



**St. Joseph - Grafton**

## Holy Spirit Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created; and You shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## **Confirmation Preparation Packet**

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**Welcome to St. Joseph Parish Confirmation Preparation!** On behalf of the parish community we are excited to journey with you as you walk toward receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. The purpose of this program is to give candidates time, community and guidance to navigate the beautiful traditions, sacraments, and joy found in our Catholic faith. We hope that through this process each candidate will have the space to dive deeper into relationship with Christ through prayer, conversation, connection, study and celebration of the Holy Mass. It is our hope that through this time of preparation you will freely desire the Sacrament of Confirmation and that you will commit yourself to follow the life of Christ, serve the needs of others in your community, and choose to share Christ's light with all those you meet.

### **Candidate Requirement Checklist**

- ◇ Candidate Form filled with ALL information included and returned to the Formation Office
- ◇ Copy of Baptismal Certificate on file if candidate was NOT baptized at St. Joseph Parish. Please attach a copy of your certificate to the Candidate Form. If you received the sacrament of First Communion at St. Joseph your certificate should be on file. Please check with Becky if you are not sure.
- ◇ Candidate has chosen a sponsor that meets all the sponsor requirements and includes all information for the sponsor on the Candidate Form. The sponsor journeys with the candidate through this year of preparation and beyond. The candidate and sponsor commit to participating in service and prayer throughout the year and candidate turned in the sponsor/candidate activity form to the Formation Office.
- ◇ Candidate has chosen a Confirmation name and completed the Confirmation name worksheet and turned into the Formation Office by December 10th
- ◇ Attend Confirmation Retreat—January 6-7, 2024 or with another parish if there is a schedule conflict. Confirmation retreat provides an opportunity for prayer, reflection, community, relationship and rest.
- ◇ Candidate has completed the Confirmation Candidate Questionnaire for Bishop Haines and returned it to the Formation Office
- ◇ Candidate has committed to serve with their sponsor, their small group and individually throughout the year and has filled out the Service Reflection form and returned it to the Formation Office
- ◇ Candidate has signed up to meet with Fr. Nick for a Confirmation conversation

# The Role of the Parents and Family

The initiation of children into sacramental life is, for the most part, the responsibility of parents. With the help of catechetical institutions, they are to form and guide a spirit of faith in their children. The National Catechetical Directory states: “As the primary educators of their children, parents along with the sponsor, are to be intimately involved in catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them renew and strengthen their own faith, besides enabling them to set a better example for their children.” (#119NCD)

Parents should assist their children through the preparation process; discussing their fears and doubts, inquiring about their formation, encouraging their attendance at all sessions, and helping them stay on top of due dates. ***It is the responsibility of the candidates, not the parents, to be in communication with their Core Member and the Youth Ministry office.*** In addition, as a demonstration of your own faith, it is expected that one or both parents/guardians attend the sessions to which the parents are invited, fill in for sponsors in the event they cannot attend a session they are requested to attend and **go to weekly Mass** with your child. Parental assistance is also encouraged as small group aides, Core members and retreat chaperones! (*all adults must complete Safeguarding requirements before working with children and teens*) NOTE: Parents may NOT act as sponsors.

# The Role of the Sponsor

Sponsors are companions on the journey of faith and will have a real function of spiritual direction to perform for their candidates, and should be chosen accordingly.

## Selecting a Sponsor

### Requirements for sponsors:

- 1 Be at least 16 years old
- 2 Be a confirmed Catholic who has received the sacrament of Eucharist and participates in the sacramental life of the Church
- 3 Be other than your mother or father
- 4 Be designated by you—the candidate

### Characteristics to look for in a sponsor:

- Preferably be from the parish or from the immediate area so as to be available as a real companion to you on the journey
- Be able to relate in friendship with you
- Be a good listener, one with whom you can confide about your personal and spiritual life
- Be willing and able to share his/her own experience of faith
- Be willing to pray for you and with you
- Be willing and able to make the time commitment to the Confirmation process
- Be willing to continue to walk your faith journey with you after Confirmation and invite you into fuller participation in parish life and service
- Be willing to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament

Your Confirmation sponsor should have been chosen prior to the information meeting. The sponsor’s name and contact information must be recorded on the Candidate Form and submitted to the Youth Ministry Office or turned in the night of the meeting. If you still need more time for choosing a sponsor, please contact the Youth Ministry Office.

