



2020-2021

**Sacrament of Confirmation Handbook
Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church**

Fr. Patrick Hipwell – Pastor
Katie Schaitberger – Faith Formation Director

Confirmation Check List 2020-2021

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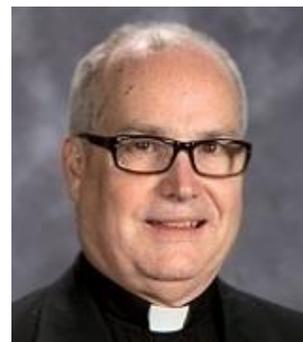


NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Confirmation Candidates,

This is an important time in your faith development. This year will be devoted to helping you grow in your understanding of our Catholic Faith. Preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation involves prayer, service, and a commitment to a deeper relationship with God.

There are many people who will be supporting you on this journey – first and foremost your parents. Their decision to baptize you and raise you in the Catholic faith was a gift given to you long ago. They, along with your Godparents, made a commitment to help you grow in God’s loving care each day. Your teachers, your family and our parish priests will also play a key role offering prayers and support for you as you prepare for your Confirmation next fall. Finally, by prayerfully considering and choosing a sponsor, you are identifying another person who will actively assist you in your preparation process for Confirmation and beyond.



Confirmation is not the end of the journey – but rather the beginning of a new, more mature relationship with God and the Catholic Church. Once confirmed, you will be considered adult members of our Catholic Church. You will be invited and encouraged to consider serving our parish in active ministry, through on-going service, and prayer.

We will support you on this journey and trust that you will come to an even greater realization of the unconditional love of God for all of us. Thank you for sharing this important time in your faith development with us.

Sincerely,

Fr. Patrick Hipwell
Pastor



A message from the Director of Faith Formation...

*As you know, each year - each generation - holds its own unique challenges and triumphs, and how clear that is in 2020! We are excited for our incoming class of confirmandi because each year, God's answer to our hurting world's needs is **a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit**, that is always as new, surprising, and unique as the young men and women who say "yes" to him! --Katie*

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation is one of the three “sacraments of initiation,” along with Baptism and the Eucharist. It is therefore intimately linked with those other two, giving us **strength** to live our baptismal call to holiness, and **gifts** (called charisms) to grow even more conformed to Jesus in the Eucharist. Both of these blessings come as the young disciple experiences being embraced by the Church and propelled toward their vocation – marriage, priesthood, or religious life.

Confirmation focuses on the Spirit, outpoured on the Christian in Baptism. It celebrates the presence of the Spirit within them and intensifies His gifts and their response. It increases their faith, love, and courage. It **empowers** them to work for God's kingdom in **service**.

There is no uniform age for the reception of Confirmation; however, one aspect of the sacrament that is receiving particular emphasis in this age of the Church is the personal choice to our baptismal faith. Thus, we usually celebrate the sacrament at Nativity in the eighth grade, when the young men and women are particularly suited to be strengthened by their commitment to the faith which they received in Baptism.

The Confirmation preparation program at Nativity is the combined effort of Nativity School, the Nativity Faith Formation Program and our Pastor and Parochial Vicar. Its purpose is to prepare our young people for the sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation is usually completed in seventh grade with the Confirmation taking place the following fall. The Nativity Faith Formation program also offers special classes for those not confirmed in eighth grade.

Catechesis for this sacrament takes place within the parish community which has an obligation to participate in the catechetical preparation of those to be confirmed. Parents and sponsors are asked to be intimately involved in catechesis for Confirmation. This involvement will renew and strengthen their own faith.

Candidate Responsibility

The purpose of the Confirmation preparation program is to help candidates grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith. We are proud to see the witnesses to Christ that they will become, and if they are to witness to the Gospel in word and deed, they need a “real-life” working knowledge and personal experience of what that Gospel is. Thus, the period of formation before the celebration of the sacrament is an important time in the sacramental process. It is not easy! Full and authentic reception of the sacrament demands full and actual participation in the process leading to the reception of the sacrament. This will require real commitment. Students who miss a session will need to complete make up work and if more than 4 sessions are missed, Confirmation may be delayed.

