

Sacrament of Confirmation Information Packet

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

Congratulations on taking this important step in your journey of faith! Over the next year, you will prepare to receive the third and final Sacrament of Initiation—the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. This is a sacred and deeply personal moment, and we encourage you to spend time in prayer and reflection as you discern your readiness. Remember: the desire to be confirmed is itself a beautiful grace from God, and He walks with you every step of the way.

Your Catholic faith journey began at your **Baptism**, where you were cleansed of Original Sin and welcomed into God's family. Your parents and godparents made a powerful promise that day—to raise you in the Catholic faith. Now, you have the opportunity to choose this path for yourself.

You've also received the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, a gift of healing and mercy. Each time we approach this sacrament with a sincere heart, we are renewed by God's loving grace. While we are required to receive Reconciliation at least once a year, doing so more frequently strengthens our relationship with Christ and brings us peace.

Through the **Sacrament of Holy Communion**, the second Sacrament of Initiation, you are united more closely with Jesus each time you receive the Eucharist. The Church invites us to receive this powerful gift every Sunday and on holy days—and even daily, if possible. With each reception, your bond with Christ grows stronger and deeper.

Now, you stand at the threshold of **Confirmation**, where your Baptismal grace is completed and deepened. Through the anointing and the gift of the Holy Spirit, you will be strengthened to live out your faith boldly and joyfully. You will be marked as a witness of Christ—called to live with purpose, speak with conviction, and serve with love. This is a sacred responsibility, but also a tremendous privilege—and the decision to accept it should come from your heart.

Receiving Confirmation is not the end of your formation—it is the beginning of a new chapter. As a confirmed Catholic, you are called to continue growing in your faith, deepening your knowledge, attending Mass regularly, and participating in the sacraments with devotion.

We are praying for you as you embark on this exciting and meaningful journey. May the Holy Spirit fill you with wisdom, courage, and joy as you prepare for this powerful sacrament. Trust that God has great plans for you, and He will give you everything you need to fulfill your calling.

May God bless and guide you always,
Fr. Kenneth Anderson
Pastor

Shawn Lucas
Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

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In this packet you will find the following:

Important dates for Confirmation and forms with specific deadlines. It is your responsibility to keep track of these forms and to pay attention to the indicated deadlines. This includes:

- Sacramental Fee Payment Instructions (Virtual Link)
- Sponsor Information Form (Virtual Link)
- Confirmation Name and Reflection Essay
- Letter of Intention to the Bishop
- Guidelines for Service Projects and a copy of the Service Hour Form.

You are asked to complete a minimum of 25 hours with at least **5 hours in each of the following categories: Family, Church/Parish, and Community.**

Prayers, Teachings and Traditions of the Catholic Faith:

You should be able to recite the following:

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Act of Contrition
- Apostles Creed and/or Nicene Creed

You should be educated on and aware of:

- Holy Days of Obligation
- The Seven Sacraments
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The Ten Commandments
- Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary

Required Formation Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>	<u>Activity</u>
October 4, 2025	4:30 pm – St. Joan	Parent & Sponsor Night
November 9, 2025	5:00-8:15 pm – St. A's	Community Night
February 1, 2026	Time TBD – Queen of All Saints	Confirmation Retreat
February 22, 2026	5:00-8:15 pm- St. A's	Community Night
March 22, 2026	5:00-8:15 pm – St. A's	Community Night
April 16, 2026	7:00-8:00 pm – St. A's	Confirmation Practice
April 17, 2026	6:00 pm – St. A's	Sacrament of Confirmation
<i>Sundays</i>	<i>Multiple Options</i>	<i>Mass Attendance</i>

Optional Planned Service Opportunities

November 22, 2025	10:00 am – 4:00 pm – Mission OLA	Mission Thanksgiving Party
<i>Deadline September 15, 2025</i>	<u>Sign-up Here</u>	
December 6, 2025	9:00 am – 12:00 pm - Connections	Gift of Giving Event
<i>Deadline October 15, 2025</i>	<u>Sign-up Here</u>	
School Year Sundays	9:00 & 10:30 am Masses	Children's Liturgy (Parent Volunteers Need <i>Email Mr. Lucas for information</i>)
Family of Faith <u>(Schedule Linked)</u>	Select Sundays - St. Joan of Arc	Various Service Opportunities <i>Email Mr. Lucas for information</i>

Confirmation Attire: Candidates and Sponsors should wear "Sunday Best."

