



St Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Parish

Forming saints for Christ and the Church since 1857

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens the baptized and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses of Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It imprints a character, enriches by the gift of the Holy Spirit the baptized continuing on the path of Christian initiation, and binds them more perfectly to the Church. (Canon 879)

GUIDELINES

The following guidelines apply to a young adults ages 13 to 17 (8th grade to high school junior), who baptized as Catholic Christians prior to their seventh (7th) birthday. For children older than seven (7) years old, who were not yet baptized, please call to make an appointment with the pastor. For baptized persons older than 17 years of age, please call to make an appointment with the pastor. In the danger of death or grave illness, please call the pastor for immediate emergency Baptism and/or Confirmation.

Confirmation Celebrations:

The Sacrament of Confirmation is ordinarily celebrated and administered by the local archbishop according to his schedule with other young people of the parish and surrounding parishes. Typically, this celebration takes place in April, May, or June for the parish of St Mary, Rushville. It may be celebrated at a neighboring parish church.

Parents have a grave responsibility to encourage the faith in their children and to make sure that they receive all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation) at the appropriate times. As these are sacred events and Sacraments, young people typically undergo some preparation prior to receiving them in the form of classes, retreats, and ministry projects. All of this is of course to be an outreach of regular Sunday Mass attendance and daily personal and family prayer.

Confirmation Preparation Class:

This program is for Candidates who have been instructed in their faith through catechetical preparation using parish provided on-line resources, a Day of Reflection, and two Sponsor-Candidate meetings. Candidates begin preparation in the fall and are confirmed in April/May/June of the academic year. We will have two in-person Preparation Classes for candidates and their sponsor and/or parent (i.e., "Sponsor-Candidate Nights") on Sunday, September 17, 2017 and Sunday, April 15, 2018. Both are 5:30p to 7:45p in the parish school. Candidates are also prepared by completing the weekly on-line items on Formed.org. The use of the Religion Curriculum Guide of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in Religious education programs insures that the foundational doctrine has been presented to these students.



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Confirmation Requirements:

At least one of the parents (or guardian) of the child must be an active member in St Mary Catholic Parish (or met with and discussed with the pastor why they are not utilizing their parish's formation program). Active membership includes, but is not limited to, being registered in the parish, weekly and Holy Days attendance at Mass, and financial and volunteer support of the parish according to one's means. While the criteria for Godparents do not explicitly apply to the parents of the child, they do provide a basic guide for active membership.

Every Baptized person not yet Confirmed, and only such a person, is capable of receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. Therefore, Confirmation, like Baptism, can only be received once in a person's life.

A recently issued Baptismal Certificate is required for all young people not Baptized at St Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Rushville, IN.

Requirements Confirmation Sponsors

The choice of a sponsor by your young adult teen is an important one. It should be governed the Sponsor's ability to provide the young person a prayerful and faithful witness and assistance in living one's Catholic Christian faith. All Sponsors must meet all the following criteria.

- 1) He/she is a baptized Catholic Christian having received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- 2) He/she is 16 years of age or over.
- 3) If single, he/she is living a chaste life, that is, not "living together" with someone.
- 4) If married, he/she is married in the Catholic Church by an approved Catholic priest.
- 5) He/she attends Holy Mass every weekend and on Holy Days.
- 6) He/she may not be the parent or guardian of the candidate

Only one sponsor is required. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardian to verify that the selected Sponsor meet the above criteria.

Parents or guardians of the young person to be Confirmed are not permitted to be Sponsor of the same child, since they already have a unique and special relationship and role as the 'primary educator in the faith.'



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What do Sponsors do:

- Pray for your candidate
- Encourage your candidate
- Discuss Faith with your candidate
- Help answer questions for your candidate
- Invite your candidate to be involved in Parish
- Walk with your candidate

How do I share my faith?

- Ask them why they chose you to be their sponsor, they see something in you!
- Be willing to share yourself, your stories of your faith life
- Don't talk down to, but talk across to
- Try to make connections between Gospel & their current life/situations
- Be willing to answer questions? Recognize you don't know? Look up answers & report back.
- Affirm where you see Jesus in their lives
- Read the Scriptures & Catechism yourself
- Build a relationship with them, faith will follow
- Be authentic
- Be not Afraid!!!

Twenty Tips for Sponsors:

1. Participate with youth in activities
2. Establish regular times/ways of communication
3. Encourage youth to journal
4. Discuss how & why to make life-choices
5. Recommend & share in spiritual reading
6. Encourage prayer/discussion/understanding about vocations
7. Ask open ended questions (why, how, when)
8. Share in service together
9. Encourage the youth to become involved
10. Explore different types of prayer & devotionals
11. Discuss Scripture or Sunday Readings (What would you talk about if you had to write a homily?)
12. Keep a prayer list – persons, intentions, situations that you pray for together
13. Help your candidate remember their Baptism
14. Support your candidate in their everyday life & struggles
15. Support Mom & Dad of youth
16. Help youth to understand their Mom & Dad
17. Identify & Invite five people to pray for your candidate
18. Share how the Jesus Christ impacts your life
19. Share how the Church influences your life
20. Pray for the young person
21. Show humility, and as the young person to pray for you!