

Expectations for Confirmation Candidates
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Elkhorn, Nebraska

“Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation starts at Baptism, through which we enter into the body of Christ. This initiation continues through the Eucharist and is completed in the sacrament of Confirmation but is not the end of formation in the Christian life of virtue.

The goal of the immediate formation for the sacrament of Confirmation is discipleship in Jesus Christ, participation in the life and mission of the Catholic Church as well as the personal, spiritual growth of each young person. This formation is the result of collaboration between parents and pastors. It is ultimately the responsibility of pastors to be sure that the candidate for Confirmation is properly prepared. Formation can begin within two years prior to the actual Confirmation day.”

Guidelines for Sacrament of Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Omaha. 2-8-13

Baptismal Certificate

For candidates who were not baptized at St. Patrick's, a **Baptismal Certificate with the raised seal needs to be turned into the Office of Religious Formation as soon as possible.** If you do not have the certificate, please call or write the church where your child was baptized. We will return the original certificate to you after we make a photocopy.

Enrollment Mass

Confirmation Candidates and their parents will be asked to attend a commitment ceremony. At this Mass, the candidate will commit to prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Their parents and the parish community will agree to support these candidates. Parents will have an opportunity to sign up for one of the following dates and times.

10-06-2018 5:00 p.m. 10-07-2018 8:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

Confirmation Reflection and Retreats

There will be a candidate only retreat offered two different dates and times for our Confirmation candidates.

✝ Candidate Only Retreat

11-10-2018 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

11-11-2018 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Parents will be offered an opportunity to sign up for a date and time for their child to attend the candidate only retreat.

Interviews

All candidates requesting the sacrament of Confirmation will be interviewed by representatives of our parish.

January 16, 2019

7:30 to 8:45 p.m. (Activity Center)

Sponsor

The sponsor must be Baptized, Confirmed and actively living a life of faith, which includes conscious participation in the regular worship of church, reception of the Eucharist and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (If married, a sponsor's marriage should be in harmony with church laws.) The sponsor should be at least 16 years of age. Godparents, because of their already existing spiritual bond to the candidate are very appropriate for this role.

Confirmation Name/Saint Report

Archdiocesan guidelines state: "Confirmation historically and theologically linked to Christian Baptism is considered, along with Baptism and Eucharist, to be a Sacrament of Initiation. To express this close relationship between the two sacraments, it is not only appropriate, but desirable, that the candidate's baptismal name be used at the time of Confirmation. However, the name of another saint whose life is of particular witness to the candidate may be chosen."

Service

Christ gives us, His people, different gifts not only for ourselves, but also for others. The Church community is called to meet the needs of all of its members. This includes being aware of the poor, the uneducated, the sick, and all those in the Christian community whose condition of life keeps them from reaching their human potential.

For the above reasons, candidates preparing for Confirmation at St. Patrick's Parish are required to complete a total of **four hours of service with either their parent and/or with their sponsor**. **In addition**, candidates preparing for Confirmation at St. Patrick's Parish are required to be participate in a minimum of six hours of service with a Discipleship Group. Candidates will reflect on each individual service experience and be responsible for turning in reflections to the Office of Religious Formation in a timely manner. Reflection materials will be included in their red folder.

Letter to the Archbishop

The sacrament of Confirmation should be freely chosen and sincerely celebrated. In your letter to the Archbishop, share your desire to be Confirmed, what the sacrament means to you and how you wish to continue your involvement in the Church after Confirmation.

Communication

Every effort will be made by the Director of Religious Formation and the Coordinator for Youth Ministry to keep parents and candidates informed. Please read parish bulletins, Principal's Notes, Religious Formation Family Newsletters and emails for regular updates and schedule changes that may affect Confirmation preparation. **It is the parents and candidate responsibility to stay informed through the various means of communication.**

Due Dates

Sponsor Form

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Confirmation Name/Saint Report

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Candidate/Parent and Candidate Sponsor Service Project and Reflection Sheets

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Discipleship service projects and reflection journals

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, December 12, 2018

- ✓ **Letter to the Archbishop**

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, December 19, 2018

Confirmation Interviews

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 @ 7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Date /Pictures and Practices

March 2, 2019 Practice/Pictures (7:30-9:00 am, 9:00-10:30 am & 10:30 am to noon)

March 3, 2019 Confirmation at 2:30 and 5:00 pm

March 4, 2019 Confirmation @ 6:30 pm

06-28-2018 Confirmation Interview Date Revised

08-08-2018 Confirmation Dates Added