Students who choose to participate in the Confirmation preparation program at Nativity will be expected to fulfill certain requirements:

Class Participation

Confirmation is a sacrament of being bound to Jesus *together with a group of fellow disciples*, through a particular parish that belongs to the universal Church. The apostles received the Holy Spirit when they were *gathered together, staying faithful to the Word*. The confirmation classroom is our time of being forged together as a band of disciples at the Master’s feet, both when we find His lessons fun and interesting, and when they take hard mental work and engagement. Class time is vital to the forging of the bond of discipleship and cannot be dispensed. Gaps in attendance can constitute an obstacle to fruitful reception of the sacrament, and that is why we are so committed to our students coming together.

Choosing a Sponsor

The sponsor should be mature enough to embrace their Catholic Faith and lead a young person on their faith journey. This may be your child’s Godparent if they have continued to be active in your child’s spiritual life or another adult with whom your child feels comfortable and willing to speak about their faith journey. We recommend a sponsor who lives locally who is likely to be able to meet with your child for the four required meetings and to be present at the Confirmation liturgy. (See additional requirements on next page.)

Covenant Mass

A special liturgy, the Covenant Mass, marks the ceremonial beginning of your child’s sacramental preparation. This liturgy gathers all those preparing for the sacrament in our parish, along with their parents and Confirmation sponsors to pray that this spiritual journey will be marked by growth in their relationship with God. The students will make a commitment, or covenant, that they will strive to prepare their hearts to receive this important sacrament during their eighth-grade year. **In 2020, this is still to be determined if we will be able to host this special Mass. We will provide more information as it becomes available.**

Service Projects

Christian love is manifested in service to other people. Jesus came as one who serves. He declared that, at the end of time, He will judge how well we have served Him in other people. A vital part of each candidate’s preparation for living a full Christian life is developing the habit of service. Our goal is to help our young people learn to serve others with a generous joyful heart. Each candidate will be expected to complete 30 hours of service divided among parish, family, and community. A written reflection of the service project will be required. Students will need to keep a log of hours served; we have provided a template that can be used. (See additional page for requirements.)

Confirmation Saint Name

Each candidate will be invited to choose a Confirmation name. The Archbishop has requested that all Confirmation candidates choose the name of a real, legitimate saint who is well known to that individual. It may be the saint of one's baptismal designation, or a saint whose life is an example to follow. The saint chosen should link the candidate with the communion of saints in heaven with whom we worship God, the Father, every time we participate in the Mass. The Archbishop has asked the candidates 'to pray, study, and choose a saint in whom he or she can place their confidence not just for today, but for many years to come.' Candidates will do research and report on what their names mean and something about the saint represented by that name. (See additional page for requirement)

Prayer

The sacrament of Confirmation is a deepening of one's relationship to Christ. Prayer is an expression and a living out of that relationship. As one deepens one's relationship to Christ, prayer deepens. Growth in both personal and liturgical prayer, especially participation in the Sunday Liturgy is a requirement of this program. We realize that you may need to attend virtually during the pandemic.

Confirmation Retreat

Spending a day on retreat during the preparation for Confirmation helps the candidates in many ways. It underlines the seriousness of the step they are about to take, and it provides time and space for them to reflect on their commitment and their relationship with Christ. It allows them time to pray, to speak to God and listen to Him concerning their spiritual lives. It unites the group in a community of faith and love, and it helps them prepare for Confirmation. This retreat will take place next fall as one of the final steps of preparation for the sacrament – date is yet to be determined. Students will be invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the Confirmation liturgy.

Confirmation Vigil

As part of our long-time tradition, the night before Confirmation, we have our Confirmation Vigil. All students and their sponsors, along with family are asked to participate. More information will come throughout the year to families.

