

Parent Confirmation Information
2018-2019



St. Isidore Catholic Community
Sacred Heart & Visitation Parishes
218 S. 12th Street
Osage, IA 50461
641-732-3428
Beth Hoppel CRE
Barb Brumm DRE
Fr. Raymond Burkle, Pastor



*God has revealed to us
through the Spirit.*

1 Cor 2:10

Confirmation Prayer

*God, our father, we ask you to bless all candidates
who are now preparing to receive the spirit of your
love in the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

*May the gifts within each one be touched by your Holy Spirit
and become blessings for our parish family.*

*Bless, too, our parents, our sponsors, our teachers
and Catechists, and all those who have been the
reflection of your son's love for us. This we
ask you through Christ, our Lord.*

Amen.

Confirmation Calendar 2018-2019

Mass Worksheets	October-April (Easter)
Enrollment For Confirmation	October 10
Parent Letter to Pastor	October 17
Sponsor Information Form	October 31
Saint Report	January 23
Candidate Letter to Pastor	February 6
Candidate/Sponsor Class after the 8:30 am Mass in Visitation Church Hall	February 10
Candidate/Sponsor Class after the 10:30 am Mass in Sacred Heart Church Hall	March 10
Interviews with Fr. Burkle	March or April
Candidate Retreat	April 14
Celebration of Confirmation	April 7, 2019 10:30 am Sacred Heart Church, Osage, IA

September 2018

Dear Parents,

The preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation began many years ago in Baptism and in the faith formation in our home and parish. Confirmation continues the promise made by you at Baptism for your son or daughter to "make it your constant care to bring up your child in the practice of faith." It will now be your child's decision to be sealed in the Spirit and live out the commitment of faith, witness and service in the Church.

Archbishop Michael Jackels stated in a recent letter, "On the day of their reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the fullness of the Spirit of the Lord will come upon these young people and they will be set apart to do God's work in the world today."

You are asked to guide your child in this time of preparation and transition. This can be done through your support and cooperation with the parish Confirmation preparation program.

I am happy to work with you on this step of your child's journey of faith.

Blessings,

Beth Hoppel
Coordinator of Confirmation
Coordinator of Faith Formation
641-732-3428 (work)

Enrollment For Confirmation

Name _____ Phone _____
First Middle Last

Address _____

Parents/Guardians _____

Birth Date _____ Place of Birth _____ Age at Confirmation _____

Sponsor _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Mentor _____ Phone _____

(If applicable)

Address _____

I understand that by enrolling in this confirmation process, I am expected to attend all the regularly assigned sessions as well as weekend parish liturgies. I promise to give of myself and my abilities in the service of others.

Candidate Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Sacramental Records

To be recorded in the Official Confirmation Record of the parish.

Mother:

Last _____ Maiden _____ First _____

Father:

Last _____ First _____

BAPTISM Date _____

Parish _____ Address (city and state) _____

Name of Godparents _____

FIRST EUCHARIST Date _____

Place _____ Address (city and state) _____



Introduction to the Confirmation Process (for Parents and Sponsors)

Let's review the meaning of confirmation ...

The meaning of this sacrament has remained clear over centuries: confirmation gives the Holy Spirit. While the Spirit is given in a unique way, it is not given for the first time; that occurred in baptism. Candidates for confirmation have lived in the faith and promises of the church for many years. But a different context does not invalidate the first baptismal promises. In the same way, a couple who repeats their marriage vows after twenty-five years knows that the context has changed dramatically. But the new context doesn't invalidate the original vows – if anything, the weight of time and experience makes them more meaningful. Similarly, a couple who fall in love initially find that the qualities they've always had are called forth in a new way for parenthood. Thus, the Spirit who is always present continues to make us more like Christ, strengthening us to continue his work.

How have ideas about confirmation changed over time?

Only from the eleventh century onwards was confirmation separated from baptism. Celebrating the two together showed the link between Jesus' own baptism and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on his mission. Today, when adults and children of catechetical age are initiated into the Catholic Church, baptism and confirmation are still celebrated together.

