



Confirmation Letter of Invitation



Dear Confirmation 2024 Candidates and families,

You are invited to begin preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation!

What is Confirmation? Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church. We begin our journey when we receive baptism, and enter into “new life;” participate more fully when we receive the Eucharist and finally receive the Holy Spirit more completely in Confirmation, as a fully initiated member of the Roman Catholic Church, the Church founded by Jesus Christ.

What happens at Confirmation? In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Apostles and the Bishops, who are their successors, hand on to the baptized the special gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by Christ the Lord and poured out upon the Apostles at Pentecost. The *initiation* in the Christian life is then completed so that believers are strengthened by power from Heaven, made true witnesses of Christ in word and deed, and bound more closely to the Church.” Decree of Pope Paul VI, 8/22/71 *The rites, Rite of Confirmation* p. 289

Jesus promised his followers that they would receive the strength to overcome their doubts and fears and change the whole world. It is a big promise. The same promise is given to you. All those Confirmed receive this same power from the Holy Spirit to change the world. Sharing Jesus today can be controversial. It was also controversial in the first century. Eleven of the apostles were martyred (killed) for sharing Jesus. They were given the strength to surrender to torture and death, all for Jesus. Every person who is Confirmed today is given this *same power*, but many do not even begin to use it. Imagine someone leaving a new Lamborghini in their back yard to rust, or using a gold bar as a door stop. Clearly they don’t understand the power of the Lamborghini, or the value of the gold bar. That is like being Confirmed and never sharing Jesus with others.

You have free will. It is critical that you *choose* to be Confirmed, and that you are not receiving this Sacrament for the wrong reason. Parents, if your child does not want to be Confirmed, you have the authority to have them complete the preparation program. However, in the end, the student must *choose to be Confirmed*.

Students, it is important to know that you *do NOT “have to” do this*. Remember that God gives us free will, and this choice is a critical one. Confirmation is not the ‘last box to check’ on the Religious Education journey, or something you need to get done before you get married. **Confirmation is something you *get to do*.** Confirmation is a powerful gift of grace given to those who make a vow before God that they will follow Jesus for the rest of their lives. It is not just a symbol, but a direct action of God that changes your soul forever.

“..you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

To begin the process please complete the appropriate forms and schedule your initial interview. I look forward to accompanying you on your journey!

God Bless,

~ Deb Mlsna

Director of Religious Education

cc: Fr. Barry Saylor



Confirmation 2024 Initial Interview & Kickoff Brunch



Dear Students,

Congratulations on your decision to take the first step to be Confirmed! Our preparation program begins with an initial interview and a kick-off brunch.

Initial Interview:

This is an informal interview in which we will discuss prayer and your desire to be Confirmed. You will receive a catechism. During your preparation, you will be using the bible and YouCat that you have received in your Religious Education classes (additional copies of either of these may be purchased). All forms need to be turned in during your interview. Candidates will also be asked about their daily prayer plan, and offered strategies for prayer time. Please allow for an hour. The initial interview will be with Deb. All interviews must be completed by **June 2, 2023**. A sign up is available for interview times, and that link has been emailed.

What to bring to your initial interview (5 items):

The following is required for the interview and should be brought with you:

1. Candidate Information Form

This is to ensure we have the most current and complete contact information.

2. Sponsor Contact Form

This indicates who your sponsor is and how to contact them, as they are involved in each step.

3. Confirmation Program Fee (\$20, this fee is separate from/in addition to Religious Ed tuition)

The Confirmation fee helps to cover the cost of additional materials and activities/retreat.

4. Baptismal Record (only if needed)

A copy of your baptismal certificate is needed *only* if you were not baptized at Christ the King.

Kickoff brunch on August 27, 2023:

We will have our kickoff brunch on **Sunday, August 27, 2023 from 11am - 12:30pm** in the church basement.

It is required for the student, their sponsor and a parent to attend the kickoff brunch. Please mark your calendars and let your sponsor know.

Finally, please remember that this preparation process is designed to help you grow in faith as you choose to follow Christ. You are not expected to be perfect, none of us are, but we need to keep growing and learning to draw closer to Jesus. It is a journey and Jesus is with us to ultimately lead us to heaven.

Let me know if you have any questions, I look forward to meeting with you!

God Bless,
~Deb Mlsna

cc: Fr. Barry Saylor

Candidate Information Form

Student Full Name _____

Gender M / F Date of Birth _____

Student Home Address _____

Father's name _____ Mother's Name _____

If one parent is not Catholic or a member of the parish, please verify their position on the candidate's plan to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church (include details here): _____

I will be using Flocknote to send reminders and updates about Confirmation preparation, usually as an email. Students must provide an email address for updates. Parents are encouraged to include an email address, and at least one phone number is requested for texts (either student, or parent or both). Short reminders are sent as texts.

Student Email _____

Student number to receive texts _____

Parent number to receive texts _____ (optional)

Candidates: What is your preferred way to be contacted? (please circle one) Email Text

Parents: What is your preferred way to be contacted? (please circle one) Email Text

Do you have any concerns regarding Confirmation? (academic, allergies, other?)

Is there anything else we should know to better help this candidate to grow in faith?

Do you grant permission to use photos of the candidate? For example, in the bulletin, on the parish webpage or FaceBook page, or on promotional flyers/posters etc...

(circle one): Yes No

If Yes, Candidate Initials _____ Parent Initials _____ Date _____

Please include the Confirmation Program fee of \$20. Checks may be made out to Christ the King Parish.

This form is due with the initial interview which must be scheduled on or before June 2, 2023

Sponsor Contact Form

THE ROLE OF THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Candidates for Confirmation, as for Baptism, seek the spiritual help of a ***sponsor***. Like parents and godparents, sponsors share in the responsibility for the salvation of the young soul entrusted to them. Because our life on earth is “a pilgrimage to the Father which takes place primarily in the heart” (Pope John Paul II, *The Trinity’s Embrace*), the **sponsor should be** a Catholic who loves and lives his or her faith and continues to grow in knowledge of the Catholic faith. A sponsor should spend time in daily prayer and frequently encounter Jesus in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Consequently, the sponsor’s heart should reflect the tender and affectionate love of the hearts of Jesus and Mary and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, providing a living example of joyful Christian life.

Sponsor Criteria: A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic in good standing, who is older than 16 years of age and has been Confirmed. The sponsor may not be the parent of the candidate or married outside of the Catholic Church. If you have questions about the requirements for a sponsor, please contact Deb.

Sponsor’s Name: _____

Sponsor’s Phone: _____

Sponsor’s Email: _____

Sponsor’s Address: _____

**** Your sponsor must attend the kick off brunch with you on August 27, 2023 ****

This form is due with the initial interview which must be scheduled on or before June 2, 2023.