Reception of Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on students in the fall of their 8th grade year. The exact date will be released to families when we are notified from the Archdiocese. Confirmation takes place at the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

The Role of The Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor should play an important role in preparing the candidate for Confirmation, is required to participate in the Confirmation ceremony, and should serve as a guide and role model afterward in the lifelong journey toward Christ. Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, fittingly seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. To emphasize the unity of the two sacraments, it is appropriate that this be one of the baptismal godparents. Although one of the Confirmation candidate's godparents is the ideal, this is not the only choice. (CCC 1311)

Like the godparents chosen at Baptism, sponsors "must be firm believers, able and ready to help (the Confirmed) on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function... bearing some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism." (CCC 1255) Sponsors also share in the responsibility for the salvation of the young soul entrusted to them. Because our life on earth is "a pilgrimage to the Father which takes place primarily in the heart" (Pope John Paul II, The Trinity's Embrace), the sponsor should be a Catholic who loves and lives his or her faith and continues to grow in the knowledge of the Catholic faith. This is evident in a person who spends time in daily prayer and frequent encounters with Jesus in the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. Consequently, the sponsor's heart reflects the tender and affectionate love of the hearts of Jesus and Mary and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, providing a living example of joyful Christian life.

Specifically, sponsors must:

1. Commit the time to help prepare the student for Confirmation during their 7th and 8th grade years.
2. Meet four times with the student and discuss questions found on the next several pages of packet.
3. Write a letter of support sharing why the student is ready for Confirmation. A template of this letter can be found on our website if desired.
4. Participate in at least one service experience with the student.
5. Attend special Confirmation liturgies including:
 - a. Covenant Mass (Fall of 7th Grade) *TBD if this is able to happen in 2020.*
 - b. Confirmation Vigil (Fall of 8th Grade)
 - c. Confirmation Liturgy at Cathedral of St. Paul (Fall of 8th Grade)
6. Attend Mass with the student when possible.
7. Make themselves available to guide the Confirmed after Confirmation.
8. Encourage the Confirmed to practice their faith by frequenting the sacraments, serving as good examples to society, and living up to their commitment to spread and defend the faith.

Sponsor Requirements

In accord with Canon Laws 874 and 892, the Sponsor is asked to provide the following information. If you have any questions, please call the Director of Faith Formation at 651-696-5441.

1. A sponsor must be fully initiated into the Roman Catholic Church.
2. A sponsor must be at least 16 years old.
3. A sponsor cannot be a parent of the child to be confirmed.
4. A sponsor must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.
5. A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic. *(Please refer the Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 2041-2043 for further explanation about the Precepts of the Church).*

Candidate/Sponsor Meeting Information

Students are asked to complete the meeting log of the four meetings with their sponsor. This replaces what has been called our “faith sharing program” in past Confirmation years. We have given candidates and sponsors each a set of questions to ask one another during their four meetings. Students are asked to write a reflection after each meeting to summarize their visit. This reflection should work to answer the questions below and can be 1-2 pages in length, please include the date and location of the meeting with your sponsor. It is OK to meet via Zoom or telephone if you are unable to meet in person.

Meeting #1 – Complete By: October 21, 2020

Candidates Ask Sponsor:

1. At what age did you get Confirmed?
2. What do you remember about getting Confirmed?
3. What did you like about Confirmation and what did you not understand?
4. How has the Holy Spirit played a role in your life?
5. Since getting Confirmed what has been your most influential faith moment?
6. Did you choose a Confirmation saint? Do you have a favorite Saint?

Sponsors Ask Candidate:

1. What was your relationship with God like when you were growing up?
2. What have been some impactful moments of faith in your life so far?
3. What have been some of the struggles you have experienced in life and/or your faith?
4. Have you thought about your Confirmation Saint?
5. How can you make time for prayer in your life right now? When do you pray? Where do you pray? How do you pray?
 - a. Possible Prayer Idea: Every week we make a profession of faith in the words of the Nicene Creed. These are the beliefs of our faith. Read over the creed. Christians of every century have held strongly to these beliefs. Some have even given up their lives to defend them. Why are these important to you?

Meeting #2 – Completed By: December 2, 2020

Candidates Ask Sponsor:

1. When did you get baptized? Were you a baby or did you go through RCIA?
2. How did you first learn about what it means to be Catholic?
3. What does it mean to be Catholic for you?
4. How has the Catholic faith strengthened and nourished you?
5. How has your appreciation of the Mass changed for you over your life? Was there a time when you did not like going to Mass? Do you like going to Mass now? And Why?