In the early church, the bishop imposed hands on and anointed the newly baptized as part of the baptism rite. As Christianity spread, it became difficult for the bishop to anoint numerous converts. This part of the rite was deferred to later time when the bishop could visit the parish. Gradually, the anointing took on the "confirmation," and the candidates, rather than being the newly baptized, were people who had been baptized years before.

To summarize a long subsequent history, the "soldier-of-Christ model" prevailed when many who are now parents were confirmed themselves. Emphasis was placed on maturity; through the sacrament, children became "soldiers of Christ" who would defend the faith.

Today, less emphasis is placed on maturity, since the gift of the Spirit is an abundance that not even the most mature person could ever deserve. We see that God's action, not ours, takes primacy. We celebrate the Spirit active in the lives of all people. Rather than a "graduation," confirmation is a part of ongoing conversion within a community of faith. Our young people join with us as we all grow together in grace, a life-long process.

What is a parent's or sponsor's role?

Consider that you have gained an apprentice. In the traditional sense of that word, the apprentice learned a trade from a master. What you are conveying instead is the way you live as a Christian. That doesn't mean perfection or phony piety. It simply means welcoming a young person into your struggles and joys, your daily drudgery and moments of grace. What gets you through the day? How does looking at your life through the lens of faith make a difference? Why is your involvement with church so important that you'd sacrifice time to make this commitment?

The answers to those three questions may not come in words. But young people are attuned to non-verbals: the ways we tease them, enjoy them, nurture them and challenge them all speak loudly. They'll pick up the message more from who you are than from anything you do or say.

Adolescence is by definition a time of transition, a time filled with much excitement and wonder but also with many stumbling blocks. Most adolescents are also in the midst of a faith transition, moving out of the passive, receptive faith of childhood into the active, personally committed faith of adulthood.

Early Adolescence (ages 13-15) is a time of peer-orientation and self doubt. It is also the beginning of independent thinking and introspection. Though at times teens at this age may seem unresponsive to adult direction and uninterested in exploring topics of faith, they are likely to be in the process of developing an entirely new spiritual outlook. They are forming and sometimes asking life's deeper questions.

Remember, they are also good observers. They will be very aware of your demeanor, actions, availability, personal prayer life, and relationships with others. Especially for teens this age, actions speak louder than words.

For Sponsors in particular... To counter the instability of adolescence it will be important for you to determine a consistent pattern of communication. You might agree upon a regular schedule and format of interactions—personal visits, phone calls, e-mail, snail mail, etc. Frequency is not as important as reliability. Be available and stay in touch about things happening in your lives.

Thanks for coming along with them on the adventure. Your commitment tells a young person: "We value you. We want you to be a part of us. Your youthful energy brings vitality to our community. You are a clear sign of God in our midst."

Letter to The Pastor

From the Parents

Your child is free to respond to God's call to live his/her faith more deeply—to worship, witness and serve as a confirmed Christian. He/She, of course, has needed your guidance and witness to come to this moment of desiring Confirmation. **To show your support of your child's decision to continue his/her faith journey, please write a letter to our pastor requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation from your child.**

Address your letter to Father Raymond Burkle.

Here are some suggestion for the format of the letter:

1. Introduce yourself, conveying something about your family or your background that brings you and your child to this moment of faith.
2. Request the sacrament for your child giving several reasons why you feel it is important for your child to be confirmed and how he/she has prepared for the Sacrament.
3. Explain how you will support your child during this time of preparation. Mention how you share your prayer life as parents or as family; how you celebrate other Sacraments like Sunday or daily Eucharist or Reconciliation; how you give stewardship or service for others as a parent, as a family, or within the community.
4. Share your letter with your child before you mail it. (You might want to make a copy of it to keep for a memento.)
5. Send the letter to Beth Hoppel in a sealed envelope with the words, **"Attention Father Raymond Burkle" and your name on the front.** A checklist is being kept to track all letters. All will be forwarded unopened.

