



Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation 2021-2022

Dear Ascension Confirmation Class of 2022,

Hello! My name is Alec McGuire and I am leading Confirmation Prep for Ascension. In the following months you will prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. The exact date of Confirmation is not yet known, but you will be notified as soon as possible. Confirmation is your opportunity to say, “Yes” to God as you desire to enter more deeply into a relationship with him through study and discipleship. Here are some things to think about.

1. All Ascension school students are required to complete the Confirmation curriculum regardless of whether they are Catholic or not, or planning to get Confirmed or not. This includes the service component as well.

2. Key Parts

- a. Formal Enrollment
- b. Selecting a Sponsor
- c. Curriculum
- d. Mass Attendance and Frequenting the Sacraments
- e. Confirmation Retreat
- f. Letters to the Archbishop
- g. Service
- h. Interviews
- i. Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

3. The best place to find information will be www.ascension-parish.com/confirmation. I will do my best to make sure that the information provided is up to date.

"By Confirmation, Christians, that is, those who are anointed, share more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ and the fullness of the Holy Spirit with which he is filled, so that their lives may give off the ‘aroma of Christ’" (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1294). I look forward to accompanying you on this journey of preparation!

In Christ,
Alec McGuire
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Confirmation Sponsor

What is a Confirmation Sponsor?

The sponsor helps the candidate on their journey of preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. According to Canon 892, "As far as possible the person to be Confirmed is to have a sponsor. The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfils the duties inherent in this sacrament." Sponsors are expected to be a model of faith for the candidate and be involved in their preparation for Confirmation.

Who can be my Confirmation Sponsor?

A Confirmation sponsor must fulfill each of the following requirements:

Per Canon 893

1. be appointed by the candidate for confirmation, or by the parents or whoever stands in their place, or failing these, by the parish priest or the minister; to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it;
2. be not less than sixteen years of age, unless a different age has been stipulated by the diocesan bishop, or unless the parish priest or the minister considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made;
3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken;
4. not labor under a canonical penalty, whether imposed or declared;
5. not be either the father or the mother of the person to be confirmed.

Fr. Mike Schmitz of Ascension Presents has an excellent video entitled, "What Constitutes a Practicing Catholic?" I highly recommend you and your parents watch this video so there is not a misunderstanding about this matter.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrGW5G8QqQ4>

Other considerations

Your sponsor...

- should be willing and able to participate in your formation for Confirmation.
- should be an active Catholic who lives out their faith on a regular basis.
- should, by their example, inspire you to a deeper relationship with Christ and his Church.

Service

"Young people should be exposed to the concept of stewardship and its relationship to discipleship. A specific number of hours or projects for candidates to complete can give a false impression of having accomplished service. However, there is an expectation that some form of service is a part of the preparation process. Each parish should determine realistic service experiences that are to be completed."
From the Archdiocese's manual on Confirmation.

In becoming full members of the Catholic Church, candidates must be encouraged to take responsibility for serving others. Service is an essential part of your formation for Confirmation as it helps you to better understand your responsibilities as adults in Christ's Church.

Service Requirements

Candidates **MUST** complete a total of 5 service experiences in the following areas:

1. COMMUNITY/OUTREACH: 2 experiences
2. PARISH SERVICE: 2 experiences
3. FAMILY/FRIENDS: 1 experience

NOTE: Candidates are expected to be responsible for choosing and completing service experiences *on their own*. The experiences that they choose should be something that they are passionate about; like a favorite charity or marginalized group of society. It is most important that they choose an experience that is meaningful and important to THEM.

The service requirements are NOT measured in time/hours, but in valuable experiences that are worthwhile. The focus is not on quantity, but on quality; as this is what is important.

You will not be required to get signatures to prove that you did your service, because you will be writing an essay (1 page) describing your service experiences and their impact on you and your Confirmation prep.

Service experiences should be based on the Corporal or Spiritual works of Mercy. A list of these works is on the following page.

Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Admonish sinners.
2. Instruct the uninformed.
3. Counsel the doubtful.
4. Comfort the sorrowful.
5. Be patient with those in error.
6. Forgive offenses.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

Service Ideas

- Hand-in-Hand Ministries
- Ronald McDonald House
- WaterStep Shoe Sorting
- Franciscan Kitchen
- Dare to Care
- Coat Drives
- Food Pantries
- Setting up/cleaning Parish events

Most importantly, seek out service experiences that are meaningful to you.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

Why?

When you were baptized, your name was spoken aloud as part of your identity in your new life as a child of God. A lot of thought went into your name. Names carry meaning and often remind us of someone who came before us. In choosing to be confirmed, you now have the opportunity to choose a name and think about how it connects with your decision to be confirmed.

Reaffirming Your Baptismal Name

In order to express the intimate relationship of Confirmation to Baptism, it is acceptable that candidates use their baptismal name. Although it is traditional to take a saint's name for Confirmation, it is not required. Since the sacrament of Confirmation seals and strengthens the faith and grace received at Baptism, choosing one's baptismal name for Confirmation is a sign of commitment to living out the promises your parents and godparents made for you at Baptism.

Choosing a Saint's Name

If a new name is taken:

- the confirmand can name a saint whom they admire and see as a role model that carries that name.
- They must have a significant reason for choosing a name.
- They should research a saint with the same name as they have chosen and determine a virtue or quality of that person's life that can be incorporated into the confirmand's life.

There are many, many saints that one can pick from, but you should not pick one at random. Take the time to research saints and discover who they were and how they lived out Christ's call to holiness in their lives. For example, if you are a passionate musician, you might pick St. Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians. When looking at saints, see what virtues and qualities you admire in them and hope to foster in yourself.

The reasons for what name you choose for Confirmation will be given in a short paper assignment that is due in December. The details of this assignment will be given out at a later date.



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Important Dates

Sponsor Enrollment Form

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Confirmation Retreat

Tuesday, November 30th, 2021

Confirmation Name Essay

Friday, December 3rd, 2021

Letter to the Archbishop

Wednesday, December 15th, 2021

Service Experience Reflection

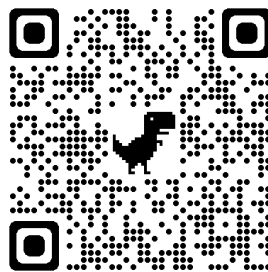
Friday, January 21st, 2022

Confirmation Interviews

Late January 2022

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

*February 22nd, 2022



For questions or more information, please contact Alec McGuire at
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