



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

*"TELL OTHERS ABOUT THE TRUTH THAT SETS YOU FREE."
POPE BENEDICT XVI*

THE SPIRITUAL SEAL

FOUND IN THE CATECHISM 1293-1296

Confirmation reminds us of the Holy Spirit filling the Apostles at Pentacost. When we are Confirmed, our initiation into Christ's body is complete and we are given a *seal*, an imprint, marked as the Father's for "it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has commissioned us; he has put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." (2 cor 1:21-22; Eph 1: 13, 4, 30).

The seal of the Holy Spirit marks us for Christ, in his service forever.





*"Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry"
-Padre Pio*

THE GREAT SACRAMENT

CATECHISM PARAGRAPH 1285

"The sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."



**Confirmation Preparation
for Parents and Confirmandi
6:30pm-8:30pm
2nd Wednesdays**

September 9, 2026-
May 12th, 2027

As Formation is something that families are called to do together, we request that at least 1 parent/caregiver attend with the confirmandi.

THE MOST DEADLY POISON OF OUR TIMES IS INDIFFERENCE. AND THIS HAPPENS, ALTHOUGH THE PRAISE OF GOD SHOULD KNOW NO LIMITS. LET US STRIVE, THEREFORE, TO PRAISE HIM TO THE GREATEST EXTENT OF OUR POWERS."

-MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

ROLE OF CONFIRMANDI

Catechumens for the Sacrament of Confirmation are preparing to receive graces to help them become Christ's missionaries. Catechumens should already be receiving regular catechesis (Faith Formation at the parish or within a home setting), attending Sunday Mass weekly, and frequenting the sacrament of Reconciliation.

If a catechumen will miss more than 2 preparation sessions, please communicate with the faith formation office. Since we only meet monthly, each session is a large part of preparation. Many absences will lead to a need to extend the formation period and might lead to a delay in receiving the Sacrament.

The Confirmandi will be spending the year learning about their faith and mission. Before being Confirmed, the Confirmandi should have the intent of remaining faithful to Christ in the Church.

PARENT ROLE

Parents and Guardians will join the monthly Confirmation preparation in order to help deepen their own faith lives and strengthen their abilities as first teachers in the faith.

Your primary role is to help your child grow in faith and prepare for the reception of the sacrament.

The sessions each month will be a resource to support this mission. Your involvement, interest, and concern make a difference in your child's perception of what the sacramental life is all about..

WEEKLY SUNDAY MASS ATTENDANCE

WEEKLY
ATTENDANCE AT A
SUNDAY (OR
SATURDAY VIGIL)
MASS AS WELL AS
FOR HOLY DAYS OF
OBLIGATION IS A
MINIMUM
REQUIREMENT FOR
RECEPTION OF THE
SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION.
PARENTS, PLEASE
HELP TO MAKE SURE
YOUR CONFIRMAND
IS ABLE TO MAKE
THIS A PRIORITY

PARENT ROLE

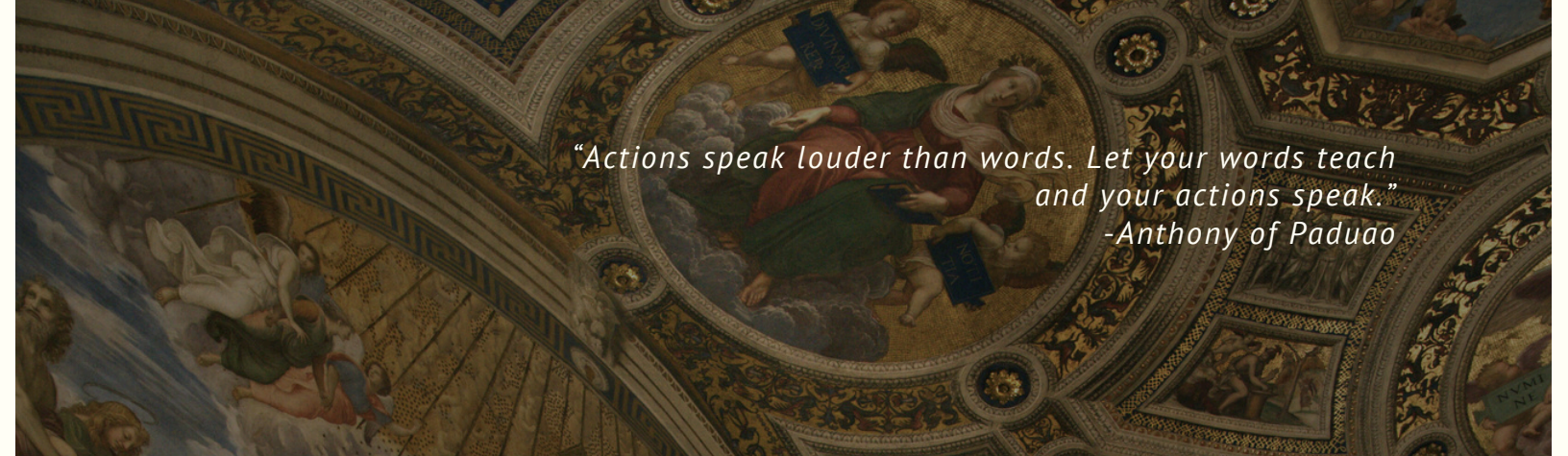
As the candidate progresses in the preparation process, there are opportunities to exercise this role as primary educator:

- Discuss materials, help them learn their prayers
- Help carrying out activities associated with preparation
- Witness to your own faith
- Pray with and for your confirmand,

Ask the confirmandi to clarify their struggles, convictions, morals, values, and attitudes.

