

Expectations for Confirmation Candidates

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Elkhorn, Nebraska

"The sacrament of Confirmation is a sacrament of responsible commitment. As one of the sacraments of initiation, it is a commitment to grow towards maturity in faith, a commitment to live the responsibilities and challenges that come with being a full contributing member of the church. Being mature means being able to see the possibilities in each situation, to act on new awareness, to accept the risk that comes with growth."
Gifted with the Spirit

Baptismal Certificate

For candidates who were not baptized at St. Patrick's, a **Baptismal Certificate with the raised seal needs to be turned into the Office of Religious Formation as soon as possible.** If you do not have the certificate, please call or write the church where your child was baptized. We will return the original certificate to you after we make a photocopy.

Enrollment Mass

Confirmation Candidates and their parents will be asked to attend a commitment ceremony. At this Mass, the candidate will commit to prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Their parents and the parish community will agree to support these candidates.

October 29, 2011	5:00 p.m.
October 30, 2011	11:00 a.m.
November 13, 2011	9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Confirmation Reflection and Retreats

There will be six reflections and/or retreats for our candidates.

- ❖ **(2) Parent/candidate reflections** (At least one parent should plan to attend with their child.)

October 5, 2011	7:30 to 8:45 p.m.
January 11, 2012	7:30 to 8:45 p.m.
- ❖ **(2) Sponsor/candidate reflections** (The candidate and their sponsor should plan to attend. If the candidate's sponsor is unable to attend, at least one parent should plan to attend.)

November 16, 2011	7:30 to 8:45 p.m.
April 11, 2012	7:30 to 8:45 p.m.
- ❖ **(1) Candidate/Discipleship Mentor Reflection**

October 12, 2011	7:30 to 8:45 p.m.
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- ❖ **(1) Candidate Only Retreat to be held at Pro Sanctity (Choose One date/time)**

March 10, 2012	2:00 to 7:00 p.m.
March 11, 2012	8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
March 11, 2012	2:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Interviews

All candidates requesting the sacrament of Confirmation will be interviewed by representatives of our parish.

April 18, 2012	7:30 to 8:45 p.m.
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Sponsor

The sponsor must be **Baptized, Confirmed and actively living a life of faith, which includes conscious participation in the regular worship of church, reception of the Eucharist and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** (If married, a sponsor's marriage should be in harmony with church laws.) The sponsor should be at least 16 years of age. Godparents, because of their already existing spiritual bond to the candidate are very appropriate for this role.

Confirmation Name/Saint Report

Archdiocesan guidelines state: "Confirmation historically and theologically linked to Christian Baptism is considered, along with Baptism and Eucharist, to be a Sacrament of Initiation. To express this close relationship between the two sacraments, it is not only appropriate, but desirable, that the candidate's baptismal name be used at the time of Confirmation. However, the name of another saint whose life is of particular witness to the candidate may be chosen."

Service

Christ gives us, His people, different gifts not only for ourselves, but also for others. The Church community is called to meet the needs of all of its members. This includes being aware of the poor, the uneducated, the sick, and all those in the Christian community whose condition of life keeps them from reaching their human potential.

For the above reasons, candidates preparing for Confirmation at St. Patrick's Parish are required to complete one service project with their parent and one service project with their sponsor. In addition, candidates preparing for Confirmation at St. Patrick's Parish are required to be a member of a Discipleship Group, or attend Youth Serve. (Youth Serve journals must be turned in to the RF Office.) Each Discipleship Group will have 8-10 people in their group, depending upon the number of mentors who come forward. As a member of a Discipleship Group, candidates will complete three service projects and the journaling associated with each project.

Letter to the Archbishop

The sacrament of Confirmation should be freely chosen and sincerely celebrated. In your letter to the Archbishop, share your desire to be Confirmed, what the sacrament means to you and how you wish to continue your involvement in the Church after Confirmation.

Communication

Every effort will be made by the Director of Religious Formation to keep parents and candidates informed. Please read parish bulletins, Principal's Notes, RF Family Newsletters and mailings for regular updates and schedule changes that may affect Confirmation preparation. **It is the parents and candidates responsibility to stay informed through the various means of communication.**

Due Dates

Sponsor Form

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Confirmation Name/Saint Report

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

Candidate/Sponsor Service Project and Reflection Sheet

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, February 08, 2012

Candidate/Parent Service Project and Reflection Sheet

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, February 08, 2012

Discipleship service projects and reflection journals

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, March 07, 2012

Letter to the Archbishop

- ✓ Due on or before Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Confirmation Interviews

- ✓ April 18, 2012

Confirmation Date /Pictures and Practices

Pictures and Practice TBA

Confirmation Celebrations TBA

