child by playing with or caring for the child.
- Participate in a walk-a-thon to support your favorite charity.
- Contribute your services to the local library or any other non-profit.
- Help a teacher before or after school.
- Visit with and help to take care of someone who is sick.
- Care for lawns, rake leaves or clear the snow for elderly or sick neighbors.
- Do some service for senior citizens or shut-ins in your neighborhood by shopping, gardening or housekeeping.
- Volunteer in a homeless shelter or food pantry
- Contribute your services to the Parish.
- Youth Mass -Altar Attendant, Lector, or Hospitality Minister
- Wrapping presents from the Toy Collection during Christmas

- Others – must be approved by the Religious Education Director.

Written report - Due April 15

- Describe the different service hours performed in the 3 categories.
- What did you learn from the experience?
- What type of service was easiest for you? Which one was the hardest? Why?
- Did this experience help you grow in your faith in any way?

We pray that the Holy Spirit continues to be an active presence in the lives of our young people as they try to do good works for others in Christ's name.

Saint Report – Due December 10th

- For Confirmation 2 Students
- Remembering and praying with Saints has always been an important aspect of the Catholic faith.
- This is an opportunity for you to learn about real people who have taken their faith very seriously and have helped to transform the world because of it.
- Writing a Saint Report will also aid you in selecting a Saint's name for your Confirmation name.
- **1 page, 12 font, double spaced.**
- **Must include this information:**
 - Date of birth/death
 - Where was the saint born? Where did he/she do most of his/her ministry?
 - Important information regarding his/her life.
 - Why is this saint important to you?
 - How do you relate to this saint?
 - What virtues would you like to imitate or grow on?
- The oral report will be presented to the class at a later date.

Why Do Catholics Choose Confirmation Saints?

As we go through the process of sacramental preparation for Confirmation, Confirmation saints are selected to represent someone we aspire to be like, as well as someone who can pray for us from Heaven. When someone is declared a saint by the Church through the process of canonization, the Church is proclaiming that this member of the faithful lived a life of heroic virtue during their time on earth, and “the Church recognizes the power of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors,” as stated in the Catechism (CCC 828).

- Choosing a Confirmation name is an opportunity to choose a name that has special meaning to you, a name that will help you in your journey of faith. By choosing a saint's name, you're asking him or her to pray for you in a special way. Having a special connection to someone in Heaven is a big deal!

Why is a saint name chosen at confirmation?

- Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron saint because of the attractiveness of their Christian life. You will be required to submit a written report of one to two pages on your patron saint (double-spaced).
- When deciding on a Confirmation name, the goal is to pick the name of a saint you admire, can relate to, or aspire to be like. This saint will be bonded to you spiritually and will be your model in life and can be the one you turn to for guidance and protection.

Resources to help you choose your saint's name:

<https://lifeteen.com/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>
<https://catholicsaints.info/>
<https://catholic.org/saints/>
<https://gnm.org/saints-find/>

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

What is a “sponsor”? A sponsor is someone who:

- 1: presents a candidate for baptism or confirmation and undertakes responsibility for the person's religious education or spiritual welfare.
- 2: assumes responsibility for some other person or thing.

The Role of the Sponsor:

The sponsor is responsible for seeing that the one confirmed lives as a true witness to Christ and fulfills faithfully the obligations connected with the sacrament. On the day of the Confirmation the sponsors bring their candidates to receive the sacrament, present them to the bishop for anointing, and later help them fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received.

Church requirements to be considered as a sponsor:

To be qualified to be chosen as a Confirmation sponsor an individual must:

- 1) Be at least sixteen years old (by date of Confirmation)
- 2) Have been initiated in the Catholic Church through the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist and be in good standing with the Church
- 3) Display a visible commitment to living out the Catholic faith and have the ability and intention to carry out his/her responsibility as a spiritual guide in your life.

Other considerations when selecting a Confirmation sponsor:

- A sponsor CANNOT be a parent of the one to be confirmed.
 - Each Confirmand may only choose ONE sponsor. Because the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are so closely connected, Church teaching states that it is “desirable that the godparent at Baptism also be the sponsor at Confirmation”, however you have the freedom to choose a different person.
 - If your sponsor is unable to attend the actual Sacrament of Confirmation, another adult (including a parent), may stand in his/her place as a proxy. The name of your sponsor will still be noted in the official Church record of your Confirmation.
- ◆ Your sponsor should be willing and able to participate in your formation for Confirmation.
 - ◆ The person you choose as your sponsor should be someone that you admire and respect and who actively lives out the beliefs of our Catholic faith.
 - ◆ Your sponsor should be someone that you trust and feel comfortable turning to for help, advice and guidance, especially in regard to your spiritual life.
 - ◆ Your sponsor should be someone who, through his/her example, shows you what it means to be Catholic and who will take an active role in your preparation for Confirmation.
 - ◆ After you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation your relationship with your sponsor DOES NOT END! You both are called to lead each other closer to God, to continue to grow in knowledge of your faith, and to challenge one another to lead lives of holiness and service.
 - ◆ PRAY! Spend some time asking God for guidance.

Confirmation Sponsor Form

Return To:
Kristin Bray or Lynette Pearson, Lead Catechists

Candidate Information:

Full Name: _____

Cell Number: _____

Email address: _____

Sponsor Information:

Full Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Candidate, please answer the following questions:

What is your relationship with your sponsor? How do you know each other?

Why did you choose this person to be your sponsor?

Mandatory Retreats

We have two retreats a year:

1. The NET Ministries retreat is for grades 6th – 12th. All confirmation students are expected to participate in this retreat. Please note the date for the retreat is September 20th. The retreat will take place at the Holy Trinity Church in Goodhue MN, from 10am-7pm.
2. In the future Michelle will plan and lead a retreat for all Confirmation students to attend at the Church of Saint Joseph. This will be planned next year and will be a yearly on-site Confirmation retreat. The retreat will be manageable for all students and will fulfill the Retreat requirement.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE COMMITMENT

*“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil,
to give you a future of hope.”*

-Jeremiah 29:11

As a baptized Catholic, I am preparing for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which I will be more perfectly bound to the Catholic Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith as a witness of Christ.

As a candidate for Confirmation, I promise the following:

- ❖ I will approach my Confirmation journey with an open mind and an open heart.
- ❖ I will attend and will fully participate in all Confirmation classes and activities including the Confirmation Mass on Tuesday, April 28 at the Cathedral of St. Paul (unless other arrangements are made ahead of time).
- ❖ I will be respectful of the leaders and facilitators of the program and show appreciation for their time and effort by turning in forms and participating in group discussions.
- ❖ I will show respect to those in my class who are on the journey with me.
- ❖ I will attend Mass every Sunday and on all holy days of obligation.
- ❖ I will receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before my Confirmation.
- ❖ I will accept more responsibility in my family, parish, and community by putting my talents and gifts at the service of others, to serve as Jesus did.
- ❖ I will commit to personal prayer, praying especially for growth in faith, hope and love.

As I make these promises, I ask God to give me the grace to be open to his plans for my life-plans he reveals to me in prayer, in my talents and aspirations, and in the encouragement of those who know and love me.

Name of Candidate (Print)

Signature of Candidate

Date

Witnessed by: Signature of Candidate's Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s)

