

Our Lady of Lourdes

Confirmation Information Packet

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Overview

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes the process of full initiation into the Church begun in Baptism. Through the outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, the person who is Confirmed in the faith seeks to be more fully conformed to Christ. Preparation for the sacrament reflects both a desire and a commitment to grow in one's relationship to the Holy Trinity and the community of the Church.

The expectations of our Confirmation process are fairly straightforward and simple: they are liturgical, ministerial, spiritual and educational.

Liturgical:

Since Confirmation is meant to coincide with a time in our life when we take more personal responsibility for our own lives, we expect that candidates for this sacrament will be regular communicants at the Sunday Eucharist. This is so fundamental to our understanding of Confirmation as Catholics that one who does not regularly and actively participate at Mass and receive Holy Communion should seriously question whether he or she is ready for this sacrament. The bedrock of our Confirmation catechesis is Sunday Mass and we expect our candidates to attend Mass every Sunday [or Saturday vigil] during their formation period. It is the responsibility of the candidate to obtain the signature of the priest or Confirmation team member on their attendance sheet.

Ministerial:

Since the Eucharist propels us weekly to Christian service and ministry, it is expected that candidates for Confirmation involve themselves in ongoing service to the Church and the world. Such ministry or service is perhaps best construed as a kind of apprenticeship in the Christian life. Ideally, it should be performed in the company of others and, wherever possible, with the collaboration of the candidate's sponsor and other older parishioners. Our Confirmation team and parish staff will be happy to discuss various ministerial options with you. Concretely, we will expect that candidates keep a journal of each service / ministerial opportunity describing the experience and reflecting on what the candidate has learned. The journal is due by January 10th.

Spiritual:

Candidates for Confirmation are expected to grow in prayer as they deepen their sense of God and spirituality. Some consistent form of prayer each day is strongly recommended whether that be reading from the Bible for fifteen minutes, centering prayer exercises or prayer in the morning and/or evening. There will be a retreat on January 14th through 15th and attendance is mandatory. We are open to other retreats offered by other parishes in the Seattle Archdiocese with the approval of the Youth Minister.

It should be noted that all candidates for Confirmation, no matter what their educational option [see below] are expected to fulfill the above liturgical, ministerial and spiritual requirements.

Educational:

Since Confirmation initiates us into a lifelong process of Christian living, learning and maturation, candidates are to purposefully advance their knowledge of the faith. This can be done through regular study with the candidate's sponsor or through high school youth group which meets on Sunday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend nights dedicated to Hot Topic, Going Deeper, and Service / Justice to help their journey.

Requirements in a Nutshell

General

- Previously received the Sacrament of Baptism
- Currently in or beyond the Junior year of high school or will be 16 years of age or older by March 1, 2011
- Choosing to pursue the Sacrament of Confirmation of *own* free will
- Actively participate in the classes

Liturgical

- Attendance at Mass every weekend during the course of preparing for Confirmation (Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes are 5:00 PM [Sat.] 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM [Sun]) – signature of the priest or a Confirmation team member is required on the Candidate's attendance log
- Other liturgies as noted in the yearly schedule (e.g. Holy Days of Obligation) – signature of the priest or a Confirmation team member is required on the Candidate's attendance log
- Attendance at Confirmation classes held most Sundays from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM – signature of the priest or a Confirmation team member is required on the Candidate's attendance log
- Attendance at Confirmation Retreat scheduled for January 14th & 15th
- Attend at Confirmation rehearsal and liturgy

Ministerial

- At least twenty hours of ministry/service during the course of the Confirmation preparation (October through February)

Spiritual

- Growing in prayer and deepening awareness of God and an openness to the Holy Spirit
- An honest desire to keep God's commandments, an effort toward daily decisions according to God's will, regular attendance for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Absences

- No more than two including liturgies and other sessions as noted in the yearly schedule
- For each class or liturgy missed, a paper is to be turned in within one week – see Karen for requirements

Confirmation Covenant

- Signed in full and returned with Confirmation fee to the first class

Saint Report

- A two page report is to be written about the saint chosen for the candidate's Confirmation name which includes a brief history of the saint and why they were chosen

Interview

- Each candidate will have the opportunity to participate in a short personal interview with Karen and Fr. Michael or another Confirmation team member which needs to take place before November 1, 2010

Evaluation

- Each candidate will be evaluated in an interview with Karen and Fr. Michael who must attest to the bishop that the candidate is prepared spiritually to receive the Sacrament

'10-'11 Our Lady of Lourdes Confirmation Class Dates

All Confirmation classes, the retreat, and the rehearsal must be attended by the Candidate. The Sponsor is asked to attend all classes (if at all possible), the rehearsal, and the celebration of the Sacrament.

