

How Confirmation Candidate and Family Can Prepare Together

- Participate in religion classes in school
- Register with your parish for the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Choose a qualified sponsor and meet regularly with him/her.
- Write a letter of intent
- Choose a saint's name as your Confirmation name and write a biography about that saint.
- Participate in the Enrolment Ceremony in your parish
- Be regularly involved in social justice activities
- Take part in Parish faith activities
- Participate in the Parish Confirmation program
- Take part in the ceremony of light.
- Write a letter to the Bishop/Parish Priest
- Participate in the Confirmation rehearsals through the school
- Participate in the Confirmation liturgy!

The sponsor:

- Must be a practicing Roman Catholic at least 16yrs of age who attends Mass regularly, and is trying their best to live according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- supports the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life



- should be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment
- may be either male or female for any candidate
- 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
- assists in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament
- presents the candidate to the priest or Bishop during the Confirmation

Choosing a Confirmation Name

In both the Old and New Testament, when God had a new mission for someone, He often gave them a new name. Even without a new name, your name has always told others who you are. God calls on each of us to fulfil a special mission. It may be helping the poor, being a peacemaker or one of many other callings. Confirmation may be the continuation of a mission you began at Baptism, or the beginning of a new mission.

Therefore there are two options when deciding on a Confirmation name:

First- Because Confirmation is the strengthening of the work that God began in your life at your Baptism, it is recommended that you give first preference to using your Baptismal name for Confirmation. This shows the integral link between Baptism and Confirmation (*note: this ap-*

St. Patrick's Parish

Esker



Information for

Parents & Guardians

of Children preparing for Confirmation

INTRODUCTION

Welcome! We are looking forward to sharing with you this journey of faith as you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. As you will see, Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth and fun! You will be given the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. **Confirmation** is the Sacrament in which one is enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the Church. It strengthens us and obliges us to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It is the Sacrament in which one enters into full membership in the Catholic Church.

Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which strengthens us with the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply as children of God, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us to bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

“The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated as a sacrament of initiation, not of final commitment. It is not a time for celebrating maturity of faith. It is a moment in the young person's journey toward fuller participation in the Church, under the power and support of the Holy Spirit.” (NDC: 96)

A Christian does not live as a child of God through his or her own efforts alone, but through the grace of God. We see this in a practical way when we look back on our own lives and the lives of others, even the lives of saints. Therefore, it is our duty to seek the grace that God offers us in order to live our lives as Christians in the way that God intends.

How you can support your child:

- ◆ Engage in discussions about the material being studied including sharing your understanding and perspective.
- ◆ Encourage your child to reflect and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- ◆ Pray for your child's spiritual growth every day.
- ◆ Support and encourage completion of assignments, activities and expectations.
- ◆ Emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation.

Taking Part in the Ceremony of Light.. Service of Light is a pre-confirmation ceremony which has been

added to the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This ceremony involves parents or guardians passing on lighted Baptismal candle to their child as an acknowledgement that the child is now ready to be a responsible Christian. This shows the link between our Baptism and Confirmation. At the Child's Baptism, parents lighted Baptismal candle from Paschal Candle on behalf of the child being baptized. Parent do this as a sign they want to pass on the light of Christ to their Child. In the same way, during the ceremony of light, parents once again light the Baptismal candle from



Setting up a Prayer Space in your home:

A prayer or sacred space is a small area in which you can place symbols that help your child to sense and express that God is present in their lives. Children often use their sacred space at home as an area for the “holy objects” that they accumulate from home, school, relations and parish.



It doesn't have to be complicated. A window sill or corner of a table will do. Place a coloured cloth here with a Candle and any other sacred symbols that appeal to your child. Talk with them about the meaning of the objects & symbols they are placing in their sacred space. They can be changed with the different seasons *eg. at Christmas and Easter.*

N.B. Always supervise children around lighting candles.

Suggestions for praying with your child

- Use the prayers your child is learning at school
- Say a grace before meals when you sit down to eat as a family.
- Encourage them to pray for friends & relatives.
- Pray with your child before they go to sleep at night. This is a lovely time to talk over their day and to thank God for the good things in our lives and to ask God to bless all the people we love.