CONFIRMATION 2018-2019

Candidates:

- ❖ Must be baptized and not confirmed.
- ❖ Must **freely** choose to be confirmed and make their wish known.
- ❖ Must have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions.
- ❖ Must be practicing their faith by attending Mass and receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation often.
- ❖ Must complete weekly Mass worksheets.
- ❖ Are responsible for completing all required home study, assignments, and service projects.
- ❖ Must be willing to participate in the Confirmation program of prayer, retreat, etc.
- ❖ Must be aware of the initiation aspect of the sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continue the faithful practice and study of their religion.

Parents:

- ❖ Must worship together at weekly Sunday Eucharist.
- ❖ Must guide the candidate in the growth of the faith through family activities such as reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation, family prayer and faith-sharing conversations, study, and Christian service.
- ❖ Must strive to be living examples of faith and good moral judgment.
- ❖ Must attend all meetings and programs in preparation for the sacrament.
- ❖ Must support the preparation by responding to candidate's questions, assuring attendance and participation in faith formation classes and supervising the completion of projects.
- ❖ Must assist the candidate in choosing a qualified Sponsor and Confirmation name.
- ❖ Must make a written request of the pastor for the Sacrament of Confirmation for their child.
- ❖ Must present a certificate of Baptism and verification of First Eucharist (if not already on file.)

Sponsor:

Being a sponsor is not just an honor. The sponsor must be an active, practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Catholic Church, who can be a role model for the candidate. Ideally, you should choose one of your Godparents from Baptism, provided he or she meets the above guidelines. If it is not possible to choose a godparent as your sponsor (e.g. they are deceased, live too far away, or are no longer a practicing Catholic), then you might ask someone else whom you see as an example of a committed, practicing Catholic. This could be a grandparent, aunt or uncle, other relative, family friend, parent of one of your friends, a teacher. The requirements of the Catholic Church say that a sponsor:

- ❖ Must be a **practicing** (actively involved in the parish) **Confirmed** Catholic, at least 16 years of age (with the approval from the Pastor), who is willing to mentor the candidate in developing a faith in God, worship within the community and spirituality.
- ❖ Is a person who regularly comes to Sunday Mass and celebrates the sacraments.
- ❖ Not prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor.
- ❖ Must attend the sponsor/candidate classes.
- ❖ Must be able to meet with the candidate before Confirmation to sufficiently share and establish a relationship in faith that will last throughout the candidate's lifetime.
- ❖ Must be able to attend Confirmation Sunday, April 7, 2019 at Sacred Heart Church
- ❖ May not be a parent of the candidate.

Mass Worksheet

Celebrating Our Catholic Faith
St. Isidore Catholic Community~~Sacred Heart & Visitation Parishes
CONFIRMATION 2018-2019

Name: _____
(print your first and last name)

Today's Date: _____

Name of Church: _____

1. What day is it, today, in the Church's calendar?
2. What color vestments is the priest wearing?
3. From which book of the Bible is the first reading?
4. What is the first reading talking about?

5. From which Psalm is the Responsorial?
6. From which book of the Bible is the second reading?
7. How does the second reading from scripture apply to you?

8. From which book is today's Gospel reading?
9. What did you hear from today's Gospel reading that is important in your life?

10. Please write a paragraph discussing today's homily. **INCLUDE:** what you heard in the homily; what did you like or dislike about the homily; how does it relate to you today?

11. What is something you can do this week to make a difference in someone else's life?

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

From the time you were welcomed into the community of believers at your Baptism, you have been surrounded by people to support you and help you grow in your love of God.

At your Baptism, your Godparents represented the community of faith in welcoming you into the family of the Church. They and your parents accepted a responsibility at your Baptism to help you grow as a Catholic.

Our Church wants us to journey with others in the community. A part of this community is our family in fact we call the family the domestic church. This is where we first learn about God.

In order to be blessed during your preparation for Confirmation by the example of people who live lives of Christian witness and discipleship, the Church asks that you choose a sponsor for Confirmation, someone other than your Mom and Dad. This person symbolizes the support of the entire Body of Christ as a disciple.

The Sponsor who you choose joins your parents and family in journeying with you throughout the Confirmation preparation period. He or she supports you and helps you grow in the life of faith. The sponsor is your challenger and your guide in discovering what it means to be a true witness of Christ.

What is the purpose of a Sponsor?

