

FORMATION GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH 2016-2017



*God has revealed to us
through the Spirit.*

1 Cor 2:10

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a “sacrament of initiation” along with Baptism and Eucharist. It completes, confirms and strengthens baptismal grace and communion with the Church, by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation obliges the disciple to take on the responsibility of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Who Gets Confirmed?

One must be baptized, have received Eucharist, and be in a “state of grace.”

At Christ the King, the Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in the eighth grade; however preparation begins in the 7th grade. Since every Catholic Christian should receive Confirmation, anyone who has not been confirmed by the 8th grade is encouraged to contact the Coordinator or Sacramental Preparation. Opportunities for adults and high school students wishing to be prepared for this sacrament are available.

Why Get Confirmed?

- *Confirmation connects us to a larger community.*
- *We receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*
- *The Spirit moves us to imitate the love and service of Christ and the saints.*
- *At Confirmation, we recommit to participate in the Church’s work and mission.*
- *The Holy Spirit inspires us to Gospel action that includes human development and work to end injustice.*
- *It calls us to share Christ’s mission to promote life and dignity with God and with all people.*

When is Confirmation?

We will learn that information from the Bishop’s Office

-Who can prepare for Confirmation at Christ the King Parish?

Confirmation Policy

a. Those students who have been enrolled in the Christ the King Religious Education Program or Christ the King school for at least one year OR students who been enrolled in a parish religious education program or Catholic school for at least one year will be placed in the Confirmation preparation program provided by the Religious Education Program or

Christ the King School. The preparation for Confirmation is just part of the year long curriculum for 7th grade and part of the 8th grade curriculum.

b. Children who are being home schooled in the 7th grade and have notified the parish.

c. Discretion of the Religious Formation Team will be used for each child who has *not* been consistently enrolled in a parish religious education program or Catholic school in order to best foster his or her spiritual and catechetical needs.

(Effective July, 2007)

Necessities for Confirmation

- **Baptismal Certificate.**-To be eligible to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, one must be baptized and have received First Reconciliation and First Eucharist.
- **Candidates need to contact the parish where they were baptized, and they will send a copy of your baptismal certificate to Christ the King.**

Parents and students must affirm and indicate when and where the student received First Eucharist and First Reconciliation.

Those baptized at Christ the King may indicate the date they were baptized, and parish records can be checked, without the need for requesting a copy of the certificate.

Permission from pastor in writing must be granted from where you are registered, unless you are registered member of Christ the King.

- **Registration Form and fee- This is different from the Religious Education registration form.** This information is for our records. The fee helps cover the costs of the text book, retreat and certificates.
- **State of Grace-** To be in a “state of grace” means that one is free from serious sin, which is why the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be celebrated just prior to the reception of Confirmation. One also must be prepared for Confirmation and make a free and conscious decision to receive Confirmation. Sacramental grace cannot be forced, and it cannot be earned. The grace of God is a free gift. Confirmation marks the full flowering of baptismal initiation with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Discernment and prayer should be a daily habit that is developed more fully through this process. Candidates should also remain faithful to celebrating the Eucharist on Sundays and Holy Days.
- **Sponsor-** it is most appropriate that Confirmation sponsors should be the candidate’s godparents. This would best exemplify the unity of Confirmation to Baptism, as well as to Eucharist, in initiating the candidate into the life of the Church.

Sponsors walk the journey toward Confirmation with the candidate and witness that the candidates are fully prepared and are freely choosing to receive the sacrament. According to Canon Law and the diocesan sacramental guidelines, sponsors must

- a) Be a baptized, confirmed and *practicing* Catholic
- b) If married, then married in the Catholic Church
- c) Not be a parent of the candidate

It is the policy of Christ the King Parish that sponsors must be 16 years of age or older. Exceptions will be considered only in writing and only by the Pastor (policy effective November 1999).

Sponsors are required to fill out the “**Sponsor Certificate**” form, which includes having the pastor or a pastoral team member from the sponsor’s parish sign the back of the form, which attests that the prospective sponsor is a registered, active and practicing member of his/her parish. **For easy identification of this record, we have made in red.**

Sponsors will be asked to participate in Confirmation events, such as retreats, service projects, etc. with their candidates. Since address information is not collected on the sponsors, it is the responsibility of the candidates to notify their sponsors regarding their active involvement in the Confirmation program. All effort will be made to plan these events well in advance; however, a proxy may represent those sponsors, who cannot attend such events.