All classes will be on the Sundays listed below from 12:30pm – 2:00pm in the chapel at the Pastoral Center.

These dates are subject to change.

Oct 3rd	Dec 12 th
Oct 10 th	Dec 19 th
Oct 17 th (Sponsor Chosen By This Date)	Dec 26 th (No Class)
Oct 24 th	Jan 2 nd (No Class)
Oct 31 st	Jan 14 th –Jan 15 th (Retreat)
Nov 7 th (Daylight Savings Time Ends)	Jan 16 th
Nov 14 th	Jan 23 rd
Nov 21 st	Jan 30 th
Nov 28 th (First Sunday of Advent)	Feb 6 th
Dec 5 th	Feb 13 th

Confirmation Rehearsal: Date to be announced

Rite of Confirmation: Date to be announced

(We have requested the last two Sundays of February or the first Sunday of March)

Policy states that Confirmation candidates be active in their parishes. This includes participation in liturgy, service, and youth group. Group service opportunities will be available. Current and past volunteerism will not count toward these hours.

1 Timothy 4:12 “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

Confirmation Registration 2010-2011

I wish to take part in the preparation process for the Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

Candidate Name: _____
Birth Date: _____

Parent(s): _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Telephone: _____

Sponsor: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Home Parish: _____

Circle one of the following:

1. I was baptized in this parish.
2. I was baptized in another parish.

Important!

You must secure a copy of the baptismal certificate from the parish church where the baptism took place and/or is recorded and have it sent directly to this parish before January 1st, 2011.

Circle one of the following:

1. Yes, I am registered in the youth ministry program.
2. No, I am not registered and need to do so.

Please choose one of the following:

___ I have enclosed a check payable to Our Lady of Lourdes in the amount of \$75.00 which partially covers program and retreat materials.

___ I am in need of a full or partial scholarship and will contact Karen to make arrangements.

Signature of Candidate

Date

Getting Baptism Certificates

If the candidate was baptized in this parish, the notation on the registration form is all we need. We will pull the records and print the certificate.

If the candidate was baptized at another parish:

1. Call the parish of baptism and tell them that you need a copy of the baptism certificate with their parish seal sent to Our Lady of Lourdes in preparation for Confirmation.
 - a. Family copies of the baptism certificate are not accepted
 - b. Copies from the baptism parish must be dated within the past six months
2. The certificate *must* go directly to the parish
3. Certificates should be mailed to:
Our Lady of Lourdes
Attn: Karen Burnham
4723 NW Franklin Street
Vancouver WA 98663
4. If there is difficulty in obtaining the certificate and time is running short, the front and back of the certificate (showing the parish seal) may be faxed to:
(360) 695-0610
Attn: Karen Burnham

Note: Some parishes charge a nominal fee (something like \$5.00) for the copy

Certificates must be received by January 1st, 2011

Confirmation Financial Aid Request Form

Candidate Full Name: _____

Father's / Guardian's Name: _____

Mother's / Guardian's Name: _____

Confirmation Fee: \$75.00

Amount of Aid Needed: \$_____

Mother or Father's / Guardian's Signature

Date

Confirmation Candidate Covenant

It is my desire to have entered into Confirmation preparation with the following goals:

- Form a closer relationship with God
- Achieve a deeper understanding of His love and will for me
- Participate in an opportunity to serve His people
- Use this time to spend time with my brothers and sisters in Christ

In order to accomplish those goals, I promise to:

- Attend Mass weekly
- Actively participate in the preparation process and sessions
- Openly participate in the Confirmation Retreat
- Use my gifts and talents to serve in my community
- Support my fellow candidates in the journey alongside myself
- Continue to be active in church ministries and faith formation opportunities
- Pray often

I understand that in signing this covenant, I am making a promise to God, to my pastor, my catechists, my parents, my church, and to myself. I am willing to be held accountable for my promise.

Please print:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Confirmation Parent Covenant

It is my/our desire to have my/our child attending Confirmation preparation this year at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. I/we desire to be faithful to the promise I/we made at his/her baptism.

In order to support him/her in their journey, I promise to:

- Regularly attend Mass with my son/daughter
- Pray for their journey and discuss with them often about their preparation
- Hold them accountable in participating in all required sessions and retreats
- Continue to be a positive role model in my own Christian walk
- It is my/our intention to remain faithful to this promise
- I/We am/are accountable to God, my/our child, and to my/our church

My candidate's name is: _____

I am active in the Catholic Church, regularly attend Mass on Sunday and strive to live my faith.

Please print:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

How to Choose a Sponsor

The Catechism and Canon Law both tell us that you need a sponsor. Having one of your godparents would be the best; it also shows how Baptism and Confirmation are connected. If they live too far away or they are no longer good role models, you will need to choose a new sponsor.

