

Confirmation Packet 2020-2021

**St. Thomas Aquinas Parish
&
St. Clare Parish**

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Timetable for Confirmation Requirements

September: Family Faith Formation Classes (FFF) begin

TBD: Rite of Welcome Mass (Attend one of the Masses available at either parish)

December 5th: Confirmation Candidate Registration Form + Copy of Baptismal Certificate due

February-March: Father Ed Confirmation Interview (precise time TBA)

February 9th: Love Letter due (For parents)

February 28th: Confirmation letter due

March 6th-7th: Confirmation Retreat

March 7th: Confirmation Rehearsal w/ sponsors

April 18th: Confirmation (St. Clare Location)

** All other requirements as described in the checklist section of this packet are due by Confirmation.*

Navigating Confirmation 2020-2021

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

Each candidate should have their own individual sponsor. Your sponsor may be a godparent, a relative or another role model in your life.

Qualifications of a sponsor:

1. Sponsors are to be active members of a Catholic Church who attend Mass regularly.
2. Must be sufficiently mature in his/her commitment to Christ.
3. Must be a minimum age of 18 years.
4. The person chosen must have the intention of performing their role and assume an ongoing spiritual relationship with the candidate – this is not a one-time role!
5. Must be a fully initiated Catholic, having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
6. Cannot be the parent of the Confirmation candidate. (unless there is no one else)

What does a sponsor do?

1. Assist in the preparation for the Sacrament.
2. Accompany the candidate and present him to the bishop.
3. Help the challenges the candidate to grow in faith and relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.
4. Attending Mass as often as possible with the candidate.
5. Continuing to be a source of encouragement and guidance for the candidate after Confirmation.

Traits to look for in a sponsor:

- A sponsor prays and desires to be a saint.
- A sponsor participates in the Liturgy and in the parish.
- A sponsor listens and is respectful.
- A sponsor serves as a bridge, helping the candidate understand and become familiar with the people, places and traditions of the Catholic faith.
- A sponsor respects the candidate's freedom, allowing the candidate to decide whether this is the right time to seek the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- A sponsor is positive and encouraging, feeling confident in being able to boldly live their faith in the world.

Prayer for Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

Holy Spirit, helper and guide, give me wisdom as I choose my Confirmation sponsor. Help me to choose a person of prayer who will teach me also to be a person of prayer, who will support me in difficult times, who will guide me to make good choices, and who will challenge me when I do not. Help me to choose someone who will love me and teach me to love Jesus. Thank you for giving me a community of people around me to support and guide me as I take this important step in becoming more fully a member of your Church. Amen.

The Option of Choosing a Confirmation Name:

Traditionally, Catholics have added a Confirmation name to their name following their middle name and before their last name. You may choose instead to keep your Baptismal name. However, you are still expected to research the life of a saint you'd like to be your patron.

Recommended Web Resources:

1. www.americancatholic.org
2. <http://catholicsaints.info/>
3. www.catholic.org/saints/

What is Confirmation?

In Confirmation, you will receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit and His gifts, preparing you for your ministry and renewed commitment to Christ. This Holy Spirit is the Counselor promised to us by Christ Himself. We receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism when we are baptized. But in Confirmation, we complete our Christian Initiation.

What are the effects of Confirmation?

We receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost.

We are united more firmly to Christ.

We receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We are fully initiated members of the Church..

We are strengthened to spread and defend the faith.

We are indelibly marked as a witness of Christ on our soul.

10 Commandments

I am the LORD your God. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.

You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom helps us recognize the importance of keeping God central in our lives.

Understanding is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message.

Knowledge is the ability to think and explore God's revelation, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us.

Counsel is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that relate to him.

Fortitude is the courage to do what one knows is right.

Piety helps us pray to God in true devotion.

Fear of the Lord is the feeling of amazement before God, who is all-present, and whose friendship we do not want to lose.

Confirmation Letter Guidelines

Each confirmation candidate must write a letter to the Bishop requesting to receive the sacrament of confirmation. The Bishop reads each and every one of them! Please follow the guidelines below when writing your letter.

