ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH
680 MILL ST. EXCELSIOR, MN 55331 952-474-8868 www.stjohns-excelsior.org



Confirmation Program 2026-2027

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

CONFIRMATION READINESS

Are you ready?

The purpose of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is to assure the readiness of the candidate upon receiving the Sacrament. Please take some time to reflect upon these questions, and see where the Lord might be inviting you to grow.

- Are you interested in being an active and full member of your parish community?
- Does your behavior reflect developing maturity in your faith?
- Do you have a desire to deepen your relationship with God?
- Do you attend Sunday Mass and Mass on Holy Days of Obligation?
- Is it your desire to live a life that is committed to your Catholic faith?

REQUIREMENTS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Church advises that a person meet certain requirements or be in a certain state of readiness before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. These requirements are stated in the Code of Canon Law §§ 889-891 and the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1306-1311. They are:

FAITH: The person must be baptized. Candidates for Confirmation must profess their faith with the Church.

GRACE: Candidates must be in the state of grace when receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

WILL OR CHOICE: The candidate needs to have a clear and deliberate intention to receive the sacrament. They must be open to accept the responsibilities of being a witness for Christ.

SPONSOR: Candidates are to seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. See sponsor requirements below.

KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR FAITH

Each Candidate is asked to be engaged in ongoing formation as part of the overall preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Candidates will use the Chosen two-year program as this formation. Small groups will meet weekly. We ask everyone to commit to showing up on time and making every effort possible not to miss. If a candidate misses more than 2 class sessions, the candidate may not be able to be confirmed in the given timeframe.

WEEKLY PARTICIPATION IN MASS

The Mass and the Eucharist are the very center of our Catholic faith. The obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses is a responsibility for all Catholics. We expect all of our Candidates to understand, accept, and adhere to this teaching, which is based on the Third Commandment. Candidates desiring to be confirmed are required to attend Mass every weekend and every Holy Day of Obligation. (Reminder: if you miss Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation it is a grave sin and you should go to confession before you receive Holy Communion again. This does not mean you cannot attend Mass.)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

"To receive Confirmation you must be in a state of grace. You should receive the sacrament of Reconciliation in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit"
CCC 1310

Monthly reception of this sacrament is best. Reconciliation is offered at St John the Baptist at the following times:

- Tuesday 5-5:20pm;
- Wednesday & Thursday 7:30-7:50am:
- Friday 8:30-8:50am;
- Saturday 8:30 – 9:30am & 3:30-4:30pm

RETREAT

All Confirmation candidates are required to attend a retreat during the two-year program. Candidates in Year 1 will attend a retreat in Year 2.

GIFT OF SELF-SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Serving others is a rich part of life as a disciple. It is also at the center of what Confirmation is about. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation you will be "strengthened by the Holy Spirit to spread and defend your faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ" (CCC 1303). You are asked to bear witness to Christ through serving others (no payment can be received) as part of your Confirmation preparation.

Each candidate is asked to give the gift of self for at least 20 hours throughout the two-year program. This can be to the service of the parish (i.e. altar serving, hospitality, etc.) or toward the community (i.e. raking leaves of a neighbor, Feed My Starving Children, etc.)

Each candidate is asked to serve the parish of St. John the Baptist through the year.

HOURS OF ENCOUNTER

"The greatest Love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host."
- Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Each candidate is asked to spend time with our Lord in the Adoration chapel. Our faith is built upon Christ Jesus, who humbled Himself so we may KNOW Him intimately, and spend eternity with our Father in Heaven. The greatest gift He left us on earth was His Body & Blood in the Eucharist. Our lives get so hectic with school, sports, work, and hanging out with friends, that we so often forget that the God of the Universe is waiting for us to come to Him.

Each candidate should spend 8 hours with Jesus throughout the year. A booklet with different ways to pray and talk with God is in your folder. Please record the time that you attended on the first sheet of the booklet, as well as in the book outside the Adoration Chapel.

Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
FALL IN LOVE, STAY IN LOVE, AND IT WILL DECIDE EVERYTHING.

Fr. Pedro Arrupe

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

Sponsors at Confirmation represent the believing Christian Community. Thus, it is required that they be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church, who have themselves received the Sacraments of Initiation, which are Baptism, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation and have reached the age of 16. Canon Law suggests that the sponsor be the godparent. (It is only a suggestion.)

If they are married, they must have been validly married in the Church. The Code of Canon Law states they must lead… "a life in harmony with faith and the role to be undertaken….and will help the baptized to lead a Christian life in harmony with Baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it."

Remember that being a "Sponsor" at a Sacrament makes you a proper representative of the Catholic Church. They should possess sufficient maturity. They should participate in weekly Sunday Mass and be an active member in the life of their parish church. This includes their own formation, participation in parish ministry, and involvement in acts of charity and justice. If someone is not an active participant in their Catholic faith, the role of representative would be inappropriate for them.

Parents cannot serve as sponsors for their children. (Canon 874, 5)

Sponsors must be chosen by *February 3rd, 2027.*

All sponsors (or sponsor proxy) will be required to watch a video that will be shared at a later date. You will receive an Activity Booklet for your sponsor. You will work through this booklet with your sponsor and return to us next year.

Expectations for Year 2 Confirmation

CONFIRMATION NAME: Candidates will be choosing a Confirmation name during Year 2 of their preparation. The candidate will be asked to choose a patron saint they would like to use as their Confirmation name. You may choose any saint name found in the books provided during our sessions or found on www.catholic.org. There will be a form for you to fill out in your Y2 Confirmation Folder. You will also need to write a short paper regarding your chosen saint along with a prayer.

EFFECTS OF CONFIRMATION PAPER: This paper will allow the candidate to explain how they have grown and are continuing to grow in their Catholic faith. They should be prepared to

write about their relationship with God, the practices they have put in place, and how their heart is being opened to accepting an increase of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

LETTER TO FATHER CARLSON: The last paper is to be written in the final year of preparation. Candidates will be asked to write a letter to Father Carlson telling him of your desire to be confirmed in the Catholic Church. Answer honestly how you think you did over the past 2 years of your preparation and why you now want to be confirmed. What are your goals now that you are going to be a Confirmed, FULLY initiated Catholic and what will you do with this gift? How will you be able to impact the Church and the world around you?

END OF THE YEAR INTERVIEW: In your second year there will be an opportunity to meet with Fr. Carlson to discuss how the confirmation process went, and to answer any questions the candidate may have.

RITE OF SENDING: In Year 2, the candidate will complete the Rite of Sending on a Sunday prior to Confirmation. The Rite of Sending is a formal Rite within the Church that acknowledges that you are ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and that you have the support of your parish family.