

# **Confirmation Candidate and Family Information Packet**

St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
2021/22



Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
Enkindle in us the fire of your love.

## **What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are the sacraments of initiation. Through these sacraments we become members of the Catholic Church, a community of Spirit-filled people who have been saved by Christ and who witness Christ's love in the world. Confirmation completes and seals our Baptism. Through the fullness of the Spirit's gifts, we are led to Eucharist through which we become the Body of Christ. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the candidates are:

- Enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Are bound more perfectly to the Church.
- Are strengthened in faith.
- Enabled to courageously witness to Christ and to spread and defend the faith.

## **The Role of Those to Be Confirmed**

Those to be confirmed must freely choose to be confirmed and must be willing to participate in the Confirmation Preparation program, consisting of study, service, and prayer. Their faith in God must be evident through their participation in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. They need to be attending Mass regularly on Sundays, and living an active Christian life. Knowing that there are those times when we turn away from God or fail to follow his will for us, the candidates are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this preparation process. The expectations of the Candidates are to:

1. Enter the journey with a willing heart and an open mind.
2. Commit oneself to consistent personal prayer throughout the journey.
3. Attend all sessions, in-person or by zoon (Excused absences require completion of work missed).
4. Willingly engage in community service.
5. Participate in the Confirmation Holy Hour
6. Complete all entries in the candidate's book.
7. Support and encourage other candidates on the journey.
8. Maintain an open and honest relationship with one's sponsor or mentor.

## **The Role of the Parent (or adult family member)**

Parents play a primary role in the sacramental preparation process. The parent:

1. Models the commitment to personal prayer, community worship, and ministry expected of a mature Christian.
2. Assumes responsibility to assist the candidate in meeting the program's attendance and service requirements.
3. Agrees to help the candidate understand the experience of the journey—enters into dialogue with the candidate, prays for and with the candidate, is willing to share his or

her personal faith story with the candidate.

4. Is willing to step in for the mentor at any time if the mentor is unable to fulfill his or her commitment.

## **The Role of the Sponsor**

Each candidate, with parental help, is expected to choose a sponsor. The sponsor:

1. Models the commitment to personal prayer, community worship, and ministry expected of a mature Christian.
2. Agrees to discuss the Catholic faith with the candidate, using the sponsor text, and completing with the candidate the entries in the candidate's book.
3. Supports the candidate during the journey of preparation through ongoing dialogue, notes of encouragement, and a willingness to listen to the concerns and hopes of the candidate.
4. Prays for and with the candidate.
5. The sponsor must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic, and sufficiently mature for this role. By canon law, parents cannot be Confirmation sponsors for their own children. It is greatly encouraged that the baptismal sponsor also be the confirmation sponsor to more clearly illustrate the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. The sponsor presents the candidate to the bishop for the anointing.

## **PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**

### **Registration for Confirmation**

The candidate registration form is provided with this information. If the candidate was not baptized nor made their First Eucharist at St. Francis, a copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate is requested along with the registration form.

Please also indicate the name of your sponsor, filling out the required information, on the registration form. **It is preferred that the form be filled out online.**

### **Religious Study and Formation in Faith**

Full participation in religious education classes or in the school is an important part of one's growth in understanding the Faith. Regular attendance, completion of assigned work, and participation in class are requirements in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Religious Study during the 8th grade includes education in the Faith, using the text, "Chosen," and a concentration on the Sacrament of Confirmation, using the material in the Confirmation text.

### **Sponsor (Mentor) Faith Discussions**

Life in the Spirit is first and foremost about a relationship with God and with others. The time and commitment your sponsor (mentor) gives to you in guiding and supporting your faith is a valuable gift towards your life-long growth in Christian discipleship. The Confirmation book is a tool to aid in faith discussions with your sponsor (mentor). Thus, timely completion of the Confirmation text with your sponsor (mentor) is required. Books will be made available in May 2021.

### **CONFIRMATION RETREAT**

The Confirmation Retreat is an important part of the spiritual preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confession (or the celebration of Reconciliation) and the celebration of Mass forms a part of the retreat experience. Due to the necessity of precautions due to the coronavirus, the retreat may be offered virtually with confessions offered at a separate date.

Regular participation in Sunday Mass and Completion of Reflection Sheets are part of the ongoing and deeper experience of God during this period of preparation. Reflection Sheets are included in this packet.

### **Service Project Information**

Jesus came “not to be served, but serve (Mt 20:28).” The Church is a servant community and all those accepting full membership in the Church are also accepting the responsibility to serve.

Candidates for the reception of Confirmation are asked to engage in service projects. By doing so, the candidates contribute their own talents and abilities and help make a “Christ” difference in their communities by helping others. In living an active faith, the candidates grows in knowledge and love of God and neighbor.

Candidates are asked to contribute 30 hours of service to others as part of their preparation for Confirmation. Please document the service, using the online submission portal found at: <http://www.x2vol.com/Login.html>

You will need to register or complete the registration the first time you enter the site. Look for the link that reads, new user. Then click the box that says, “My school instructed me to complete my registration.” When prompted, under “Find your school” look for St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ann Arbor. Fill out the account lookup, entering the students’ last name and the email we have on file (parent email). Fill out the student registration, correcting as needed. Once the initial registration is completed and you are logged in, you will see the group, “Confirmation 2022 and the goals of 30 service hours. You can “Add Hours” and create a personal project, such as church or community activities, complete the activities, adding hours and following the instructions for submission and verification. **Submissions documenting 30 hours of service are due by the end of January.**

### **Choosing a Confirmation Name**

At Baptism, your parents gave you a name. In Confirmation, you have the opportunity to choose a name that speaks to you of your relationship with God. You may choose the name of a saint who will be your patron/patroness for your Christian journey. You may also choose to keep your baptismal name, for the life in Christ began in baptism, is now

sealed in Confirmation.

### Researching your Name Saint

Once you have chosen the name of a Saint or holy person, you will need to do some research into the life of this person.

Take notes to answer the following questions:

1. What is the story (biography) of this Saint's (or holy person's) life?
2. What did this person do in their daily life that showed they were a follower of Jesus?
3. Why did you choose this person? What in this person's life do you admire or wish to imitate in your own life?

At the Confirmation interview, the candidates will be asked to give an oral report, about the Saint/holy person they have chosen for their name. Once you have chosen your name for Confirmation, please fill out and submit the Confirmation name form.

### Interview of Candidates

All candidates will be interviewed prior to being confirmed. At the time of the interview, all preparation requirements for Confirmation are to be completed. An oral report about the Saint/holy person chosen for the Confirmation name will be asked of the candidate. Understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation through discussion of the Confirmation books (candidate and sponsor) and review of completed service projects will be discussed at the interview. **The candidate is required to bring the completed text (candidate book) to the interview.** The candidate's desire for the Sacrament of Confirmation will also be determined.

### The Confirmation Mass

The date for the celebration of Confirmation is generally in the spring and received by the bishop's office in late fall.

### Questions?

You will find information and forms on our website at [stfrancisa2.com/kids](http://stfrancisa2.com/kids)

Please feel free to contact the Religious Education secretary at [stfreled@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:stfreled@stfrancisa2.org) or 734-821-2130 or Ellen Ward, Director of Religious Education at [ward@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:ward@stfrancisa2.org) for questions.

*May God bless you and your family, working all things out for your good,  
as you prepare for this important milestone in your journey of Faith!*