Faith is caught more than taught. Consider these questions:

- Do I keep lines of communication open?
- Do I take time for private and communal prayer?
- Do I participate in the sacramental life of the Church?
- Do I stay updated on changes in the Church?
- Do I give loving service in and out of my family?
- Am I involved in parish activities?



*“Actions speak louder than words. Let your words teach
and your actions speak.”
-Anthony of Padua*

RITE OF ENROLLMENT

Rite of Enrollment

October 18th, 2026

10:30am Mass

This blessing takes place in the context of Mass. It gives the assembly an opportunity to acknowledge, affirm, and pray for the candidates. It is through the actions of those preparing for the reception of sacraments that allows the church to be renewed.

The enrollment of candidates is a time when the Confirmands agree to move on in the preparation process. They agree to open their hearts and respond to the Spirit. This is a time not only to grow in faith but to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

During the homily, Fr. John will ask the confirmandi to stand. He will ask parents and confirmandi a few questions. You will be asked to sign a commitment form acknowledging your desire to learn more.

Your sponsor is asked to attend this mass with you, they will be a witness to this journey.

You are welcome to sit anywhere, but father will call you forward after the homily to turn in your signed commitment form.



SPONSOR ROLE

Confirmandi should choose a sponsor to accompany them on the journey to Confirmation. Sponsors take on a lifelong commitment to assist the Confirmandi in fulfilling their obligation to the sacrament. It is appropriate to select the godparent, but it is not a requirement.

Sponsors:

- Must be 16 years of age or older
- Be a practicing Catholic in good standing
- Have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- Attend Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days
- Is an active member of a Catholic parish
- Is not bound by any canonical penalty imposed or declared
- (if married): has entered into a valid, sacramental marriage as determined by the Catholic Church

The sponsor is someone who will be praying for the confirmands and will be open to meeting regularly with the confirmands to encourage them in their faith journey

Please have the sponsor return the completed form to Our Lady of the Visitation by October 14, 2026.

Sponsors will be requested to attend a training October 14th (in person or on zoom) and should be present for Confirmation Rehearsal the day before Confirmation.



CONFIRMATION NAME AND SAINT REFLECTION

As part of the preparation, Confirmandi are asked to choose a confirmation name, that is a name of a saint who's life, mission, and ministry best suit the Confirmand.

Confirmandi should be exploring Saint's lives and praying about the mission or saint who they most closely identify with.

After choosing a saint, the Confirmandi research their saint and provide a submission either written or video which will explain the following:

- What attracted you to this Saint's life or mission?
- Explain what you learned about the Saint's life
- How did they live?
- When did they live/die?
- What is their conversion story? What led them to follow Jesus?
- What virtues did your saint practice in his or her life?
- How is your saint a role model for you and Christians today?

Written saint submissions should be a minimum of one page, 12pt font. Video submissions should be a minimum of 3 minutes of content.

Selected Saint Name

October 14th, 2026

Written or Video submission

April 14, 2027

(must be submitted prior to final interview)



MISSION AND SERVICE

In Confirmation, we are sent, strengthened by the Holy Spirit to grow and serve the Lord. We will be practicing the virtue of service so that after confirmation, the Confirmandi have an idea of where and how they would like to serve the community.

Church Mission and service can take place in four areas

- **Word** - to proclaim the message of the Gospels
 - anything pertaining to sharing the Word of God: reading at mass, writing a bulletin article about preparing for Confirmation, help with faith formation, read Scripture with someone, share a homily with someone and get feedback...
- **Worship** - to pray and celebrate God among us
 - Anything pertaining to Liturgy: bring up gifts at mass, altar serve on an extra day (weekly mass/funeral); hand out palms on Palm Sunday; greet as an usher at Mass
- **Witness** - to serve others
 - Witnessing your faith in parish community
 - volunteer within your community: babysit for free, clean the house without being asked, rake or shovel (for free, without being asked), serve an elderly, homebound, or other person in need
- **Welcome** - to create community
 - Welcoming others to Mass and help them get to know Jesus
 - Help clean up or decorate the parish, send a card to those preparing to become Catholic, attend youth gatherings at OLV and encourage others to attend

*community service is going out of your way for the goodness of the other, it's not always convenient. Be creative! How are you living out the mission of the Church beyond what is listed?