Some advice to candidates:

- You are looking for someone you trust, whose active faith you admire and who will be there for you and share their faith with you.
- You are looking for a committed Roman Catholic adult living a sacramental life who can represent the Catholic Christian community, the Church.
- This person must be fully initiated (having received Eucharist and Confirmation themselves) and be someone other than your legal parents. You can choose a relative, friend or someone from your parish.
 - It is generally not advisable for a fiancé, boyfriend, or girlfriend to serve as a sponsor.
- If you don't have someone in mind, your Youth Minister can assist you in choosing a person from your parish who has volunteered to fill this role.

Pray about it and when you think you have the right person, ask him or her to help you grow in faith by being your sponsor! Accept that they may turn you down. That's ok... God may be calling them to other things at this time.

Potential Sponsors

Write down a list of people you think would make a good sponsor.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Personally contact each of these people and talk with them about their faith.

Sure, I'll be a Sponsor ... but what do I do?!?!

We may agree that as adults in today's world we are used to being defined by what we do. In fact, this is a common first question we ask one another when we first meet. It is a comfortable way to initiate the small talk that at some point might evolve into deeper conversation. Yes, as a Confirmation sponsor, you will have particular things "to do". These may include attending classes, rehearsal, buying a gift, walking with the candidate to the bishop, going to dinner after the liturgy; but you are about to embark on a *journey* with a young person. What you do is not the primary concern. This is a journey concerned less with what you will do as a sponsor and more with *who you are* as a person of the Gospel. This journey will take you and a young person to new and exciting places in the life of faith. Faith penetrates the heart of the matter – how has faith penetrated who you are; can a young person read the Good News in the actions of your life?

Called to Relationship with Youth

In your role as a sponsor you are a minister with youth. You are a part of an exercise in building relationships. These relationships allow young people to know adults who care about them and who are willing to walk as fellow pilgrims on a life-long journey of faith. A special young person has called you into deeper relationship. At the center of this relationship is our faith. In a particular way, your unique ability to share your faith with this person is more important than the Confirmation program itself.

Nurturer and Supporter of Faith Growth

You are one of the nurturers and supporters of faith growth for the Confirmation candidate. The integrity with which you live your faith and take care of its growth is as important as the walk in faith you are a part of with the young person. You have been chosen to share faith as a gift freely given by God, and that our response to that gift is the challenge to us all as members of the Body of Christ. Communicating with interest and excitement the challenge of living as Catholics in today's world is a wonderful gift to share with youth.

Being Present

Your presence in the life of the young person who has chosen you as a sponsor is essential. You can be present in many ways; you will be provided with resources that will give you many practical ideas. Your relationship has the potential for creating very sacred space between the two of you – holy ground. To walk on holy ground with a young person is indeed a blessing! The book will give you some practical tools for helping a young person grow in faith and at the same time challenge your own faith through the mutuality of the relationship.

Sponsor Approval Form

Dear Sponsor,

Congratulations on being invited to be a Confirmation sponsor! Please complete Section 1 of this form and return it to you candidate.

The Candidate must bring it to class by November 7th. Thank you.

Section 1 (filled out by Sponsor)

Candidate Name (please print): _____

Sponsor Name (please print): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

1. Are you a registered and regularly practicing member of this parish? _____
2. Are you a model for Catholic living and aware of the responsibilities of being a Sponsor? _____
3. Do you have any questions or concerns about your role as Sponsor? _____

Signature of Candidate

Date

Confirmation Sponsor Covenant

As a confirmation sponsor, your role is to encourage the faith of your candidate and be an “example” to your Confirmation candidate and to reflect with the candidate on the meaning of a life of Catholic discipleship.

The Code of Canon Law (Church Law) specifies the requirements for serving as a sponsor at Confirmation (Canon 893) are the same as those for godparents at Baptism (Canon 874): You may not be the parents of the person being confirmed; you must be at least 16 years old; you must be fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); if married, be in valid Catholic marriage; be free to celebrate the sacraments, and live a life of active faith in the Catholic Church.

I understand the requirements of being a Confirmation sponsor and I state that I was

Baptized:

at _____ in _____
Parish Name City and State

Confirmed:

at _____ in _____
Parish Name City and State

Married in the Catholic Church:

at _____ in _____
Parish Name City and State

My candidate's name is: _____

I am active in the Catholic Church, regularly attend Mass on Sunday and strive to live my faith.

Please print:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

“Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.”

-Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1316

“Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian’s soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one’s life.”

-CCC 1317

“Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit – his actions, his gifts, and his biddings – in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands.”

-CCC 1309

