

## **9th Grade Requirements/Guidelines: 2025 - 2026**

### **Welcome to the Beginning of Confirmation Preparation!**

**In 9th Grade we begin to Prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be made in 10th Grade. Grades 9 & 10 will be combined.**

We will be using **Chosen Journey Toward Confirmation** from Ascension Press for your religious education. We will be using **Confirmed in the Spirit** from Loyola Press for sacramental prep. Class Attendance is important. Mass attendance is important.

Other religious education opportunities include participation in First Saturday activities, pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine in Niagara County (near Niagara Falls), pilgrimage to Our Lady of Victory Basilica, visit 7 churches on Holy Thursday, etc.

Service/discipleship is part of Confirmation preparation. Students are asked to participate in church activities (i.e. help with the church halloween/All Saints party or church dinners, serve at mass as a greeter, etc). With permission, a student may do service on his/her own. Discuss this with your catechist or religious ed coordinator.

### **From Diocesan Guidelines:**

Growth in faith is a lifelong process. It is essential that opportunities which foster formation and growth be continually offered for all persons in our faith communities. It is within the context of this on-going growth in faith of the community and the candidate that Confirmation and the preparation for the sacrament should be understood.

### **Role of the Community**

It is the responsibility of the people of God to prepare the baptized for Confirmation. Although there is a core of persons directly involved in the preparation process for Confirmation, the sacrament is part of an initiation into the whole community. When the community actively participates in the initiation process of welcoming, preparing, and supporting the candidate, it results in enormous benefit not only for those initiated, but for the entire community. Initiation of new members is inseparable from on-going conversion and renewal of the adult members of the local church.

### **Family as Minister**

The participation of the candidate's family is an important factor in understanding when the sacramental process can best be begun and celebrated. The family encourages the candidate to dialogue with the parish priest and catechetical ministers regarding his/her readiness to seek Confirmation. By becoming more aware of the meaning of the initiation process, and by sharing this with the candidate, the family can fulfill its appropriate role as primary educators. This role needs to be cultivated and encouraged throughout the candidate's formation, which began at Baptism.

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