

CONFIRMATION YEAR 2 CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Welcome to Year 2 of the Confirmation Journey! Please find below a list of all the important events and dates for the year ahead. You can find more detailed information on each item in this packet.

- Attend Sunday Mass - receive Sacraments of Reconciliation & Eucharist
- Attend and participate in classes
- Return your Saint Reflection by Jan 10th 2020
- Attend the Sponsor & Candidate event on Jan 31st 2021
- Return Sponsor Affirmation Form by Jan 31st, 2021
- Attend Safe Environment class
- Continue serving in an area of discipleship and create a digital display on Prezi.com. We will be displaying them on our Website inviting our parishioners to view them
- Complete and return your Bishop Letter by February 7th, 2021
- Attend off-site retreat – March 5th-7th or March 26th-28th. Select your preferred weekend ASAP. There is a flyer included in this packet.
- Attend Confirmation Mass Rehearsal (Date TBA)

We also want to invite and encourage candidates to get involved in our High School Youth Ministry. We have a weekly Bible Study and monthly social/community events. Follow us on Instagram or see our website for more info.



CONFIRMATION YEAR 2 PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Year 1 candidates are automatically registered for Year 2. In order to keep records current, please keep us advised of any new information (address, email, telephone etc.)
- All candidates are encouraged to participate at weekly Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation – please encourage and consider attending Mass together as a family.
- Ensure class attendance - if classes have to be missed please see the back of the calendar for more information.
- Attend our annual Parent Night. At least one parent is invited to attend. More info to follow.
- Select preferred date to attend the off-site retreat ASAP. See the attached flyer. This is a Diocesan requirement for Confirmation and must be booked and paid for in advance by Holy Trinity - we are unable to refund any retreat fees. Thank you for understanding.
- Please ensure Sponsor Affirmation Form, Bishop Letter and retreat registration/paperwork are completed and returned on time.
- All detailed information mentioned on the calendar will be sent via email. Please ensure you check and read our emails frequently. If you are NOT receiving emails please let us know. Some work emails (schools, government etc.) reject or send our emails to Spam so please add us to your accepted list of contacts.

Contact Emmanuel Perez at
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[@holytrinityyouthministry](https://www.instagram.com/holytrinityyouthministry)



www.holytrinityladera.org

LETTER TO THE BISHOP

Candidates who wish to be confirmed and have completed all requirements must submit a typed letter to the Bishop of Orange. This letter must be written by the candidate and be a minimum of one page in length but no longer than two pages.

- Address the top of your letter to "Most Reverend Kevin Vann". Then start your letter with "Your Excellency,"
- Introduce yourself giving your full baptismal name, your grade, and school. Mention the name of the Saint you have chosen for Confirmation and the reason you chose that particular Saint.
- Explain the reasons why you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Mention one class, retreat theme/experience, etc. that had a positive impact on your sacramental preparation.
- Explain the discipleship you completed during the Confirmation journey.
- Mention your sponsor by name and the reason you chose him/her.
- Include a reflection on the Gospel passage that will be read during the Confirmation Mass. What does this passage teach us? How will you be able to live your life to reflect this message?

Gospel Passage: Matthew 16:24-27

- Hand sign your letter with your first and last name

Return unfolded (not in a folder or envelope) on your retreat date

SAINT REFLECTION

Confirmation is a Sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, whom the Lord sent upon His apostles at Pentecost. In Confirmation, the Baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as preparation for a mature Christian life.

*The Bishop dips his right thumb in the Chrism (oil) and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says: *NAME OF SAINT *, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Each candidate must write a reflection on the Saint they have chosen for their Confirmation. Choosing a saint name is an essential part of Confirmation and it is an acknowledgement that the Holy Spirit will change you through the grace of this Sacrament.

We see in scripture that God changed the names of some of his own to signify their role had been changed and that they were becoming, in a sense, a new person. For example, Abram became Abraham (Genesis 17:5), Sarai became Sarah (Genesis 17:15), and Simon became Peter (Matthew 16:18). When choosing a saint, you should choose someone who exemplifies a quality that you will strive to reach in your faith walk. You may use your baptismal name which expresses the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. However, if a new name is taken, it should be the name of a recognized Saint.

The candidate is responsible to research the Saint they have chosen and write about one area in that Saint's life that touched them. How did that saint truly live a life of faith? Why do you think the Saint chose the way of God over the way of self? Can you see yourself choosing God over self by thinking about this Saint's life as an example?

Minimum of one typed paged, double spaced. This should be the name you eventually take as your confirmed name. Research it – a good online resource is www.catholic.org/saints. Begin this research during the Christmas break or anytime

Complete and return by January 10th 2020

DISCIPLESHIP

As disciples of Christ we are commanded to love one another and we can show this love through acts of service. People often take part in "Service Projects" as a way of helping others. However, if the word "project" implies an act that has a beginning and an end, why would we ever connect that word to discipleship? Discovering our gifts, talents and passions are the beginning of a lifelong commitment to discipleship. God has given us many gifts which we can serve others and be good disciples.

Each candidate is invited to become involved in an area of Discipleship (Service) as part of their Confirmation journey.

The idea of service begins with a call. The world tells us our gifts and talents are for personal gain - what do I get out of it? What will it do for me? God's call is different; it allows us to share our lives with others in response to knowing our gifts, talents and passions are from God. Young people are on a path of discovery; they are apprentices in an area of service to God. Trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you into an area of service.

Where and when should we serve?