Sponsors Ask Candidate:

1. How do you feel about your relationship with God right now?
2. How have things been going with your prayer life?
3. How do you feel about getting Confirmed?
4. Look up together the definition of a sacrament. What is it? Name the seven sacraments and discuss your experiences with each sacrament.

Meeting #3 – Completed By: March 3, 2021

Candidates Ask Sponsor:

1. What does “forgiveness” mean to you? How does this understanding of forgiveness help you with the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
2. What has been your experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Has it been a rewarding experience for you?
3. Do you have a favorite place and time to pray? Describe a time when it was challenging to pray and a time when you really felt God’s presence.
4. In what ways have being Christian shaped your life?
5. Describe a time when you felt really close to God.

Sponsors Ask Candidate:

1. How do you feel about your relationship with God right now?
2. When has it been most difficult to find Christ in your life?
3. How do you feel about getting Confirmed?
4. What are the spiritual and corporal works of mercy? How can you and your candidate work together to complete the Works of Mercy?
5. Do you see your plans for service as closely related to one or more of the spiritual or corporal works of mercy? If so, which one(s)? Explain

Meeting #4 – Completed By: April 28, 2021

Candidates Ask Sponsor:

1. Who has been a good role model for you? How has this person taught you or shown you what it means to be Catholic? How has this person deepened your faith?
2. In what areas would you like to see growth in your Catholic faith?
3. What is your favorite Scripture passage, verse or story? Why?
4. What advice would you give to a Confirmation candidate about ?
5. What is the greatest challenge of being Catholic? What is the best thing about being Catholic?

Sponsors Ask Candidate:

1. How do you feel about your relationship with God right now?
2. How have things been going with your prayer life?
3. How do you feel about getting Confirmed?
4. Look up 1 Corinthians 13: 1 - 13 and read it aloud. Evaluate each other on it. How well do you love? Reread 1 Corinthians 13: 4 - 7, but this time say your own name wherever it lists the word "love."
5. What are you doing to show you are really interested in being a member of this faith community and that you are serious about getting Confirmed?
6. What are your most recent efforts of service to your parish?

Service Hour Information

“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 obligated to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” (CCC 1285)

Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Christ who came to serve. When giving in service, the following points should be considered:

- It is selflessly and lovingly helping those in need. Your service is not just a job to be done.
- We should reflect on how our service project is helping us take on the mind and heart of Christ, fulfill the needs of others, and build up the Christian Community.
- The giving of service should continue after Confirmation, and all through life.
- As parents, we should encourage and invite our children to develop this “way” of service so that it may grow throughout their lives. This is one of the duties that we are called to do: to guide our children to come to know, love and to serve God.

Student Reminder: Some of these service projects are going to make you uncomfortable. Pray for compassion and patience and hope in becoming more like Jesus. One of the purposes of service hours is that you learn about yourself (sometimes you will be proud of what you’ve learned, other times you will be disappointed.) You are maturing, and with maturity comes responsibility. Be a good example by helping others discover Jesus through you and the way you behave and live.

Types of Service

We know that opportunities for service are different for each student. If you are feeling like you do not have enough opportunities to serve in one category or another, please let us know!

Service Hour Requirement

Students are required to complete 30 hours of service from the beginning of summer their 7th Grade Year and completed by the end of their 7th Grade Year. There are three categories of service we ask you to complete:

1. 10 Hours for Community
2. 10 Hours for Church
3. 10 Hours for Family

We realize that it may be difficult to get in hours during a pandemic. We are asking everyone to do their best to fulfill the service hours and we will work with everyone on a case by case basis if you are not able to achieve the hour limit in each category.

All hours are to be recorded in the Service Hour Log and turned in by August 31, 2021. A short one to two-page reflection paper is also due at that time to summarize the service you have been a part of.