1. To be a representative of the Catholic faith Community.
2. To act as a role model and witness.
3. To be of support to parents/guardians and the candidate on this faith journey.

Who Can be a Sponsor?

Being a sponsor is not just an honor. The sponsor must be an active, practicing and in good standings with the Catholic Church. A sponsor should be someone who can be a role model for the candidate. Ideally, you should choose one of your Godparents from Baptism, provided he or she meets the above guidelines. If it is not possible to choose a godparent as your sponsor (e.g. they are deceased, live too far away, or are no longer a practicing Catholic), then you might ask someone else whom you see as an example of a committed, practicing Catholic. This could be a grandparent, aunt or uncle, other relative, family friend, parent of one of your friends, a teacher. The requirements of the Catholic Church say that a sponsor:

- May be either a man or a woman. (Sponsors do not have to be the same sex as the candidate.),
- Must be a fully initiated Roman Catholic (Baptized, Confirmed and has made First Communion.)
- Is a person who regularly comes to Sunday Mass and celebrates the sacraments.
- Not prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor.
- Must be at least 16 years old and sufficiently mature for this role (with the approval from the Pastor).
- May not be the parent of the candidate.

2019 Confirmation Saint Report

The tradition of taking a saint's name in Baptism is an ancient practice in the church. The patron saint becomes a role model for the person and an example of how the Gospel can be lived in a practical way. In many Catholic countries today, one's saint name day (feast day) is celebrated instead of one's birthday. Saints are heroes of the faith who lived their lives as examples of faith, hope, and love. We venerate them as we do members of our own families who have died and whom we continue to honor with their pictures in our homes.

The Sacrament of Confirmation give us the Holy Spirit to strengthen and encourage us to live out our baptismal commitment to love and serve others, especially those most in need. We can either be confirmed with our original baptismal name or take a saint's name who will also be a patron saint for us. **Everyone must choose a Saint Name.**

Research the saint's name you choose for Confirmation. Use the Internet for interesting information on your saint and to find a picture.

This report should be at least one page, typed.

REPORT FORMAT

The report should include the following:

1. An Introduction (Interesting information about the saint you chose)
2. Biography
 - a. History, date of birth, location, family
 - b. General information about the saint
 - c. What did this saint do? What is the saint known for? What is the saint's patronage?
 - d. Canonization date, feast day
3. Conclusion
 - a. Why did you choose this saint?
 - b. What qualities do you admire in this saint?
 - c. Which Gifts of the Holy Spirit are evident in this Saint's life? Explain.
 - d. What characteristics would you like to imitate?

SAINTS' IMAGES & INFORMATION

Use the following for images and information about the saints:

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/gallerys.htm>

<http://www.catholiconline.com>

<http://www.americancatholic.com>

<http://www.newadvent.org>

*There are several books in the Sacred Heart Faith Formation library.

ASSIGNMENT DUE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019. BRING TO CLASS, DROP-OFF AT THE SACRED HEART FAITH FORMATION CENTER, OR EMAIL TO BETH HOPPEL AT dbq152re1@dbqarch.org or bhop1054@gmail.com

Candidate Letter to Pastor

You are free to respond to God's call to live your faith more deeply—to worship, witness, and serve as a confirmed Catholic. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are required to write a letter of request to the Pastor of our Parish, Father Raymond Burkle. Please include the following information:

- Introduce yourself...
- What does my Catholic faith represent to me?
- Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.
- Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important to tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of other sacraments, your service to others, etc.
- Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service of God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Tell how you plan to make your confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.
- Feel free to ask any questions to Fr. Ray. Depending on the question, he may or may not respond back.

Send the letter to Beth Hoppel in a sealed envelope with the words, "**Attention Father Raymond Burkle**" and **your name on the front**. A checklist is being kept to track all letters. All will be forwarded unopened.

2019 Confirmation Interviews

All Confirmation interviews will be done with Fr. Ray. There will be a sign-up sheet for interviews in February, during Faith Formation classes.

If you these dates and times will not work for your schedule, please call Fr. Ray at 732-4342 (work), 832-2671 (home), or 563-580-2197 (cell) to reschedule. These interviews must be scheduled by the candidate and be completed prior to confirmation.