



Junior High Program

CONFIRMATION

Candidate Handbook
2017-2018

Confirmation Process

Candidates in the 8th grade are eligible to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. The current methodology for Confirmation preparation is not considered to be a time to review a summary of all Christian teaching. It simply is a time to explore and open up the Rite of Confirmation.

The following should help you understand the process and decide whether **your candidate** is ready to participate:

1. The Candidate must come willingly to the Sacrament.
2. Candidate must complete an Essay on “Why” he or she would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.
3. The process assumes that the candidate has had some form of religious formation. This is not an “everything you need to know about the Catholic Church” process. It presumes that some of their preparation process has already taken place in a parish-based process. The process does not confuse preparation for the Sacrament with other concerns.
4. We must have a copy of your candidate’s Baptismal and First Eucharist certificates.
5. All Candidates will participate in the liturgical life of the church. They can attend any Sunday Mass.
6. All Candidates are to maintain satisfactory attendance to their regular scheduled class day and time. **MONDAY 6-7:30 pm.**
7. All Candidates will complete 15 hours of community service.
8. All Candidates will attend and participate in a 4 hour **MANDATORY** Confirmation retreat.
9. **Parents and/or sponsors** are also required to attend a **MANDATORY** Sponsor’s Retreat. This retreat is a Diocesan requirement. You may substitute Ministry Day, or other parish faith formation events that qualify.
10. The celebration of the **Sacrament of Confirmation** is scheduled for **SUMMER 2018**, subject to change due to the Bishop’s schedule.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact Religious Education Office, 209-320-5716 or email religioused@presentationchurch.net.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

The role of the sponsor and parent is to encourage, support and affirm the candidate throughout the confirmation process.

- **Attendance-** candidates must participate, 90% attendance is expected.
- **Sunday Liturgy-** weekly attendance at any offered Mass is required of each Confirmation Candidate.
- **Community Service-** each candidate will complete a community project with a minimum of 15 hours of service.
- **Sponsor forms-** due by **January 8, 2018**. Sponsors are required to attend a one day retreat.
- **A Confirmation name-** is optional. If you choose an name, a form is provided.
- **Retreat-** candidates will participate in a **MANDATORY** retreat. Date and time TBD, and a make-up retreat will not be offered.
- **Confirmation rehearsal-** **Mandatory attendance**. If a sponsor can't come to the rehearsal, a parent may stand in for the sponsor during rehearsal. Confirmation Candidates are required to attend.
- **The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated Summer 2018.** Candidates and sponsors ***must*** be in their seats in the church 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. There is no reserved seating.

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail Religious Education Office, 209-320-5716 or religioused@presentationchurch.net.

Proper attire for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Candidates are expected to be appropriately dressed for the celebration of a Sacrament.

**ALL CANDIDATES ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A
RED GOWN FOR THE CELEBRATION DURING MASS
(RENTAL FEE TO BE DETERMINED)**

Boys

Collared dress shirt. A tie is optional.

Dress pants with belt. No jeans or shorts.

Shirt tucked in. Clean shoes.

Extremely baggy clothing is not appropriate.

Girls

Dress with sleeves or jacket or
dressy pant suit with sleeves or jacket.

Shoulders must be covered.

Tank top type attire, low midriff is not appropriate.

Extremely short or tight clothing is not appropriate.

Flats or low heeled shoes.

If wearing heels, make sure candidate is comfortable wearing such heels prior to the Rite.

Confirmation Sponsor Information

Stated most simply, a confirmation sponsor is someone (male or female) who is willing to help the candidate grow in the skills, knowledge, attitudes and practices that are considered essential to being a mature, responsible and committed (confirmed) member of the Catholic Church. In other words, a sponsor is a professed follower of Jesus. The task of the sponsor is to help the candidate take the necessary steps to begin a life long quest to continue to grow in faith.

The sponsor for the candidate of confirmation has a unique and important role in the catechetical process towards the celebration of the sacrament. The sponsor is the teacher, spiritual guide and confidant for the candidate. The sponsor should be, therefore, someone whose life is such a powerful witness to the Good News of Christ, that the candidate chooses him or her because of the desire to share in that same way of life. The sponsor is such an important part of the process that the candidate should be given proper guidance in choosing his or her sponsor. The sponsor, in turn, should be made aware of the commitment he or she is making.

According to Canon Law 893:

A sponsor must be at least sixteen (16) years old.

A sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic (celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).

A sponsor must not be bound by any church penalty.

A parent cannot be a sponsor.

A parent can help the candidate select as a sponsor someone who reflects the following characteristics, which are beyond the minimum identified by Canon Law:

- A local residency to insure consistent involvement throughout the Confirmation process.
- Presence at all the Liturgical Rites.
- A positive, comfortable relationship with the candidate.
- A willingness and capacity to engage in the confirmation process as a means of enhancing his or her own growth as a Catholic Christian adult.
- A willingness to continue to be supportive of the newly confirmed individual as he or she continues through life on a journey of faith.

The sponsor's role is functional, not symbolic. Sponsor is responsible for helping the candidate to prepare for initiation into the Catholic Christian community and for helping the newly initiated member in fulfilling the responsibilities of that membership.

If you need clarification or have any questions, please contact Religious Education Office, at 209-320-5716 or religioused@presentationchurch.net.

Community Service Project

For the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, all candidates are required to complete 15 hours of community service.

Please state how the community service that was completed.

Candidate Name

Parent signature

Witnessed by & contact information

Please return completed form to the Religious Education Office by April 9, 2018.