## **Role of the Candidate**

The Sacrament of Confirmation is received by those students who are at least 16 years of age, and who have been involved in either a Catholic school religion program or religious education program for the previous two years. For Catholics, the Sacrament of Confirmation represents (1) the full initiation of the recipient into the Catholic Church, (2) the strengthening of the work of the Holy Spirit begun at Baptism, (3) a personal decision of the recipient to accept and live the Catholic faith and (4) to make a commitment to serve the parish and greater Church. It does not make one an “adult”, nor does it signal the completion of one’s religious life. Confirmation is initiation, not graduation.

We do not assume that all persons entering the program either fully know, understand, believe, or live all of the Catholic teachings. In fact, many people have serious doubts or personal struggles, which they bring to the program. We accept and welcome any person, no matter where they are at in regard to their faith. Hopefully, throughout the experience of preparation, you will either come to a better understanding and willingly embrace the Catholic faith, or maturely decide that you are not yet ready or willing to be *fully* initiated into the Church. However, it is the candidate’s final choice whether or not to be confirmed. The parent/guardian can require that you attend the entire program up until the actual Sacrament of Confirmation. If you choose not to receive the sacrament, we pray that you continue to seek a deeper understanding of God’s immense, unconditional love for you and the beauty of His grace and mercy. We encourage you to seek the sacrament of Confirmation when you are ready. God is **always** calling you.

## **Mass**

The central element of our prayer lives and our source of nourishment each week is the Mass. Candidates are expected to participate in weekly liturgy. Parents, it is an important witness to the faith that you also attend Mass with your candidate. It is at Mass that we learn from Scripture and Tradition, we receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord through the Eucharist, and we are witnesses to God’s grace, mercy and love. There is no better place to learn about and explore one’s faith than at Mass. Your participation in liturgical roles can help the Mass come alive for you, helping you gain a new perspective from your contribution. Please contact the Youth Ministry Department if you are interested in participating in a liturgical role such as: lectoring, ushering, or as a part of the music ministry. We would love for you to share the gifts with which God has blessed you with the parish community.

## **Baptismal Certificate**

A **copy** of each candidate’s Baptismal information is needed for our records. If baptized at St. Joseph Parish, simply fill in the date of your baptism and indicate which parish on the Candidate Form. If baptized elsewhere, and you do not have a copy of your Baptism Certificate at home, call the church of baptism and request that a baptismal certificate be sent to you. **Please attach a copy of your Baptismal certificate (photocopies are fine) to your Candidate Form. If you received the Sacrament of Baptism or First Communion at St. Joseph we already have your certificate on file.**

## **Attendance**

Participation in all scheduled activities of the preparation program is expected. We understand the rigors of school, sports and family life often put a strain on your time and conflict with important formation times and dates. We ask that you take some time to look over your schedule, add all formation dates to your calendar, create a priority list, and make a diligent effort to put your relationship with Christ at the top of your list. While we understand that things come up and sessions must be missed for one reason or another we ask that you please contact the Youth Ministry office and your small group leader if you must miss a small group session or large group meeting. If you are finding it hard to make it to your small group meetings on a regular basis, please contact the Youth Ministry office to set up a time to meet with the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry who will help you make a plan for formation and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Service** – *Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. "Matthew 5:16*

During the course of confirmation preparation, candidates will be provided many opportunities to build hearts of service.

- Candidates will complete a service project with their chosen sponsor
- Candidates will complete a service project with their small group
- Candidates will be asked to write a reflection on a service project of their choice
- Candidates will be asked to join the Confirmation Youth Apprenticeship program and learn the importance of serving their parish community at mass, creating connections, sharing their faith and deepening their relationship with God. The requirements of this program will be discussed at the parent meeting.

There are always opportunities to serve your neighbor, your parish community, the poor and needy. Please refer to the parish bulletin, website, and Youth Ministry communication for updates on service opportunities. Also, you may search [www.volunteerozaukee.org](http://www.volunteerozaukee.org) for community service opportunities. Contact the Youth Ministry Office for more information.

Our service to our brothers and sisters in Christ should never cease. It is expected that each candidate is working on modeling their lives after Christ's own life and should be assisting those in need whenever they are able.