Service Reflection Paper

The one to two-page Service Reflection Paper should answer the following questions:

- Explain how your service hours contributed to family, community, or Church.
- What did you learn by giving this service?
- Where did you see Christ in your service?

Papers should be turned in by August 31, 2021.



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CATHOLIC CHURCH

CONFIRMATION SERVICE LOG

PROJECT DESCRIPTION _____

Date _____ Time spent on project _____

Type of Service (Circle one) FAMILY PARISH/SCHOOL COMMUNITY

What good came from your service?

PROJECT DESCRIPTION _____

Date _____ Time spent on project _____

Type of Service (Circle one) FAMILY PARISH/SCHOOL COMMUNITY

What good came from your service?

PROJECT DESCRIPTION _____

Date _____ Time spent on project _____

Type of Service (Circle one) FAMILY PARISH/SCHOOL COMMUNITY

What good came from your service?



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CATHOLIC CHURCH

CONFIRMATION SERVICE LOG

PROJECT DESCRIPTION _____

Date _____ Time spent on project _____

Type of Service (Circle one) FAMILY PARISH/SCHOOL COMMUNITY

What good came from your service?

PROJECT DESCRIPTION _____

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Type of Service (Circle one) FAMILY PARISH/SCHOOL COMMUNITY

What good came from your service?

PROJECT DESCRIPTION _____

Date _____ Time spent on project _____

Type of Service (Circle one) FAMILY PARISH/SCHOOL COMMUNITY

What good came from your service?

Confirmation Saint Name

Why do we choose a “Confirmation Name”?

Within the Christian tradition, names hold great meaning. For example, Jesus gave his disciple Simon the name “Peter”, which literally meant “rock”, as a foreshadowing of Simon becoming the foundation, or rock, of the Church. Historically, people preparing for Confirmation chose a new name to symbolize this new chapter of their life in Christ. Choosing a Confirmation name is a great honor and allows you to choose a name that means something to you as you are now.

What kind of name should I choose?

Archbishop Hebda has asked that it be the name of a Saint from the canon of the Catholic Church. These are all different kinds of people whose exceptional lives of holiness have been officially recognized by the Church. They each boldly witnessed God’s love for the world in a unique way – so look for someone you relate to and/or are inspired by. You may wish to choose the patron saint of a particular area of interest. Patron saints are chosen as special protectors or guardians over areas of life – occupations, illnesses, causes – anything that is important to us. For example, Saint Francis de Sales was a writer, so he is patron of journalists.

Guidelines from our Bishops

Candidates may use their baptismal name or another Christian name when receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

- A Christian name would be the name of a saint or blessed.
- Derivatives of names (Kelly for Catherine; Jenna for Genevieve) or Old Testament names are also appropriate.
- Candidates may use their first or second names if they are Christian names, or they may select a new Christian name.
- Exceptions can be made if a particular non-Christian or family name has significant meaning for a candidate that can be articulated to the bishop.
- Most importantly, candidates should be encouraged to learn about their patron as part of their preparation for the sacrament and should particularly focus on the virtues of their patron they wish to emulate.

→ - - - - -
Nativity of Our Lord Confirmation Name Form 2020-2021

Legal First Name

Legal Middle Name

Legal Last Name

Chosen Confirmation Name

Example:

[Therese

Saint Named After

Saint Therese of Lisieux]

Confirmation Name Reflection Questions 2020-2021

- ❖ This paper should be written in the style of journal entry.
- ❖ Please type. No need to write more than a page.

1. Which Saint did you choose to be named after?
 - a. If there are multiple saints by that name, make it clear which one you mean. (If the Saint has a subtitle (such as “Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower of Jesus”), include it because that will help clarify who you are talking about.)
 - b. Where did he or she live?
 - c. During what time period did he or she live?
 - d. What were some significant things he or she did?

2. Why did you choose this Saint?
 - a. Is he or she the patron of something personally relevant to you?
 - b. What about his or her life inspired you?
 - c. Is this Saint’s name a family name?

3. Name a few positive characteristics (virtues) that this Saint exemplified. (i.e. courage, compassion, perseverance, etc.)

4. Why do you need those same virtues today?