



Graciously pour out
your Holy Spirit upon
us, we pray, O Lord,
so that, walking in
oneness of faith and
strengthened by the
power of his love,
we may come to the
measure of the full
stature of Christ.

(Rite of Confirmation #59)



Confirmation

2020-2021

“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”

(John 13: 34).

In these words of St. John’s Gospel we are reminded of what Jesus asks of us. It is in charity that we love God above all things and we love our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. Jesus shows us how to live a life of charity and asks us to imitate his example.

Jesus clearly spells out for us how to show our love for one another in Matthew 25: 34-40. It is here that we find the passage referred to as the works of mercy. Jesus instructs us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the sick and visit the imprisoned.

Faith in Action:

Throughout the months of preparation for Confirmation, the students will have the opportunity to participate in these various areas of charitable works that we read about in the scripture.

- † Students can contribute to our Social Action group. Watch the bulletin for ways you may support the work of this Parish group.
- † They will make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and pack lunches for the hungry. (pending)
- † Food items, paper products, and personal care items may be collected throughout the year.
- † All can help to promote the activities of our parish community by being available to serve where needed.

Some may wonder why we put so much emphasis on these types of charity or service as we prepare for Confirmation. When we are a confirmed member of the Catholic Church we are becoming a full member. Full membership carries with it certain responsibilities. As disciples of Jesus we must live our Christian faith and have love for one another. This time of preparation is really about learning how to live in this community and to begin to learn the ways of the community. Charity is not just for these few months of our life but rather about incorporating these practices into our daily living.



Service: A Way of Life



*So when Jesus had washed their feet (and) put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them,
"Do you realize what I have done for you?
You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am.
If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet.
I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. (John 13: 12-15)*

As we mature in our faith, we will discover increased responsibilities in our relationship with God. It is not enough that we know about our faith, we must act upon it. We should begin to ask ourselves: How do I put my faith into practice? How often do I go out of my way to help others? Am I creative in finding ways to serve others, as Christ asks? There are unlimited possibilities for projects of service, depending on the time we can take, where we live, what our interests are and our abilities.

Service is not a project, but a *way of life* for the fully committed Christian. As candidates for Confirmation, you should be finding service to others becoming a part of your daily life. Included are various suggestions about service which should give you some ideas of how you can begin living the service that you are called to through Baptism and soon Confirmation to “*go and wash feet.*”

Home Service: *remember to do these tasks without being told or complaining.*

- ✓ Take over one additional daily job around the house for the next seven or eight weeks.
- ✓ Help others in the family by running errands.
- ✓ Clean or wash down the garage, basement or other storage area.
- ✓ Babysit for free.
- ✓ Send a special card or letter monthly, to grandparents, relatives or friends or someone who is sick or shut-in.
- ✓ Read bedtime stories to younger brothers and sisters.
- ✓ Straighten and clean kitchen drawers and cabinets
- ✓ Wash and clean the car.
- ✓ Clean your room

Community Service:

- ✓ Write someone in a nursing home regularly for the next seven or eight weeks;
- ✓ Help an elderly neighbor or shut-in by: mowing the lawn, pulling weeds, raking leaves, cleaning the yard, shoveling snow, running errands ...
- ✓ Teach crafts or sports to the younger children.
- ✓ Actively support the Pro Life committee; the Social Action committee.
- ✓ Write letters to your Congressman or Representative giving the moral position on a social issue.





Why Confirmation?

“Those who have been baptized continue on the path of Christian initiation through the sacrament of Confirmation, by which they receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, whom the Lord sent upon the apostles at Pentecost.

“By this gift of the Holy Spirit the faithful are more fully conformed to Christ for the building up of his Body in faith and charity. They are so marked with the character or seal of the Lord in such a way that the Sacrament of Confirmation cannot be repeated” (The Order of Confirmation #1-2).

Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments – sacred signs to show Christ’s presence to the world and to help us grow in our relationship with God. There are three sacraments of initiation:

Baptism – begins our life in God’s grace and our public commitment to Christ.

Confirmation – seals the vows of baptism; a sacrament of spiritual growth that we may give witness to the world of the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Eucharist – unites us in community. The Eucharist is *“the source and summit of the Christian life”* (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #11).

