

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Candidates

The appropriate age for preparation and reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation is “when the Baptized individual is both at least 15 years of age and enrolled in at least the tenth grade.”

Candidates should also be aware of the following:

1. Be actively involved in the sacramental life of the Church including but not limited to Sunday Mass;
2. Must have concurrent active enrollment in high school Christian Formation. (Ex. Life Teen, Religion Class in Catholic School);
3. Attend mandatory meetings for parents and youth;
4. Complete initial interview with youth minister;
5. Choose a sponsor who is a confirmed Catholic in good standing in the Church. *Parents cannot serve as sponsors for their own children;*
6. Participate in modules of Confirmation instruction held throughout the Fall and Winter;
7. Attend a retreat specifically designed for Confirmation (planned by youth minister).

Choosing Your Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor for Confirmation is an important choice. This special person represents the faith community at the Rite of Confirmation and symbolizes the support of the entire Body of Christ in your life as a disciple. It is important that you choose a person who is an active, faithful Catholic who will be a good example and guide for you. Talk with your parents about who can best support you during the Confirmation preparation as well as after.

1. At Baptism your Godparents represented the community of faith in welcoming you to the family of the Church. They accepted a responsibility at your Baptism to help you grow as a Catholic. Consider choosing one of your Godparents as a Confirmation Sponsor.
2. Consider a person you know who is a role model and who truly lives the Good News.
3. Consider a person you can learn from by his or her example of Christian witness and discipleship.
4. Consider who, for you, is a spiritual role model who will be willing to make the commitment to be with you at this time and beyond the celebration.

Parents (information about requesting current Baptism Certificate)

All sacraments celebrated after Baptism are recorded at the Church of Baptism, and it is important to have the right information properly recorded at that particular parish or, in the case of the military, at the Military Archdiocese. Even though baptismal certificates are issued on the day of Baptism, the actual recording of the sacrament does not take place until after the celebration to ensure that it has actually

been celebrated. We have had situations here where a baptismal certificate was issued, but the sacrament was not celebrated on that particular day as scheduled.

We request a recently dated copy (dated no more than six months old) of the baptismal certificate to ensure that the sacrament was recorded and that all pertinent information was recorded properly. While it is true that the majority of families do not run into issues regarding another baptismal certificate, we have situations every year where the baptism was not recorded, or names of parents / godparents / dates of birth and baptism were incorrect. In the past, we have had sacramental notifications of First Communion sent to the Church of baptism, where that particular church notified us that they had no record of that child's baptism. Of course, the only way to know if all the information is incorrect or not recorded is to request a certificate.

We do this not to add any stress to the families, but to merely ensure that both you as parents and we as the parish have the appropriate information. Usually, it is a quick phone call to the Church of Baptism to request a new certificate, which most parishes are happy to do. We get numerous phone calls at St. Nicholas requesting baptismal certificates as well and are able to produce a new certificate fairly quickly, at no expense to the family.

Feel free to contact the parish office at (757) 340-7231 for any questions or concerns.