

Family Information Packet



Our Lady of the Eucharist Parish Community
Pittston, PA

Sister Mary Ann Cody, IHM, *Parish Life Coordinator*
Rev. Jeffrey J. Walsh, V.E., *Sacramental Minister*
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Confirmation 2019

Registration: The Confirmation Registration Form must be completed and returned as soon as possible.

Celebration of Confirmation:

We are delighted to announce that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Eucharist. Father Walsh will be the celebrant and will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. The diocese has decided that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered on Pentecost Sunday in every parish of the diocese.

Preparation for Confirmation:

Spiritual:

- Regular attendance at weekend liturgy
- Celebration of Reconciliation (Penance)
- Participation in Confirmation Retreat

Academic:

- Regular attendance at Religious Education classes on Sunday mornings from 9:45 A.M. – 11:45 A.M. (according to posted schedule)
- Research into the Candidate's Name Saint
- Written and Oral Presentation on Name Saint
- Written Report on Service Project(s)
- Written Letter to the Parish Life Coordinator

Community:

- 12 hours of service time
 - 4 hours of parish service
 - 4 hours of community service
 - 4 hours of family service

Fee: \$50.00

Rite of Enrollment: Sunday, February 24, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Mass

Rite of Acceptance: Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. Mass

Pastoral Interviews: February/March 2019 (dates and times to be announced)

Retreat: TBA

Confirmation

General Information

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, whom the Lord sent upon the apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized.

In 1972, the church published The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA stresses the connections between the three sacraments of Christian Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

In Baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as a preparation for the mature Christian life.

In Eucharist, the great sign of Christian unity, the faithful are nourished and strengthened. They are transformed into a more loving and united community of believers. Through these sacramental rites the faithful are officially acknowledged as Christians. They are commissioned to carry out the mission of Christ and his Church.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation time in the parish is a time when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.



THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ.

These gifts are:

<i>Wisdom</i>	<i>Understanding</i>
<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Right Judgment</i>
<i>Courage</i>	<i>Reverence</i>
<i>Wonder and Awe</i>	

From the Gifts of the Holy Spirit come the fruits, which are:

<i>Charity</i>	<i>Joy</i>
<i>Peace</i>	<i>Patience</i>
<i>Kindness</i>	<i>Goodness</i>
<i>Long-suffering</i>	<i>Mildness</i>
<i>Fortitude</i>	<i>Modesty</i>
<i>Continency</i>	<i>Chastity</i>

All who are led by the Spirit are children of God.

Romans 8:14

The Responsibilities of Parents

Parents:

- are the primary educators of their children
- are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- serve as models for their child by being committed Christians
- worship with their families regularly
- nurture their child in faith
- should encourage their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation
- are asked to attend prayer meetings, programs, and prayer services that are planned to help their child prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation
- are no longer permitted as Confirmation sponsors for their own child
- are asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, and Christian service.
- can emphasize the importance of the Sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation
- should stress the initiation aspect of the Sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith
- should help the child in understanding that the Confirmation service project is the beginning of life committed to Christian service.

Christian Commitment to Service

Jesus came “not to be served, but to 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 select service projects which are geared to their own special talents and abilities. Candidates are asked to perform 12 hours of Christian service to others as part of their preparation for Confirmation. The service should be performed freely and willingly. It could help the parish, neighborhood, or local community. This service project is meant to represent the candidate’s intentions of becoming a full member of this servant community, and a special follower of Christ.

Rite of Enrollment

The Rite of Enrollment is a ceremony in which the candidates who choose to enter into the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation make their commitment official. Prior to the Rite of Enrollment candidates are asked to seriously and prayerfully think about what will be required of them during this time of preparation.

Role of the Parish Community

The role of the parish community is to welcome its young people into full participatory experience within the parish. As with Baptism, catechesis for this sacrament takes place within the parish community, which has an obligation to participate in the catechetical preparation of those to be confirmed. The parish is the faith community into whose life of prayer and worship they will be more fully initiated. It also embodies the message to which they are to respond and gives witness, in service, to the faith they profess.

