

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
CONFIRMATION FAQ's & GENERAL INFORMATION
2023-2024

➤ What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation in becoming fully a part the Catholic Church. For most of us, our parents claimed us for Christ when we were infants. As we grew, we continued to be nourished as Christians through the Eucharist, Mass and community events. Now we are young adults -- at a point where we claim Christ for ourselves. We renew the promises made at our baptism and confirm our desire and promise to live them to the best of our abilities. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live as members of the Body of Christ.

➤ How do I decide if Confirmation is right for me?

Discernment is an ongoing process that will help bring light to what it is you truly want, and once you're in the process you can often see things more clearly. As a part of the Sacrament of Confirmation preparation program we explore, pray, reflect and discern the following:

- What do we want or need in our lives?
- What is our personal investment in the teachings we want to live by?
- How happy have we been, could we have been, or will we be in the Catholic Church?
- Do we want to continue being Christians?
- Do we want to commit to spread the Good News of God's love to all of creation?
- Do we want to affirm our commitment to the Catholic Church?

➤ What is a Sponsor?

A sponsor is a confirmed Catholic, outside of a candidate's immediate family, who journeys with the candidate as a witness and model of faith. A sponsor represents the support and prayers of the entire community and church. A sponsor is a friend, confidant, listener and guide -- someone with whom the candidate can speak openly and who is willing to share his or her faith life. A sponsor welcomes personal spiritual growth and the opportunity to build a deeper relationship with the candidate. As an integral component of the confirmation program, we strive to build a lifelong candidate-sponsor relationship. This is achieved through several in-person group sessions and individual meetings you will have with your sponsor about a brief book called *Have Faith*. You may choose a sponsor who may not live close by, as only a few group sessions involve sponsors.

➤ Who can be a Sponsor?

- The sponsor must be at least 21 years old, and possess a mature Catholic faith.
- The sponsor must be a Catholic who has received all three Sacraments of Initiation.
- The sponsor must not be bound by any penalty of the Church.
- The sponsor must not be the candidate's parent.
- The sponsor must complete all 3 faith-sharing conversations with their candidate, based on the book *Have Faith*, an independent study program.
- The sponsor must support the candidate as a part of a lifelong faith journey.
- The sponsor must submit a **Sponsor Form** found at www.staindy.org.
- The sponsor must submit a letter of good standing from their church.

➤ What are the candidate's requirements?

- Be in at least 8th Grade.
- Ensure all registration forms with \$70 fee are turned in.
- Re-commit to active Catholic faith: Regular participation in weekend Mass, prayer, scripture reflection & service.
- Choose an appropriate sponsor.
- Attend all Formation sessions.
- Complete all 3 faith-sharing conversations with your sponsor, based on the book *Have Faith*, and submit an email after each one is done.
 - Part 1 -- **Dec. 3**
 - Part 2 – **Feb. 4**
 - Part 3 – **March 3**
- Participate in the Rite of Welcome at the **10:30 Mass on Oct. 29**.
- Write 1 Reflection Paper due by **Jan. 21, 2024**.
 - One paper on the saint whose name you choose.**
 - 500-750 words, 12 pt. font, Times Roman Numeral, double-spaced, reflection answering:**
 1. Who was this person? When was your saint alive, and how did society shape him/her?
 2. What led to this person being canonized?
 4. Describe three things that surprised, touched or made you curious about this person.
 5. Why did you choose this saint? (Explain thoroughly. What inspired you about this saint's faith journey, background, profession, gifts or personality? Do you share a similar life experience with this saint?)
- Participate in at least 10 service hours. Opportunities for group service, such as packaging diapers for the Indiana Diaper Bank and weeding the parish campus, will be offered. This is a personal act of service for someone, an organization or group that taps into the gifts of time, energy and compassion that God has given you.
- Participate in the Confirmation Retreat, scheduled for **Nov. 11-12, 2023**.
- Attend the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral at **7 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, 2024**.

➤ What do I wear?

For each of these events, here are a few guidelines for attire:

- For the Rite of Enrollment: Dress Clothes, no jeans, no sweat pants, no shorts, dress shoes.
 - Gentlemen:
 - Top apparel: dress shirt, tie optional, jacket/sports coat optional.
 - Bottom apparel: dress khakis/pants.
 - Ladies: dress shirt, dress pants/skirt, dress.
 - Top apparel: cover belly button, cover shoulders & no low neck lines.
 - Bottom apparel: at least to the top of the knees.
- For the Retreat: Casual is acceptable. We will be attending Mass, so dress no worse than you would normally for liturgy. Please no sweatpants or gym shorts.
- Service Days: Casual, but modest as you are representing the Church and depending on the activity something you don't mind getting dirty.
- For the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral: As stated by the Archdiocese and given out at the Confirmation Retreat or final Formation Meeting.

Please contact Pastoral Associate **Karla Hudecek** if you have any questions or concerns at khudecek@staindy.org