Greeting

Begin your letter with the greeting:
“Dear Bishop _____,”

Body of Letter

- Introduce yourself. Tell something about your family, your background.
- Request the sacrament. Give reasons why you would like to be Confirmed. *Hint: (receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit)*
- Give a statement or two about your growth of faith: past, present, future.
- **State the name of the patron Saint you have chosen for this sacrament along with a reason for the selection of that particular patron Saint.**
- Describe your service endeavors and the effect of these on your life.
- Tell how you see yourself participating in the Mission of the Church as an adult.
- Conclusion

Conclude the letter with your name. Please type the letter. Make sure **God, Confirmation, and Mass** are “capitalized”. Sign the letter with a handwritten signature and mail your to the parish office. Please make sure the letter is clean and professionally written...but put some heart into it! Confirmation letters are due **Feb. 28th!**

Email me with questions: youthminister@saintthomaswaterford.org (STA) OR legrosmaureen@gmail.com (SC)

Candidate Registration Form

Name of Candidate _____

I will keep my Baptismal name YES NO

I will take a Confirmation patron Saint name YES NO

If YES, identify the name of the patron saint _____

Sponsor name _____

Sponsor Phone _____ Circle one: Work Mobile

Sponsor Email _____

Candidate was baptized at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

Candidate received First Communion at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

Candidate was baptized at another parish

(List Parish and date) _____

Candidate received First Communion at another parish

(List Parish and date) _____

Note: If you were baptized at another parish, please provide a copy of your Baptismal Certificate by Dec. 5th, 2021. *Should you have difficulty locating your certificate, call the church you were baptized at to obtain a copy.*

**Confirmation Interview with the Pastor
Possible Questions for Candidates**

1. Why would you like to be confirmed?
2. What have you done to prepare for confirmation?
Examples could include: Reconciliation, prayer, classes, retreat, service hours, Mass, talking with sponsor, parents, actively participating in church.
3. Please share two experiences of service you have involved yourself in?
4. List the 10 Commandments in order.
5. What are the three Sacraments of Initiation?
6. What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?
7. Who will be your sponsor?
8. Why did you choose this person?
9. How do you plan to get involved in the parish once you are confirmed?

These questions are some examples of what you may be asked during the interview. Each candidate is expected to know the 10 commandments and 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. Please come to the interview with a parent or another adult family member.

Eligibility Checklist for the Sacrament of Confirmation

- Attend your once a month Family Faith Formation classes. Missed classes will need to be made up.
- Fill out the short Mass reflection forms. 7 need to be completed. Will be provided for you after Mass, during your Family Faith Formation session. Only takes a couple minutes.
- Complete a minimum of 3 service hours & turned in service reflection forms (Attached below)
- Choose a sponsor. (see instructions)
- Decide if you will use your **Baptismal Name** or choose an additional **saint's name**. (see instructions)
- Attend sponsor night at St. Thomas with your sponsor. (date and Time TBD)
- Attend and participate in the overnight retreat March 6-7 2021.
- Write a letter to the bishop requesting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- email your Confirmation letter to: youthminister@saintthomaswaterford.org (no later than Feb. 28th)
- Sign your letter to bishop. (Due back no later than Feb. 28th)
- Prepare for your interview with the Pastor.
- Go to SignUpGenius link to make appointment for interview with the Pastor. (See "Sacraments" tab for SignUpGenius) Link to be released at a later time.
- Meet with the Pastor for your discernment interview in February. Bring a parent.
- Attend Confirmation Rehearsal
- Be present for the Confirmation Liturgy.

Love Letter

Dear Parents –

In March, your son or daughter will be attending their Confirmation retreat. I am asking you to help us with one of the most special and significant moments of the retreat. I would like you to write a love letter to your son or daughter. Please also consider inviting other people who are close to your child to send love letters in addition to yours. Those you might consider asking to write: siblings, relatives, friends, sponsors, Godparents and any other important people. These letters are meant to be positive and show them the love and support they have from home.

You might consider writing about:

- What makes you proud of your son or daughter
- Your hopes and dreams for them
- The beautiful person they are becoming
- What gifts/talents you see in them
- About the strong relationship you have with them
- How happy you are that they are becoming confirmed

Please keep these letters a secret! The letters should be sealed and given to me or dropped off at the parish office. Be sure to write your child's name on the outside along with "Love Letter".

Please have all the letters turned into me by **Feb 9th**. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please let us know.

God Bless,
Thaddeus Loduha & Maureen LeGros

Service Reflection Forms

Name _____

Grade _____

Person/Organization Served _____

Number of service hours _____

Description of service project

Do you feel you made a difference? Why or why not? What do you believe a Christian can do to make a difference in the world and make the world a better place?

How did you see the face of God in those that you served?

How do you feel God is calling you to serve right now and in the future? What do you think your vocation may be?