Do not put any limit on the service area; you can serve in the church, in school, with family, in the neighborhood or for an organization. It does not need to be a new area of service - if you are already actively involved in something that is fine. Remember, service is the life of discipleship! Allow your passionate heart to serve God. Pray that He will bring opportunities to serve Him with all your heart, with your entire mind and with all your strength. *"What we do, we do for Christ, with Christ, to Christ."* - Mother Teresa

Every candidate must put together a digital display on Prezi.com and click the top right "Get Started" button to sign up.

Please see Family Discipleship Project Chart for examples of opportunities to complete this project.

These displays are great ways for the entire parish to recognize the youth and it may get some thinking about their own service life. As we know, the most powerful way for faith to stick is when we experience it or watch others living it!

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

“Confirmation Sponsors will help the Confirmandi to fulfill their baptismal promise, faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received. It is recommended that the candidate’s baptism sponsor (godparent if still actively involved in the Confirmandi’s life) also be their Confirmation sponsor. This expresses the relationship between the two sacraments and also makes the function and responsibility of the sponsor more effective.”

WHO CAN BE A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR?

- Must be a confirmed and practicing Catholic (i.e. regular Mass attendance and be able to receive the Eucharist)
- Must be a person who is an example and witness of the Catholic faith in word and action
- Must be mature enough to fulfill their function as a sponsor (Minimum age of 16 years old)
- Must be someone who will attend liturgical celebrations, special events, and the Confirmation Mass with the candidate (we highly recommend someone local.)
- A parent **cannot** be their son/daughter’s sponsor. As parents already have a significant role in their son/daughter’s faith life the Church envisions that a godparent will step into this role in helping a Candidate to be a faithful Catholic follower of Christ.
- Your confirmation sponsor must meet the above qualifications.

Please take some time to consider who will be your sponsor and then spend time with them. Invite them to attend Mass with you and attend special events during the year - specifically Advent or Lent. This person will be your faith companion. Enjoy this time of sharing and reflection with someone who is genuinely interested in your continued faith in Christ.

THE ROLE OF A SPONSOR

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SPONSOR?

Many people wonder what being a sponsor is all about? They are not sure they should become one. If that is you, it may help you to think of sponsoring a candidate in the simplest terms. Being a “sponsor” means being a “companion.” Being a good sponsor means listening to and sharing your life and faith with your candidate. They trust you. They have chosen you. Now it is your turn to choose them.

Being a sponsor doesn't mean having all the answers or being the perfect Catholic Christian. The sponsor/candidate relationship is not a teacher/student relationship. Rather, it is two people discovering together the presence of God in the world, the faith community and in each other. To be the mature, Roman Catholic companion your candidate needs, it is important for you to pray, listen, witness, consistently attend Mass, and model your faith with your actions (in word & deed).

A SPONSOR MODELS CHRISTIAN LIVING

If Christianity could be taught like any other subject, we would not need sponsors. The ongoing experience of living in Christ can only be handed on from person to person. Think of Christianity like the emotions felt at an exciting event (a ball game or party). It is alive and active, exists in moments and can only be shared between people.

To be a sponsor, or model, you are passing on values to the candidate. If a person changes their point of view or action, it is because they respect and admire someone who demonstrates a different point of view or action from their own. Witnessing our faith is everyone's responsibility, but your candidate may look to you before others. They already do. They have chosen you as their sponsor.

As a witness to the Christian life, you also function as a bridge. It is your task to help your candidate know Holy Trinity Parish and its people better and help them accept responsibility to their baptismal call. The way you participate in the faith community will be your greatest gift to your candidate.

Please turn over...

A SPONSOR PRAYS...

When we reflect on our lives in connecting with Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we pray. This kind of prayer allows the Holy Spirit to continue the conversion process begun in us at baptism. Prayer makes us sensitive to the presence of God in our ordinary day to day living. It doesn't matter how you pray, each of us has our own way of praying! Failing to pray distances us from God and makes the possibility of living the Christian way of life remote!

Your candidate will be looking to you as they strive to discover their own path of continual conversion. Sharing your prayer life will be an immense help. Now may be the time for you to discover for yourself the form of prayer best suited to you. You may want to try praying with scripture or practicing "centering prayer" to discover the best way for you to come to know God.

A SPONSOR LISTENS...

One of the primary tasks of a sponsor is to help the candidate uncover their own story. That can only happen when we allow the candidate to speak and when we listen with reverence to what they have to say. They need to know we value them as a person and that we regard them as an authentic voice of Christ in our faith community. Good listening allows the kind of sharing to happen that helps people grow in self-understanding and confidence.

Sometimes it is hard for us to put our story aside and listen to another's. That may be the biggest challenge of being a sponsor, but it will also bring the greatest reward. Begin to have conversations about the Candidate's life. It is alright to ask, "How is your faith walk going or as a Christian how are you doing?" We all have much to teach and much to learn. Listening is one of the best tools we have.

A SPONSOR IS SUPPORTED...

The parish community of Holy Trinity supports the sponsor/candidate relationship throughout the preparation time. It is vital that you feel connected to the community of Holy Trinity through worship and prayer. Know that Fr Michael St. Paul , the Coordinator of Confirmation, parents of candidates and catechists in the preparation time will be walking with you as you share your faith with the candidate. If you are coming from outside of Holy Trinity Parish; stop by and celebrate Mass with us! May God bless you for your loving attitude of caring for another in Christ.

CONFIRMATION YEAR 2 OFF-SITE RETREAT

All Confirmation candidates must attend one off-site retreat. There is limited space on both retreats. Please select your preferred weekend ASAP to ensure you have the date that best works for you. Once a retreat is full WE CANNOT MAKE ANY CHANGES and candidates who have not signed up will be automatically registered for the other weekend. Please write your child's name and check the box of your preferred date:

Retreat Location 2021: Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Name: _____

March 5th-7th, 2021

March 26th-28th, 2021