Through these three sacraments and strengthened by the Holy Spirit Christians are enabled to carry out the mission of the Church. Confirmation is a lifetime commitment to Christianity!

Confirmation at this time of their life allows the candidates to express their belief and commitment to Jesus Christ and to the mission of the Church. To help the candidates on their faith journey our Confirmation program includes **classroom work** (in person, or at home) where the students continue to study and learn the Church’s teachings and what it means to be a confirmed member of the Church. Special **Virtual Sessions** will be held where we will continue to break open the scripture as well as several topics. Topics include *Church, Creed, Scripture* and *Prayer*. The activities related to **service and a life of charity** are a means of introducing the candidates to what it means to live out their Christian commitment.

Each candidate is asked to pay a **\$35.00** sacramental fee. (*PSR Students were asked to pay this at the time of registration.*)

Money or check, may be made out to Holy Family (please indicate Confirmation fee on memo line) should be handed in to Ms. Hoffman, or Sister Yvonne by **Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

Thank you.

Can Confirmation Make a Difference?

You may honestly believe that being a confirmed Christian ought to make a difference in your life, but you don't know how. Or you may realize that as you are growing in Christian maturity, it ought to have a great impact on your life, but you're not sure what it should be. Here are a few practical suggestions about living up to your Confirmation.

1. Learn more about what it means to be a Christian. Read the Gospels (Matthew 5-7 is a good place to begin) to find out what Jesus asks of his followers. Find a book on how to live the Christian life (there are lots of them, try a book about one of the saints) and find one area where you might make an improvement (if you haven't been too faithful about attending Mass every weekend, this would be a good time to come with your family every Sunday). Ask someone whose faith you respect (age doesn't matter) how she or he tries to live a Christian life.
2. Think about yourself, your own hopes and ambitions, your own values and ideals. Take time to write them down. Then ask yourself how these stack up against what you find in the Gospels and what you learn about living up to the teachings of Christ. Compare your own goals in life and your own personal behavior in the light of what it means to be a confirmed Christian.
3. If you find differences between the way you are and the way you think a Christian should be, make some honest judgments about which way you want to go. This kind of self-examination is not easy, but the results are very rewarding. You may find yourself faced with some difficult choices, but no one can make them for you.
4. If you want to change your goals or behavior as a result of what you find out about yourself, be practical about it. Don't try to change everything at once. Pray about it, and ask for guidance from someone you respect. And don't try to do it alone. When you feel discouraged, remember it's a lifelong task. Get in touch with other young people in your parish or school who seem to be taking their Christian commitment seriously. Confirmation can and does make a difference – if you allow, even welcome, such change.



Choosing a Sponsor

Choosing a sponsor can be both exciting and difficult. Which uncle or aunt or cousin or brother or sister or friend should I choose?

Being a sponsor is not simply an honor – it is a role of responsibility and commitment. As sponsor it is their duty to see that the one who is confirmed acts as a true witness to Christ and continues to practice their Catholic faith. The sponsor must be willing to share their faith and what it means for them to be a member of the Church. Additionally they give witness of the Catholic faith by the way that they live their life.

The Church encourages the choice of a baptismal godparent as the Confirmation sponsor. This expresses more clearly the relation between Baptism and Confirmation and also makes the responsibility and function of the sponsor more effective. However, the choice of a special sponsor for Confirmation is not excluded. A sponsor may be either male or female. **A parent is not permitted to be a sponsor for their own child.**

What are the requirements to be a Confirmation sponsor?

- † They must be a Catholic who has been fully initiated. That is they have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- † They must be at least 16 years of age.
- † They must be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and is a registered parishioner in his or her parish.
- † If married, they must be married in the Catholic Church or with the Church's permission.
- † A good sponsor is one who leads a life in harmony with the Church.

Some advice to the candidates: You're looking for someone you trust, whose faith you admire and who will be there for you. 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!



What paperwork do I need before Confirmation?

