

The Sacrament of Confirmation

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation and is closely associated with the other two: Baptism and Holy Eucharist.

This Sacrament was instituted by Christ when He conferred the Holy Spirit on His apostles on the day of His Resurrection and then more strikingly on the Feast of Pentecost.

Confirmation brings to a person the full outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It increases and deepens Baptismal grace: uniting the person more fully with Christ, and strengthening the person's bond with His Church.

Is my child ready?

All practicing Catholics should receive this Sacrament. Assuming that you are rearing your child in the Roman Catholic Church, it is part of your responsibility to present your son/daughter for this Sacrament. The parish does its part to prepare these candidates for Confirmation through the instruction given at our Holy Angels School and through our Parish School of Religion program. **You, their parents, must oversee their overall readiness** for reception of this Sacrament by supervising their religious practices, i.e., **attendance at Sunday Mass, daily prayer at home, efforts at living in accord with the Commandments, and developing Christian virtues.**

Does Confirmation make my child an adult?

No! Your child is still an adolescent, who is still very much in need of your direction, guidance, and supervision. This Sacrament, -- by conferring the gifts of the Holy Spirit -- will call your child to greater spiritual maturity, and strengthen him/her for ongoing development in living the Catholic Faith. Lifelong growth in faith is needed by each Christian person. Confirmation will strengthen your child for the spiritual journey!

Is my child's religious education now complete?

No! Being a Catholic is a lifelong process of growth in one's relationship with God. Obviously then, one's knowledge of the Catholic Faith is ongoing. Religious instruction should continue!. Your child's formal education in the teaching and practices of the Roman Catholic Church is primarily your responsibility, in accord with the solemn promise you made at his/her Baptism.

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What is a Sponsor?

Each child to be confirmed is required to have a Sacramental sponsor. This sponsor is a person who will support and guide your child in his/her practice of the Catholic Faith.

A sponsor must meet the following requirements:

1. must be a practicing Roman Catholic who is in full communion with the Church. (e.g. if married, must be in a valid Catholic marriage)
2. must be at least 16 years old
3. must have received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist himself
4. may not be the parent of the child.

You and your child should agree on the choice of his/her sponsor. The sponsor should be a person who exhibits seriousness about our Catholic Faith and who is a good role model for your child. You are encouraged to consider choosing one of your child's godparents (from Baptism) to be the Confirmation sponsor, if that person meets these requirements. If for some serious reason the sponsor is unable to attend the Confirmation liturgy (e.g., travel distance) he/she may be represented by a proxy (any adult) at the liturgy. The sponsor will need to send a letter explaining this, and designating who the proxy will be.

What about choosing a name?

There has been a history of a person adopting a new special name at Confirmation, however this is not mandatory; and it is actually preferable for a person to be confirmed with his/her Baptismal name (i.e., his/her legal first name or second name or both). If a special name is chosen it must be the name of a canonized saint or the name of a holy person from Sacred Scripture. If your child's legal name is not that of a canonized saint or a person from Sacred Scripture, then a new name should definitely be chosen.