- **Confirmation Name**-it is the tradition in the Catholic Church that when a young person is Confirmed they choose a Confirmation Name. It is intended to allow the student an opportunity to choose a name that reflects someone they would like to emulate after the reception of the Sacrament. We are asking the students this year to choose a Saint whom they admire for their holiness in this life. We ask the following:
 - The student writes a one-page paper on the saint whom they selected for their name.**
 - The student should give a brief biography about the saint. (When did they live? What was life like during the time they lived? Why they were named a Saint by the Catholic Church?)**
 - The student should articulate why they chose that particular saint and the qualities that they admire about that saint.**
 - The student should also articulate how they would like to emulate that saint in their own lives.**

Catechesis-

“All members of the Church are called to engage actively in a new evangelization of the world... It entails motivating members toward permanently integrating a truly Christian spirituality into the personal, political, economic and social aspects of life and toward acting in favor of social justice. This evangelization is realized in four stages: the 3rd stage called post-baptismal catechesis is to extend and fortify the believers’ relationship to Christ and the Church. Through reflection, instruction, and prayer, Christians are led to a deeper understanding of and active participation in liturgical worship and a life of charity and justice...this source of catechesis is the Word of God revealed by Jesus Christ. All catechesis draws its content from this living source, transmitted in Scripture and Tradition. Together, they make the revelation of Christ present, active and fruitful in the Church. The aim of catechesis is to lead believers to a deeper knowledge and love of Christ and the Church and a firm commitment to follow him. Jesus Christ is at the heart of all catechesis. The fundamental task of catechesis is, therefore, to form disciples of Christ and to send them forth in mission. Following the example of Jesus the Teacher, catechesis encompasses six diverse yet interlocking tasks, as described by the General Directory for Catechesis:

1. Catechesis promotes knowledge of faith.
2. Catechesis promotes meaningful participation in liturgical worship and the sacramental life of the Church.
3. Catechesis integrates moral formation into a Christian way of life.

4. Catechesis teaches Christians how to pray with Christ, in Christ, and in communion with the Church.
5. Catechesis initiates the Christian into the life of the local church community and foster active participation in the mission of the Church.
6. Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares Christians to witness to Christ in society.

These six tasks of catechesis constitute a unified whole. While each task realizes the goal of catechesis, all of the tasks are interdependent. For catechesis to be effective, no task should be separated from the rest.”

-Summary of the National Directory for Catechesis

The Components of Confirmation Catechetical Formation at Christ the King Parish follow these six tasks of Catechesis.

1. *Classroom-* promotes the knowledge of faith, promotes meaningful participation in liturgical worship and the sacramental life of the Church teaches Christians how to pray with Christ, in Christ, and in communion with the Church.
2. *Sponsor participation-* promotes the knowledge of faith, helps the candidate integrate moral formation into a Christian way of life, and teaches candidates how to pray with Christ, in Christ, and in communion with the Church.

Confirmation Sponsor/Handbook- the Confirmation/Student handbook is designed to help the sponsor mentor the candidate in the faith. However, both the candidate and sponsor learn from the discussions that the questions in the book pose. It is patterned after the textbook used and questions coincide with each chapter. The teacher will assign particular questions from each chapter to be completed with the Sponsor.

3. *Outside of the classroom activities-*promotes meaningful participation in the liturgical worship and the sacramental life of the Church; teaches Christians how to pray with Christ, in Christ, and in communion with the Church; initiates the Christian into the life of the local church community and foster active participation in the mission of the Church.

Outside of the classroom activities and events- These events provide an opportunity to further the Candidates’ formation in prayer, catechesis and reflection. These are opportunities for the candidates to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation within the context of the larger Church community. Sponsors are asked to attend these dates with the Candidate. If a Sponsor cannot attend, we ask that a parent take their place.

4. *Retreat-* promoting the knowledge of faith, promotes meaningful participation in the liturgical worship and the sacramental life of the Church; teaches Christians how to pray with Christ, in Christ, and in communion with the Church; initiates the Christian into the life of the local church community and foster active participation in the mission of the Church.

Retreat Experience- Diocesan guidelines for Confirmation state, “a retreat is to be included as part of the Confirmation program.” In keeping with this and with our desire to acclimate the candidates to the value of retreat experiences as opportunities for prayer, community and discernment, all candidates are *required* to participate in the Confirmation retreat appropriate to each Confirmation group. **If a student cannot come on the date** scheduled, it is up to the child and parent to contact the Coordinator of Sacramental Preparation in order for arrangements to be made for another retreat experience, possibly through another parish.

5. *Service*- Catechesis initiates the Christian into the life of the local church community and foster active participation in the mission of the Church. Catechesis promotes a missionary spirit that prepares Christians to witness to Christ in society.

See service packet for complete information regarding service expectations.

As mentioned above, regular and active participation in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is expected of all Confirmation candidates, as it is for all Catholics. We especially urge Confirmation candidates to make the Sunday Eucharist an opportunity for spiritually preparing oneself for receiving Confirmation. If one's family has gotten away from regular Mass attendance, we strongly encourage everyone to renew their commitment to our Lord's Supper.

- **Sacramental Preparation Fee-** To defray the costs of the retreat and other materials, we ask that a \$40 per student Confirmation fee be paid when the candidate registers for the Confirmation program. If you are unable to pay this fee, please contact the Coordinator of Sacramental Preparation.
- **Prayer-**the power of prayer is incomprehensible. Please pray for your child preparing for Confirmation everyday, that they may be open to the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit, now and always. *Novena booklets will be given to each candidate and sponsor as the Confirmation Liturgy approaches.*