- ♥ Copy of Baptismal certificate (if NOT already on file/**due Tuesday, October 6, 2020**)
- ♥ **\$35.00** sacramental fee (**due October 6, 2020** – see p. 4)
- ♥ Completed registration form (distributed later/ **due week of February 22, 2021**)
- ♥ Sponsor Certificate (**due week of February 22, 2021**)

Do I have to provide a Baptismal Certificate?

Baptism is the first of the initiation sacraments and must be completed before receiving confirmation or Eucharist. The three sacraments are linked and your Confirmation must be recorded at the Church of Baptism as well as here at Holy Family. Without the copy of your certificate it is often very difficult to find the exact date and other information connected with your baptism even when it was right here at Holy Family. Baptismal certificate should be on file. If not, please provide a copy.

What is a Sponsor certificate?

When you are preparing for Confirmation, the Church requires certain paperwork. First the sponsor needs to *complete all of the information* on the registration form. Then your sponsor must speak to someone at the Church where they are a registered member and explain that they are going to be a sponsor for Confirmation and need a Sponsor Certificate. They will be asked some questions (similar to the requirements listed above). The form is signed by an authorized person at the parish, and your sponsor. Finally, the parish seal is placed on the form. This signed form is then turned in to Sister Yvonne.

Role of Parents

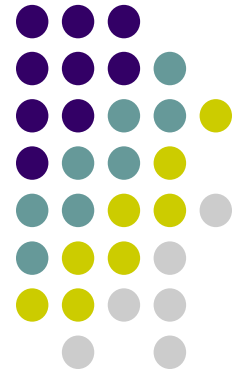
Parents have a responsibility to create a Christian environment in the home. They should set a good example and encourage the Confirmation candidate to lead a life of prayer and active Christian service. Work together as a family to build an atmosphere of trust and understanding. Attend Sunday Mass together as a family, encouraging your child to participate in the Mass as well as other parish programs. Remember as parents you are the first teachers of your children and you must continue to nurture your child in the Catholic faith.

You can help your child prepare for Confirmation by viewing the virtual sessions with them and sharing with them on the discussion questions; be sure that they complete all assignments and return them as directed; encouraging them to reflect and thoughtfully prepare for the sacrament. Pray together as a family and discuss the various aspects of faith especially those that relate to the sacrament of Confirmation. By sharing in the Confirmation preparation with your child it gives you an opportunity to renew your own faith so that you can more effectively guide your child.

Ways Parents can help with the Confirmation Program:

- ❖ *Participating in the Virtual Sessions with your Confirmation candidate*
- ❖ *Help your Confirmation candidate complete the service for each Virtual Session*
- ❖ *Watch the Church Bulletin for opportunities to share in our Parish Social Action activities*
- ❖ *Help with PB&J sandwich making*
this is during class time (still pending at the present time)





Confirmation – 2020-2021

September 2020

Week of 28th: Student/Parent information
 Youtube presentation

January 2021

Week of January 18th: Virtual Session #2
 Topic-*Creed/Scripture*
 Wednesday , 27th: Journal page returned to
 Sister Yvonne (sryvonne@holyfamparma.org)
 Tuesday, 19th or 26th: PB&J (pending)

October 2020

Tuesday, 6th: Confirmation fee due (\$35)
 Turn in to Ms Hoffman or Sr. Yvonne

February 2021

Week of February 22nd: Registration &
 Sponsor forms due
 Wednesday 24th: Journal page returned to
 Sister Yvonne (sryvonne@holyfamparma.org)
 Home Service Project returned to Sr. Yvonne

November 2020

Week of 16th: Virtual Session #1
 Topic-*Church*
 Wednesday , 25th: Journal page returned to
 Sister Yvonne (sryvonne@holyfamparma.org)

March 2021

Week of 15th: Virtual Session #3
 Topic-*Prayer*
 Wednesday 24th: Journal page returned to
 Sister Yvonne (sryvonne@holyfamparma.org)

December 2020

Week of December 14th
 Home Service Project returned to Sr. Yvonne

April 2021

Week of 5th Home Service Project returned to
 Sr. Yvonne
 Sunday, 18th:: Confirmation Practice
 Students and Sponsors
 Church after 11:30 a.m. Mass
 Monday, 19th: Confirmation Mass (7 pm)
 Celebrant, Bishop Roger Gries, OSB