Males: Suit and tie, or shirt and tie with dress pants, and dress shoes. NO GYM SHOES.

Females: Dress with covered shoulders – knee length, or knee-length skirt and blouse/sweater,
Or dress pants with a blouse or sweater. Dress shoes.

NO GYM SHOES & NO FLIP-FLOPS

Important Due Dates

May 12, 2025	Sacrament Request Form (online form) completed
May-August, 2025	Interview with Fr. Anderson
August 31, 2025	Sponsor Information Form (see pages 5-6) 2025-2026 Confirmation Sponsor Information Form(linked)
September 12, 2025	Baptismal Certificate copy submitted to Mr. Lucas
September 12, 2025	Sacramental Fee Submitted - \$125.00 (linked)
November 7, 2025	Confirmation Saint Name & Reflection (MUST be typed out)
March 27, 2026	Letter of Intention to Bishop O'Malley
April 15, 2026	6 Reflections on Service Projects with Service Hour Log Due
<i>Instructions for reflections enclosed</i>	
<i>**Please write legibly or type your reflections**</i>	

Sacramental Fee

A one-time \$125 Sacramental Fee helps cover the cost of formation events, the Confirmation retreat, professional photography, and other expenses associated with the Confirmation Mass.

Community Night Parent Volunteers & Meal Donations Needed

Approximately one month before each of the three NET Ministry Community Nights; a sign-up will be shared requesting parent volunteers to assist with serving pizza dinners to the candidates and the NET Team. During their time in Evanston, we also support the NET Team with additional meals. Gift card donation opportunities will be available at that time as well.

The Role of a Sponsor

In the early Church, most new members were adult converts, and sponsors played a vital and practical role. They not only ensured the convert received proper instruction—often offering it themselves—but also guided the person’s spiritual growth, much like a spiritual mentor. Sponsors helped foster prayer, addressed moral development, and introduced converts to the faith community, helping them feel welcomed and firmly rooted after their initiation.

This meaningful role of the sponsor continues today through the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) and Confirmation programs.

We are invited to rediscover the deeper purpose of a sponsor—not simply as a ceremonial witness but as someone actively engaged in the candidate’s faith journey. Ideally, the sponsor should be a committed and practicing member of the Catholic Church, able to support the candidate’s catechetical formation and spiritual development. Their role extends beyond Confirmation, helping the newly confirmed grow into an active, vibrant member of the parish community.

While it is ideal for a Baptismal sponsor (godparent) to also serve as the Confirmation sponsor, it is not required. What matters most is that the sponsor is present and engaged throughout the preparation process—and continues to offer support afterward. Confirmation is not the end of faith formation; it is a new beginning.

Church Requirements for Sponsors:

- Must be a practicing Catholic (not a parent of the candidate) and at least 16 years old.
- Must be fully initiated into the Church (having received Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation).
- Must live a life of faith and be able to model and support Catholic values.

Please pray as you discern this important decision. Once you’ve selected your sponsor, complete and return the **Sponsor Information Form** to your teacher or catechist. We encourage you to choose your sponsor during the first half of the year so they can be actively involved in your preparation. Be sure to include your sponsor’s name, address, and the parish where they were confirmed.