### **Confirmation Retreat**

The retreat is a time to reflect on Christ and His message in terms of your own life. It is also a time to form and strengthen friendships with other candidates. One of the best ways to understand the importance of the retreat is to look at how it is modeled in the life of Jesus. In Scripture we see time and again that whenever Jesus had an important decision to make or a challenge to face, He went away from His disciples to gather His courage, regain his perspective and to be strengthened by His unity with the Father. Over an extended period of time, away from schedules, tensions and a fast paced life, young people can get in touch with the deeper questions of life and find nourishment for their spiritual journey. This special retreat is designed specifically for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is an overnight retreat that must be attended in its entirety. Candidates can NOT come late or leave early from the retreat. **Each candidate is expected to attend the designated parish retreat. If a candidate can not attend the parish retreat, they must attend an overnight make-up retreat with another parish. Please contact the Youth Ministry Office as soon as you know of a conflict.**

### **Confirmation Name**

Since Confirmation is the third sacrament of initiation as a Catholic, your baptismal name can be used to reaffirm the connection with Baptism and First Eucharist. However, you may decide to choose a saint's name to symbolize a new beginning in your faith life. Choosing a saint's name can represent your renewed commitment to your faith. Each candidate must research the significance of their chosen Confirmation name and complete a worksheet summarizing their choice. If the baptismal name is not after a saint, then you may choose the origin of the name or choose a saint you wish to learn about. The name reflection worksheet will be due in December.

### **Intention to Be Confirmed (A Candidate Questionnaire to the Archbishop or Bishop)**

Each candidate is required to answer a series of questions for the confirming Archbishop or Bishop. The purpose of the questionnaire is to give the Bishop an opportunity to find out a little about each candidate before the ceremony. It also allows the candidates the chance to communicate personally with the Bishop about his or her faith journey, struggles, background, questions and hope for the church. These questionnaires will be sent via email in November and due at the end of January. Please make sure to put some thought and detail into your answers—the Bishop truly wants to get to know the candidates.

## **Parish Visit**

The word *Catholic* means “universal.” The church does not recognize national or ethnic boundaries; it is committed to proclaiming the message of Jesus to all people in all cultures and at all times. Additionally, catholic means that wherever Catholics gather they share a fundamental belief system and approach to worship – especially in the Eucharist – that immediately identifies and unites them regardless of language and culture. Catholicism respects and embraces a wide variety of spiritualities and prayer forms.

Each candidate is expected to attend at least one Mass at a different Catholic church with their small group—families are welcome and encouraged to attend with the candidates. The diversity of worship will help you to discover the richness of our Catholic faith. Small groups will work together to determine a date and location for the parish visit that works for everyone in the small group. If you are unable to attend with your small group you are asked to attend with your parents or sponsor.

### **Parishes you might visit:**

All Saints	St. Michael
St. Anthony	St. Rose
St. Francis of Assisi	

## **Confirmation Conversation**

A final step in the preparation process is completion of a conversation with KC Kranich and/or Fr. Nick. The purpose of these conversations is to help discern readiness for Confirmation, to help candidates make plans for continuing to grow in faith, to provide information about ways the candidates can serve the parish after Confirmation and to give the candidates an opportunity to reflect on and share their faith journey toward Confirmation. A sign-up with dates and times for these conversations will be given in the spring. If a candidate is unable to make one of the dates/times provided they must arrange another time with the Youth Ministry office.

## **Rehearsal and Ceremony**

St. Joseph Parish Confirmation 2024 is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 6pm. Bishop Haines will be presiding. We will hold a rehearsal on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 6pm. (please mark these 2 dates on your calendar as soon as possible).

We ask that both the candidate and sponsor be present at the rehearsal. If the sponsor is unable to attend the rehearsal we ask that a parent join the candidate that night and relay the information to the sponsor prior to the ceremony.



## Common Questions About Confirmation

### Why do I need to do this?

You were presented to the Church by your parents and godparents at your Baptism in order to share the gift of Catholic faith with you. Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world. Through Confirmation, our personal relationship with Christ is strengthened. We receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for building up the community in loving service.

### Why are my parents making me do this?

Your parents promised to “accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church.” They are passing on their faith to you and fulfilling a promise that they made by seeing you through this preparation process. They are committed to keeping this promise that they made to God, to each other and to the church.

### What if I don’t get confirmed?

No one can make you get confirmed. If you choose not to receive this sacrament you leave your initiation incomplete. If you choose to wait, you may be confirmed as an adult. Remember that God is always calling you.

**Confirmation** - brings and increase and deepening of baptismal grace: (CCC1303)

- ✠ Roots us more deeply in the divine filiation (Christian doctrine that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God by nature and when we are redeemed by Jesus we become sons and daughters of God by adoption)
- ✠ Deepens our relationship and unites us more firmly to Christ
- ✠ Increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- ✠ Renders our bond with the church more perfect
- ✠ Gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit** - The Holy Spirit bestows seven gifts—wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety, and fear of the Lord—to assist us in our mission and witness.

God calls and invites; we respond. An open attitude communicates a “yes” to God’s invitation to a deeper relationship. It means that we are open to be strengthened by God who calls us and loves us.

“...be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Anointing Rite for Confirmation