(NCD #119)

The Rite of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation:

- is celebrated during Mass
- begins with the Liturgy of the Word
- is presided over by the bishop or a designated auxiliary or pastor

There are four parts to the rite:

- renewal of baptismal vows
- laying on of hands
- anointing with oil
- sign of peace

The Role of the Sponsor

Sponsors:

- support the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life
- must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- must belong to the Catholic church and be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- should be sufficiently mature in their own faith development and practice
- may be either male or female for any candidate
- may be a baptismal Godparent, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation
- may help the candidate prepare for Confirmation
- may assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service project commitment
- must be reasonably informed on current church teachings
- may accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs
- may not be the parents of the candidate

- can encourage the candidate by growing in a faith relationship
- may assist in determining the candidate's readiness
- may present the candidate to the minister of Confirmation

He has given us the pledge of His Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:5

Candidates Preparing for Confirmation

Candidates:

- must freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known
- must be in the state of grace
- must have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions
- must be practicing their faith
- should attend Mass and receive the sacraments of Eucharist and reconciliation regularly
- are responsible for completing all required home study and service projects
- must be aware of the initiation aspect of the Sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion
- must be willing to participate in the Confirmation program of prayer, retreat, communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and attend scheduled classes.
- participate in an interview with the parish life coordinator.

Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of understanding, even the depths of God.

1 Corinthians 2:10

Prayers that Candidates should know by Heart

The Our Father

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

An Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Jesus Christ suffered and died for me. In his name, dear God, forgive me. Amen.

Though no longer necessary to be prepared to answer a fixed set of questions, the students should be able to reflect and respond to the following questions:

- *What does receiving the sacrament of Confirmation mean to you?*
- *What is one way you have seen the gospel message of Jesus being lived out in your parish?*
- *How do you intend to put your faith into action over the next few years?
What gifts do you want to share with your parish community?*
- *How can your parish community continue to support you in your faith journey?*

1. What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to make us strong and perfect Christians and witnesses of Jesus Christ.

2. What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

3. How many sacraments or outward signs are there?

There are seven sacraments:

Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

Sacraments of Healing - Penance (Reconciliation) and Anointing of the Sick

Sacraments of Commitment - Marriage and Holy Orders

4. Who is the ordinary minister of Confirmation?

The Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation.

5. How does the Bishop give Confirmation?

The Bishop extend his hands over those to be confirmed, prays that the Holy Spirit may descend upon them and anoints the forehead of each with Holy Chrism.

6. What is Holy Chrism?

Holy Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balm blessed by the Bishop on Holy Thursday or any day during Holy Week.

7. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are seven: *Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Right Judgment, Courage, Reverence, and Wonder and Awe.*

Confirmation Names

If the candidate's baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. Using the baptismal name for Confirmation is preferred because it highlights the relationship between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

If the candidate chooses to take a new name for Confirmation, however, it should be a name selected in honor of Jesus or Mary or one of the recognized saints of the Catholic Church. Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron whose Christian life or virtues can be imitated.



*I will write my
law upon the
fleshy tablets of
their hearts.*



Candidate Review Guide

The following topics should already be mastered by anyone entering a Confirmation preparation program. Parents and sponsors should assist candidates in reviewing this material.

The Commandments

1. I am the Lord, your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Sacraments

Baptism
Holy Eucharist
Marriage
Anointing of the Sick

Confirmation
Reconciliation
Holy Orders

School of Religious Education
Class Calendar for Confirmation Class
2018 – 2019

Day/Date	Time	Lesson
Sunday, Sept 16	9:45 a.m.	<i>Meeting with parents and students</i>
Sunday, Sept 30	9:45 to 11:45	<i>Life Is Choices</i>
Sunday, Oct 14	9:45 to 11:45	<i>What's Holding You Back?</i>
Sunday, Nov 4	9:45 to 11:45	<i>The Jesus Question</i>
Sunday, Nov 18	9:45 to 11:45	<i>The Prayer Process</i>
Sunday, Dec 9	9:45 to 11:45	<i>The Bible</i>
Sunday, Jan 13	9:45 to 11:45	<i>Relationships</i>
Sunday, Jan 27	9:45 to 11:45	<i>The Eucharist</i>
Sunday, Feb 10	9:45 to 11:45	<i>The Holy Spirit</i>
Sunday, Feb 24	9:45 to 11:45	<i>The Church</i>
Sunday, March 10	9:45 to 11:45	<i>Confirmation</i>
Sunday, March 24	9:45 to 11:45	<i>Made for Mission</i>
Sunday, April 7	9:45 to 11:45	<i>Holiness is Possible</i>
TBA	TBA	Retreat
Sunday, June 2	12 Noon	<i>Sponsor and Student Rehearsal</i>
Sunday, June 9, 2019	2:00 p.m.	<i>Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation</i>

Outline for Candidate's Letter to the Parish Life Coordinator

I. Introduce yourself

- A. Name
- B. Age
- C. School you attend
- D. Grade

II. Preparation

- A. Explain that you are a candidate for Confirmation and the name of the particular parish you belong to.
- B. Explain why you want to be confirmed
- C. Explain what you have done to prepare for the Sacrament
e.g. Prayer, classes, service project, etc.

III. Closing Remarks

- A. Ask for her prayers as you prepare for the Sacrament
- B. Sincerely,
Name (Signature)