Suggestions for Confirmation Sponsors

- A Confirmation sponsor plays an important role in the spiritual life of the candidate. Through both words and actions, the sponsor is invited to model a life of faith and to support the candidate as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- **A Sponsor Reflects and Encourages the Following:**
 - A personal and growing relationship with Jesus Christ
 - Active participation in the life of the Church
 - A commitment to service and sharing of one's gifts with the wider community
- **Ideas for Staying Connected and Supporting Your Candidate:**
 - **Have regular conversations:** When you see the candidate informally, ask about their experience in the Confirmation program—what they've been learning or found meaningful.
 - **Share your own story:** Talk about your own experience of Confirmation and how your faith has grown since that time.
 - **Attend Mass together:** Make time to go to Mass and talk afterward about the readings, homily, or anything that stands out.
 - **Follow the Spirit's promptings:** If the candidate comes to mind, consider reaching out with a message or a check-in.
 - **Spend time together:** Strengthen your relationship through casual outings—go to a movie, get coffee, attend a sports event, or just spend time talking.
 - **Serve together:** Invite your candidate to join you in a ministry or parish volunteer opportunity.
 - **Be real about faith:** Share both the joys and challenges of your own spiritual journey.
 - **Pray for them:** Lift your candidate up in prayer regularly, asking the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen them.
 - **Encourage continued growth:** Remind them that Confirmation is not the end, but the beginning of a deeper journey with Christ. Encourage them to stay engaged with the Church through weekly Mass, youth ministry, and regular personal prayer.

[2025-2026 Confirmation Sponsor Information Form \(linked\)](#)

Choosing a Confirmation Name

In Scripture, we see several moments where a person's name is changed after a powerful encounter with God or a call to a new mission:

- **Abram** became **Abraham** after God made a covenant with him.
- **Simon** was renamed **Peter** after professing Jesus as the Messiah.
- **Saul** became **Paul** after his conversion and call to spread the Gospel.

At Confirmation, your life is also forever changed. You receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and are called to take personal ownership of your faith. With this new mission—spreading the faith in word and action—you may also choose a new name, just as those in Scripture did.

This **Confirmation name** should be the name of a recognized saint in the Catholic Church. That saint will become a special **patron and role model** for you; someone you can look to for inspiration and ask for prayers throughout your life.

If your Baptismal name (first or middle) is that of a saint, you may choose to keep it to emphasize the deep connection between Baptism and Confirmation.

Take time to **pray and reflect** as you choose your Confirmation name. Once selected, you'll be asked to learn about your saint and complete the following form. You may use books or trusted Catholic websites to help with your research.

Due: November 7, 2025

Please type your responses.

Candidate Name:

Chosen Saint's Name:

Name or form of the name you will receive:

Feast Day of the Saint:

Brief Biography:

- Family background
- Occupation
- Key moments of life and death
- What virtues is this saint known for? What drew you to this saint? How do you hope this saint will help you grow in faith after Confirmation? Ask your parents how they chose your name at birth. Briefly share their response.

Letter of Intention to the Bishop

On a separate piece of paper, please type a letter to the bishop stating why you want to become a fully initiated Catholic through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Letter is the official way to express your desire for the Sacrament. This letter will be mailed to the bishop. Please take this assignment seriously. Here is the format and outline:

Greeting

Dear Bishop O'Malley,

Body of Letter

Introduce yourself – tell something about your family, your background, your interests

Request the Sacrament – give several reasons why you want to be Confirmed

Mention the Confirmation name you chose, and why you selected that Saint.

Explain how you have prepared for the Sacrament (prayer life, service, celebration of other Sacraments, etc)

Explain how you will continue to carry out your life of service (make Confirmation real and alive in the future)

Conclusion

Conclude the letter and sign your full name

Guidelines for Service Projects

Why Service Hours?

Serving others with joy is one of the most meaningful ways we live out our Catholic faith. Service is not just a requirement for Confirmation—it is a lifelong commitment rooted in our baptism. As you prepare to be fully initiated into the Church, you are called to follow Christ by loving and serving others.

How Many Hours Are Required?

You are asked to complete a **minimum of 30 service hours**, broken down as follows:

- **10 hours** serving the **community**
- **10 hours** serving your **parish**
- **5 hours** serving your **family**

Note: Service hours must be unpaid volunteer work.

Examples of Service Opportunities

Family Service

Service begins at home and should go beyond your usual responsibilities.

- Helping with yard work cheerfully
- Cleaning out the garage without being asked
- Babysitting for free for relatives
- Visiting or helping an elderly family member

Community Service

- Bring the light of the Gospel to your broader community
- Volunteering at a nursing home or hospital
- Teaching lessons (e.g., dance, music) to children
- Assisting with coaching a sports team
- Working with charitable organizations
- Helping at a soup kitchen

Parish Service

Strengthen your Church community while growing in faith.

