

Curriculum Guidelines for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Diocese of Madison

Office of Evangelization & Catechesis

Words and terms that Confirmandi should be able to define:	Prayers that Confirmandi should be introduced to and be able to recite:	The following characteristics and habits of discipleship should be taught through the entire two years of formation:
<p>Sacrament Consecration Grace Sacraments of Initiation Holy Spirit Confirmation Seal or Indelible Mark Virtue Theological Virtues - Faith, Hope, Charity Gifts of Holy Spirit Fruits of the Holy Spirit Form (of Confirmation) Matter (of Confirmation)</p> <p>Confirmation Sessions and Retreat Specific Universal Call to Holiness Saint Disciple</p>	<p>Come, Holy Spirit Litany of the Holy Spirit Baptismal Promises and Responses</p> <p><i>All prayers, forms of prayer, and sacramentals that are expected in the standards to the corresponding age of the Confirmandi.</i></p>	<p><i>Preparation should aim to lead at a deeper union with Christ and more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An understanding of the need to grow in holiness and constantly deepen one's spiritual life. Remains mindful of the call to holiness and constantly deepen one's spiritual life. - A commitment to a life of prayer. Lives a daily routine of mental prayer. - A reliance on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the gift of Fear of the Lord. Be able to define each gift and apply it to the daily life of the disciple. - A commitment to obedience to the precepts of the Church. Acts in accord with and obedience to the precepts of the Church. - A desire to deepen one's relationship with the Church and her teachings. Takes steps to deepen one's relationship with the Church and knowledge of her teachings. - An understanding of one's place in the story of salvation history. Acknowledges one is a sinner in need of salvation. Reflects regularly on Scripture and the story of salvation history. - A desire to become an intentional, lifelong disciple. Plans and works to become an intentional, lifelong disciple. - An attitude of service to their neighbor. Serves their neighbor. - An ability to pass on and witness the faith to others. Passes on and witnesses the faith to others.

12 Hours of Immediate Parish Confirmation Specific Sacramental Preparation

God's Plan of Love

- God's plan to love us and be one with us; how this plan has been revealed throughout salvation history. *CCC 51 - 73*
- God existed from all time as a communion of Persons: this is the Holy Trinity; God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. *CCC 232 - 267*
- God desires for mankind to know him in all Persons of the Trinity and to share in the life of the Trinity: eternal love. *CCC 232 - 267*
- The Holy Spirit, promised by Christ and outpoured at Pentecost, pours God's gift of love into our hearts and brings the mission of the Church to completion. *CCC 683 - 747*
- God created us to be in relationship with him and invites us to belong to the Church. *CCC 748 - 810*
- In the Church we become his adoptive children and part of the Body of Christ. *CCC 1213*
- When we gather together at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass we celebrate that Christ died to save us and give thanks for his mercy and love. *CCC 1322 - 1405*
- The Seven Sacraments were instituted by Christ to give grace, His divine life and to thus sanctify us. *CCC 1210*
- Names and effects of the Sacraments in the economy of Salvation. *CCC 1113 - 1129*
 - There are seven sacraments. *CCC 1210*
 - The sacraments of initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. *CCC 1212 - 1419*
 - Confirmation completes baptismal grace and binds the baptized person more perfectly to the church.
 - In Confirmation we are given the strength of the Holy Spirit and are obliged to spread and defend the Catholic Faith.
 - The sacraments of Healing are Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. *CCC 1422 - 1532*
 - The sacraments at the Service of Communion are Marriage and Holy Orders. *CCC 1533 - 1666*
- The form and matter of the Sacrament of Confirmation. *CCC 1131, 1153, Rite of Confirmation*
 - **Form:** the words: "Be Sealed with the Holy Spirit".
 - **Matter:** the laying on of hands by the Bishop.

