

St. Mary Parish Confirmation Guidelines 2017-2018

Contact Information

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Understanding the Sacrament

As a Sacrament of Initiation, Confirmation is the completion of Baptism and intimately related to the Eucharist. Christians are reborn in Baptism, strengthened by Confirmation, and sustained by the food of the Eucharist. In Confirmation, young people are signed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and become more perfect images of their Lord. This sacrament renews and strengthens their baptismal call to bear witness to Christ before the world and work eagerly for the building up of His body. The parish community celebrates with joy this Confirmation of faith through prayer, through supporting the individual and through extending its warmth and acceptance.

Personal Attitude

Candidates should demonstrate by their personal attitude the fact they desire to be fully initiated into the church. This disposition would be evidenced by the degree of responsibility taken by the individual candidate in completing the steps toward Confirmation. Attendance at the weekly Eucharistic celebration is an integral factor in assessing readiness for Confirmation.

Sacramental Preparation Fee

There is a \$50 Confirmation Sacramental Preparation fee that covers programs, certificates, church environment, musicians, reception, mailings, and all the materials for the retreat. This fee will be collected in September. If this fee presents a financial difficulty, please call the PSR office.

Attendance

Attendance is expected at all Confirmation sessions. If you are unable to attend a session you are required to complete the makeup lesson which will be posted on the St. Mary PSR website following each session. Return the completed assignment to the PSR office before the next Confirmation session. If you have any questions, please contact the PSR office.

----- *October 22, 2017* -----

Rite of Enrollment (Red)

The Rite of Enrollment will be held on **Sunday, October 22, 2017 at the 5:30 p.m. Mass**. This Rite calls the Confirmation candidates to a greater commitment in their preparation for the sacrament. In the context of the liturgy, the candidates make known their intentions to study the teachings of the Church, the sacramental life of the Church and to become involved in the social movement of the Church. Students and parents should read the Rite of Enrollment Form which can be found in your folder. **Both parents and confirmation candidate must sign the Rite of Enrollment handout and bring it to Mass on October 22, 2017.**

----- *October 22, 2017 (Continued)* -----

Letter to Fr. Redmond (Blue)

Each candidate is asked to write a letter to Fr. Redmond asking to be confirmed. It should be an expression of the student's feelings about why they want to be confirmed and why they believe they are ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Remember the neatness and style of this letter is a reflection of you. Additional information can be found on the blue sheet in the red folder. **This letter is due on October 22, 2017.**

----- *November 19, 2017* -----

Confirmation Name (Green)

The confirmation name chosen by the candidate **MUST BE A CATHOLIC SAINT'S NAME**. The candidate also has the option of using their baptismal name (their first name or middle name) to affirm and strengthen the commitment of Baptism. If the baptismal name is not a saint's name, then another saint's name should be chosen for the confirmation name. Additional information can be found on the green sheet in the red folder.

The confirmation name will be told to the bishop by the sponsor with these words: "BISHOP, MAY I PRESENT (CONFIRMATION NAME)."

Saint Report or PowerPoint (Green)

Each candidate is asked to write a report or create a PowerPoint about the life of the Catholic saint they have chosen for their Confirmation name. By researching and thinking about the saint's life, students will learn how that saint demonstrated love and dedication to Jesus. Hopefully the student will be inspired by their saint to live as a disciple of Christ. Additional information can be found on the green sheets in the red folder. **The report or PowerPoint is due on November 19, 2017. PowerPoints may be emailed to psroffice@stmarychardon.org.**

----- *January 21, 2018* -----

Projects of Christian Service (Yellow)

Each candidate is asked to participate in community service. Please see attached description of suggested service projects and the form you must fill out. These service hours are to be completed and **forms turned in by January 21, 2018**. The aim is to develop the spiritual and physical gifts of our candidates, and most importantly, to build a closer relationship with the parish community. No specific number of hours is required.

Confirmation Information Record Form (Goldenrod)

The Confirmation Information Record can be found in your red folder. This form is very important because it is used for the Diocese permanent records. **Please complete this form in its entirety! Your sponsor's Sponsor Certificate must also accompany this form.** All sponsors (including sponsors from St. Mary - Chardon) must have a Sponsor Certificate from their home parish. An example certificate is provided in the folder for your reference. **This form is due on January 21, 2018.**

The Confirmation Sponsor

The sponsor presents the candidate to the Bishop at the time of Confirmation and will help him/her to fulfill his/her baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

- ❖ It is recommended that the candidate's baptismal sponsor act as sponsor for Confirmation as an expression of the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.
- ❖ Parents **may not** act as a sponsor for their child.



The guidelines for selecting a sponsor are as follows:

1. be a practicing Roman **Catholic** in good standing with the church
2. be a registered, participating member of their parish community
3. be at least 16 years of age
4. have received the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
5. regularly participate in Sunday Liturgy and give witness to our faith by regularly receiving Eucharist
6. if married, they must be in a marriage relationship recognized by the Church as valid according to Church Law
7. actively strive to live out their commitment to the faith by living the Gospel message

The guidelines for the sponsor are as follows: (Tan)

- A sponsor should be willing to give support to the person they are sponsoring.
- Sponsors should be able to share their experience of living the Christian faith in the community.
- The sponsor should be willing to guide and encourage the candidate to be faithful to his/her practice of the faith and to the Confirmation process.
- A sponsor should pray for their candidate and arrange a time to meet with them to discuss the Sacrament.
- A sponsor should be in attendance at the Confirmation practice and the Rite of Confirmation. Dates for both will be announced once they are set by the Diocese of Cleveland.

Please provide your sponsor with the TAN colored “A Guide for Sponsors”

Each sponsor is required to submit a Sponsor Certificate from their home parish (a sample certificate is attached)

----- *March 3, 2018 or March 4, 2018* -----

Spirit Day Retreat

The Confirmation Retreat will be held at St. Mary's prior to Confirmation. Students will attend **ONE** of the days, not both. This event is put on by our St. Mary Parish Life Teen group lead by our Youth Minister. Contact the PSR office if your candidate cannot make one of these days. If your candidate is unable to attend either day then arrangements must be made to attend another parish's Confirmation retreat.

----- *Confirmation Practice – Sunday before Confirmation* -----

All candidates and their sponsors must attend the Confirmation practice.

----- *Confirmation – Exact Date TBA* -----

We will notify you as soon as we receive the date from the Diocese

Attire for the Confirmation Ceremony

Boys — Dress shirt and tie. Long sleeve or short sleeve is acceptable
Shirts should be tucked in and a belt worn
Jackets are optional
Dress pants, khaki docker-style pants are allowed
No denim of any color
No cargo-style pants
Dress shoes. No gym shoes or hiking-type shoes.

Girls — Dresses or skirt outfits, fingertip length or longer.
No pants, capris or gaucho skirts.
No denim clothing of any color.
No low-cut necklines, spaghetti straps, strapless tops, or see-through fabrics.
No excessively tight items
Wear a sweater or some type of cover if needed
Dress shoes. No flip-flops, boots or gym shoes.
Practice walking in your shoes if they have high heels
Hair, jewelry and makeup should be modest and in good taste.

Sponsors- Sponsors should be appropriately dressed. Confirmation is a formal Rite.

Guests

On the day of Confirmation, each student will be accompanied by his/her sponsor. Family members are encouraged to attend. If you have a priest relative or priest friend who would like to concelebrate at Confirmation, or a deacon to participate in the ceremony, please let the PSR office know ahead of time. Likewise, if you have a member in the family who is a server and wishes to serve, let us know.