

INTRODUCTION

WHY CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation, along with Baptism and Eucharist, is the Sacrament of Initiation in the Catholic Church. It is an outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and completes the grace received in Baptism. The first Confirmation was at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles and they were given the grace and strength to spread the Gospel throughout the world. When we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit so we, too, may be able to share the Gospel and bring others to the love of Christ. Confirmation is not a graduation, it is just the beginning!



*"You shall receive power
When the Holy Spirit comes upon you,
And you shall be My witnesses."
~Acts 1:8*

Confirmation is...

A special celebration of the life of the Holy Spirit within you...

A commitment to continue your faith journey...

A reaffirmation of your Baptismal promises...

A calling-forth of the gifts of the Holy Spirit within you...

PREPARATION PROCESS

The Confirmation process at St. Gilbert is designed to help you come to a greater understanding of your Catholic faith, grow in your relationship with Christ, and practice living the Catholic life. With this foundation, you will be able to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit received at Confirmation to the fullest. Confirmation sessions include prayer, catechesis, and small group faith sharing. Each event is an opportunity to get in and meet God in a different way. Every person's faith is unique and your job through the process is to discover yours.

CONFIRMATION SMALL GROUPS

Your group leader is Dave Shreiner * ROOM: 208 - Main floor, 1st classroom on right

Email: dshreiner@sbcglobal.net Phone #:847.828.9590

It is our goal that you will experience the following in your small groups:

- A deepening in your relationship with Jesus Christ
- Growth in your understanding of self & opportunity to make your Catholic faith "real"
- Respect for one another by listening & exploration in relationship with others
- An ability to openly share and experience what it is to be a Catholic teen today

OTHER EXPERIENCES

You will choose 1 "other experience" per semester to attend. The Sunday night experiences are our TGIF nights and the weekday night experiences will be some kind of prayer experience. A signup.com for the 1st semester dates will be sent out tomorrow.

PARENTS

You're the primary educators of faith, your example is very important! Encourage your child to reflect deeply—not just on what Confirmation is, but why they want it and support them through prayer, conversation and involvement in parish life.

Students will need to complete 3 "family activities" for the year with their parent (s) or families. These "activities" are related to the weekly gospel or other faith topics. They will be posted on the St. Gilbert Parish website Confirmation page all the way at the bottom titled family portion.

ATTENDANCE/MAKE UP WORK

If you are unable to attend his/her Confirmation session, a phone call or email to Kathleen & your leader is expected BEFORE the session. Make up work will need to be completed. This make up work will be emailed to you the following week. If 3 or more sessions are missed without adequate reasons, the staff will review and determine if your teen is adequately prepared to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. We recognize the fact that families can be faced with some unforeseen crisis. Please contact Kathleen if such a situation occurs, we are willing to work with you.

SPONSORS

A sponsor's role is to spiritually walk with the candidate during the preparation for the sacrament. They will be assisting the young person in being a true witness and disciple of Jesus, and representing the community when they present their candidate to the bishop.

It should be someone who is an active, confirmed member of their parish. They should be willing to listen to you, help you answer questions, and be willing to share their faith and experience with you.

A sponsor is responsible for the continuing growth of a candidate and there will be 3 times throughout the year where the candidates will have faith-sharing discussions with their sponsor.

There will be a form that needs to be filled out with the sponsor's information and will be due October 19.

Requirements of a sponsor:

- Be at least 16 year old, Baptized and Confirmed in the Catholic faith
- Be an active Catholic: "An active Catholic is one who attends Sunday and Holy Day Masses regularly and participates in the Sacramental life of the Church."
- Not be a parent of the candidate (biological or adoptive)

CONFIRMATION NAME

As part of your preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you have the privilege and responsibility, just like your parents did when you were born, to choose a name. Taking a new name at Confirmation can be symbolic of a new or deeper stage in your faith life. You can also choose to keep your baptismal name for your Confirmation name. If you choose a name other than your baptismal name, look to saints and holy people who are truly witnesses of faith for you. Choose the name of a saint you admire and who you want to be your patron. You will be asked to do a **saint reflection OR poster** about the name you chose and will be due at the retreat.

RETREAT--RETREAT DATE Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 10am-9pm.

Retreats are such an important part of the Confirmation process; they are even important in life. How many times do we look forward to a vacation from school or from our everyday lives? We take this time away from our busy lives to "get away" and recharge our batteries. Retreats are intended to do the same. They give people the chance to "get away" from things that prevents them from focusing on our Lord. Confirmation candidates will be required to attend this Confirmation retreat.

SUNDAY MASS/HOLY DAYS

The Mass and the Eucharist are the very center of our Catholic faith. We have built the 5pm Sunday evening Mass right into our Confirmation class. Class will begin with the 5pm Mass and end at 8pm. A different small group will be assigned to each Mass and they will be responsible for greeting, lecturing, ushering and gift bearers. Students will sit with their small groups. Parents are ENCOURAGED to attend as well!

SERVICE

As it says in 1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace". We are called to give back the gifts we have been given to family, friends, neighbors, our parish, and our community. Teens will sign up for 1 of the service projects offered during the year. More information will be provided later once we find out what service opportunities are available. A sign up.com will be sent out.

SUPPLIES

At the next session, YOU will receive a journal, folder, Bible and pen that will need to be brought back and forth every session. Please bring a bag to put everything in to keep everything organized.

COMMUNICATION

Kathleen will send out emails to parents/teens about upcoming sessions, as well as different Youth Ministry events. Emails will also be sent after each session talking about what was discussed so you can have a conversation with your child. Some emails will also include different parent/family faith resources.

Information or any paperwork handed out will also be on the St. Gilbert Church website (stgilbert.org) under Sacraments - Confirmation.

Any Questions...please contact Kathleen at 847.223.5875 or youthmin@stgilbertschool.org.