The Body of Christ: Our Holy Mother Church

- God taught his followers in the bible to keep holy the Sabbath and Jesus, God's Son, reminded them of the importance of following all His commands.
- Jesus taught his apostles about celebrating the sacraments. He instructed them to go forth baptize and celebrate all sacraments with others, it was their responsibility to build up the body of Christ. *CCC 748, 858*
- Jesus left his apostles on earth as the first bishops who would lead the Church. *CCC 858*
- He left Peter as the head of the apostles, the first bishops; our current day Peter is called the Pope. *CCC 880*
- Our Pope is Pope Francis, we also have on earth Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.
- We live in the Diocese of Madison, and our Bishop is Robert Morlino.
- Bishops have priests who live and work and minister to the parishes providing the Mass for all the faithful in the diocese. *CCC 888*

The Sacrament of Confirmation

- Confirmation & Our Salvation *CCC 1286 - 1289*
 - The Holy Spirit dwelled with the Father and the Son from all time and rested upon our Messiah, Jesus Christ, for his time on earth.
 - The Spirit was not meant to remain with the Messiah but Christ promised that the Spirit would be poured out upon his followers so they could do the mighty deeds of God on earth.
 - After the Apostles were filled with the Spirit they went forth to baptize all believers and lay hands on them, so that the grace of baptism would be complete.
- Signs of Confirmation
 - **Laying on of hands:** this is in the tradition of the Apostles who laid hands upon the newly baptized. *CCC 1289, 1293 - 1301*
 - **Anointing with oil:** very early in their work the apostles added an “anointing” with perfumed oil to the laying on of hands to signify a spiritual “seal” or “indelible mark.” It is a sign that indicates our souls are changed and we, the newly confirmed, are consecrated to God. *CCC 1289, 1293 - 1301*
 - When we are sealed with the Holy Spirit we belong completely to God.
- Celebration of the Sacrament
 - A renewal of baptismal promises happens in the context of the Rite (whether done at Mass or in a different manner). *CCC 1298*
 - The bishop lays hands on the Candidates as the apostles did in the early Church. *CCC 1299*
 - The Bishop anoints each candidate with Sacred Chrism, saying “Be Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit”. *CCC 1300*
- Who can receive the Sacrament?
 - Every baptized person older than the age of discretion. *CCC 1306*
 - Those who are receiving confirmation must be in a state of grace. One is recommended to receive reconciliation just prior to the sacrament to be cleansed for the Gift of the Holy Spirit. *CCC 1310*
- Who is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament?
 - The Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation unless special permission is granted to a priest to confer the Sacrament. *CCC 1312 - 1314*
- Effects of the Sacrament
 - An outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurs. *CCC 1302*
 - Candidates receive a deepening and increase of Baptismal Grace. *CCC 1305*
 - It unites us more firmly to Christ. *CCC 1303*
 - It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us. *CCC 1303*
 - It renders a more perfect bond to the Church. *CCC 1303*
 - It gives special strength to spread and defend the Catholic Faith. *CCC 1303*
 - It renders an indelible mark on our souls. *CCC 1304*
- Strengthened and Sealed
 - The Confirmed are sent forth to take Jesus to all that they meet and proclaim the Gospel.
 - Jesus taught his followers that they are to serve others; all disciples are to do so, as well.

- We are called to celebrate the sacraments regularly, especially attending Holy Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.
- We are called to holiness and a life that responds to the Holy Spirit. This happens through a life of prayer and living in communion with the Church. **CCC 1533**
- Beyond the universal call to holiness, God calls individuals to particular vocations, including Holy Orders, religious life, married life and the single life.
- The Gift of Everlasting Life
 - Everything we do as Catholics should be focused on our ultimate goal: life in heaven.
 - The life of discipleship includes obeying the precepts of the Church and living life with the Holy Spirit, in order to live lives of purpose, virtue, and joy, in such a way that we may be worthy of Heaven. **CCC 1260, 1998, 2820**

One or Two Night Confirmation Retreat Content

- God's plan to love us and be one with us; how this plan has been revealed throughout salvation history. *CCC 51-73*
- He created us to be in relationship with him and invites us to belong to the Church. *CCC 748-810*
- We are called to holiness and a life that responds to the Holy Spirit. This happens through a life of prayer and living in communion with the Church. *CCC 1533*

CONVERSION: CCC 1427 - 1439, 1846 - 1848

PRAYER: CCC 2558 - 2567, 2697 - 2724

DISCIPLE: CCC 2, 425, 520, 562, 618, 788, 1533, 2233, 2621, Glossary

Confirmation retreats should...

- ... be overnight or held over an entire weekend (encompassing two overnights).
- ... include Mass.
- ... include individual Confessions.
- ... include substantial time for silent prayer.
- ... flow out of a heavy reliance on Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- ... include teaching on prayer.
- ... include study of and/or meditation on Scripture passages.
- ... focus their content on introducing the habits of discipleship.