- Singing or playing in the Church choir
- Helping with parish ministries or outreach programs
- Altar serving at school or weekend Masses

In the Service of Others

Before the Event

- **Sign up** or call ahead to volunteer.
- Ask questions in advance (e.g., dress code, time, location).
- Only commit to activities you intend to complete—others are counting on you.
- You may sign up with a friend, but everyone must be registered to serve.
- Focus on serving, not socializing. Be a role model of good behavior.
- Remember: Service hours are earned, not given.

When You Arrive

- Bring your **Service Hours Form**.
- Introduce yourself to the person in charge and explain that you're completing hours for Confirmation.
- Ask how you can help and be ready to assist wherever needed.

During the Event

- Be polite, respectful, and kind to everyone.
- Look for ways to be helpful without waiting to be asked.
- When you finish one task, ask for another.
- Follow all instructions carefully.
- If you feel bored or discouraged, say a prayer and offer your time to God.

Before You Leave

- Help with cleanup.
- Thank those you worked with.
- Ask the organizer to **sign your Service Hours Form**.

Service Project Reflections

Six reflections are due by April 15, 2026. *Start early—don't wait until the last minute!*

As part of your Confirmation preparation, you are asked to complete a series of Acts of Service and reflect on what you've learned from each experience. As Christians, we are called to follow the example of Jesus. Serving others is a lifelong journey—one that can begin at any age.

Some Acts of Service may take several hours or be spread over weeks or months, while others might take only a few minutes. The goal is not to track time, but to grow in compassion and love by learning to live as Christ did. After each act of service, you will write a short reflection on what the experience taught you.

Each reflection should connect to a **Spiritual or Corporal Work of Mercy**. Try to explore different Works of Mercy throughout your service experiences. We hope this will help you develop a habit of looking for ways to serve others in your everyday life.

For each reflection, include:

- **What you did**
- **How much time you spent**
- **What you learned from the experience**

Each reflection should be **2–3 paragraphs** long and submitted to your classroom teacher(s).

Corporal Works of Mercy

Loving others by caring for their physical needs

1. Feed the Hungry

Help those in need get food.

Examples: Donate or serve food, share snacks, help with grocery shopping or cooking.

2. Give Drink to the Thirsty

Offer refreshment and care.

Examples: Share water on a hot day, pour drinks at meals, help little ones get a drink.

3. Clothe the Naked

Ensure others have dignity and protection through clothing.

Examples: Donate clothes, help kids get dressed, and do laundry at home.

4. Visit the Imprisoned

Support those deprived of freedom.

Examples: Write letters of support, advocate for justice, assist families of prisoners.

5. Shelter the Homeless

Provide safety and comfort through housing.

Examples: Support shelters, host others in need, help care for your own home.

6. Visit the Sick

Show compassion to those who are ill or homebound.

Examples: Visit hospitals or elderly neighbors, run errands, send cards or meals.

7. Bury the Dead

Honor and respect the deceased.

Examples: Attend funerals, maintain graves, and pray for the dead.

Can't visit a prison?

There are many creative ways to serve! Advocate for justice, raise awareness, donate your own earnings, or simply help in your neighborhood—like raking leaves for an elderly neighbor.

Stuck on what to do?

Ask your sponsor, family, teacher, or parish staff for ideas.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Caring for the hearts, minds, and souls of others

1. Admonish the Sinner

Gently guide others away from sin.

Examples: Set a good example, encourage Confession, and speak truth with love.

2. Instruct the Ignorant

Help others learn about faith and life.

Examples: Teach skills, tutor, share faith with siblings or friends.

3. Counsel for the Doubtful

Support those unsure of what to do.

Examples: Listen, pray with them, offer guidance.

4. Comfort the Sorrowful

Bring peace to those who are grieving or sad.

Examples: Spend time, send cards, cook a meal, and offer prayers.

5. Bear Wrongs Patiently

Respond to hurt or frustration with patience.

Examples: Forgive without expecting thanks; stay calm when others falter.

6. Forgive Injuries

Let go of resentment and offer mercy.

Examples: Forgive fully, avoid grudges, offer second chances.

7. Pray for the Living and the Dead

Lift others up through prayer.

Examples: Pray for friends, the sick, those in need, the deceased, and strangers you see in passing.