Minimum 2 hours in each category
April 14th, 2027



ABSENCES AND REFLECTIONS

Regular reflection on Sunday mass readings and homily are part of growing in our faith. Confirmandi are encouraged to keep reflections about how the Sunday readings and homilies. Should the Confirmandi miss one of the monthly preparation meetings, they will be expected to turn in their reflections for that month. *If a confirmand will miss more than 2 sessions, accommodations need to be made with the Director of Religious Education.



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and your actions speak.”
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CONFIRMATION RETREAT

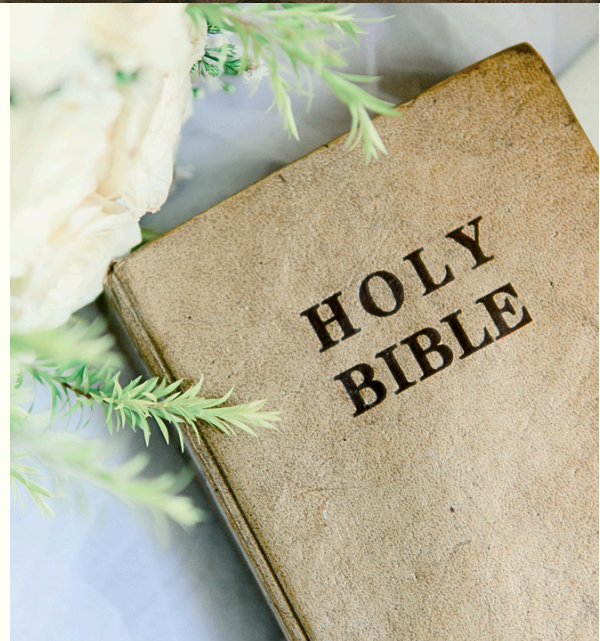
Confirmandi will be taking an in-depth look at the gifts of the Holy Spirit and our retreat master will be asking the Confirmandi questions such as:

- How is the Holy Spirit working within them
- Why do they want to be confirmed?

Small group activities and discussions, reflections, and faith sharing will be done during the retreat.

Retreat fee is \$50.00 and is due by February 10, 2027

Retreat Location: TBD
More information will be given during the upcoming meeting sessions.



Confirmation Retreat

March 13th, 2027
8:15 am-4:00 pm

The retreat is part of the preparation for Confirmation



LETTER TO THE BISHOP

Confirmandi are asked to write a letter to the Bishop requesting to be confirmed. He loves hearing from our confirmands and getting to know you before he confirms you.

In this letter please tell the Bishop:

- A little about yourself
- Where you go to school
- A little about your family
- What you have done to prepare for Confirmation
- Why you want to be fully initiated into the Catholic faith
- Something about your retreat or reflection experience
- Something you learned from the community service hours
- Your saint name and why you chose it
- Close your letter with a request to be confirmed
- Sign your letter

**Proof read your letter before submitting to:
Laura Brand**

Submit by April 14, 2027

A mosaic of a religious figure, likely Jesus, with a halo, rendered in shades of gold, brown, and grey. The figure is shown from the chest up, with hands raised in a gesture of blessing or teaching. The mosaic is composed of small, irregular tiles.

FINAL CONVERSATION AND QUESTIONNAIRE

A final questionnaire (40 questions) will be given to the Confirmand in March. The confirmand should give the questionnaire back to the catechists (completed) at the April meeting. This questionnaire is an opportunity to show how the confirmand can find answers about their faith and to demonstrate their understanding of the Catholic Faith. (This is not graded, but it is used for the conversation).

In April, Confirmandi will be offered dates for a conversation about what they've been learning during their preparation for Confirmation. These conversations may be with the Director of Religious Education or with Father John.

Confirmandi will take about 20 minutes to discuss what they've learned over the preparation period. This is an opportunity to articulate their faith. The confirmandi will be able to express why they would like to be confirmed, how they are living the Works of Mercy, and how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will guide them, etc. Most of the questions will come directly from the final questionnaire.



DATES TO KNOW

10/14/26 Turn in Signed Acknowledgement Form

10/14/26 Turn in Signed Sponsor Form

10/14/26 Sponsor Meeting at OLV 6:30-7:30PM

10/14/2026 Turn in Saint Name

10/14/2026 Baptismal Certificate due (original)

10/18/26 Rite of Enrollment 10:30am Mass

2/10/27 Retreat Fee Due \$50

3/13/27 Confirmation Retreat (off site)

4/14/27 Turn in Saint Reflection

4/14/27 Letter to Bishop submitted to Laura Brand

4/14/27 Turn in Service hours and questionnaire

April 2027 Dates TBD: Final Conversation

TBD Confirmation Walkthrough with Sponsors

TBD Confirmation at OLV



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read and understand the preparation program for Confirmation at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish for the 202025-2026 preparation year.

Confirmandi Signature

Parent Signature
