

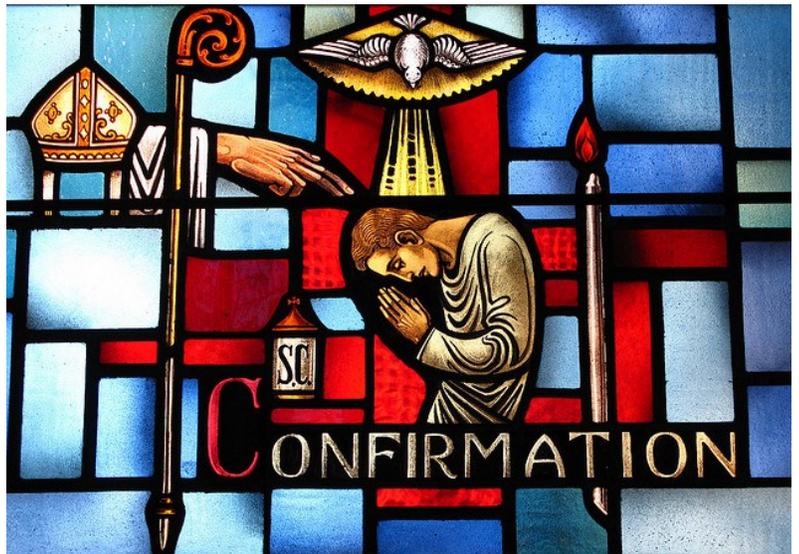


St. Francis of Assisi

Confirmation Ministry

2021-22 Handbook

Celebration of Confirmation
Saturday, May 7, 2022 ~ 5:00 pm



St. Francis of Assisi, Centerville, Ohio

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This handbook is designed to be dynamic and used digitally. It will be updated from time to time. Please check periodically for the current version.

A Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit
that my thoughts may all be holy;
Act in me O Holy Spirit
that my works, too, may be holy;
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit
that I love but what is holy;
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit
to defend all that is holy;
Guard me O Holy Spirit
that I always may be holy.

St. Augustine

Confirmation Ministry Overview

Confirmation is the third Sacrament of Initiation in our Catholic Tradition. It is a vital milestone on a young person's faith journey and development as a Catholic. In Confirmation we celebrate the continuing grace-giving presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Jesus continually extends an invitation to us to join in a fuller and closer relationship with Him and with our faith community.

The Confirmation Team is being challenged again this year to navigate Confirmation Ministry in a pandemic world. We will follow the same procedures and policies that have been established for our Religious Education. Masks will be required for all students and adults and social distancing will be practiced.

The events that make up our Confirmation Ministry with dates and times can be found on the next page together with a brief description of each event. Information regarding picking a Confirmation Name and the requirements and responsibilities of the Confirmation Sponsor can be found on pages 5 and 6, respectively.

Parish and Community Service has always been a big part of our Confirmation Ministry. With the limitations of living in a pandemic world, that section of our handbook is "under construction." We are hopeful that these limitations will be relaxed (or even eliminated) as we enter 2022 and that we will be able to provide guidance on how service can be completed.

This handbook has been designed to be dynamic and digital. It will be updated periodically, so please check it regularly. We will communicate any changes and all other Confirmation information via Flocknote.

For additional information including registration, please visit <https://sfacc.org/confirmation/>

Contact Marty McClain (mmclain@sfacc.org) or Phyllis Wilemaitis (pwilemaitis@sfacc.org) with questions.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Confirmation 2021-2022 Calendar of Events

THE KERYGMA EXPERIENCE FAMILY RETREAT:

The Kerygma Experience Family Retreat is a 5 session at home experience that explores the most basic and initial proclamation of the Gospel. Exploring the themes of Creation, Fall, Redemption, Salvation and Re-Creation your family will experience God's plan of love, mercy and sheer goodness. Here is a timeline for completing the Kerygma Experience:

Session 1	complete by November 30
Session 2	complete by December 29
Session 3	complete by January 31
Session 4	complete by March 4
Session 5	complete by April 8

[You can find the Kerygma Experience Retreat Session here.](#)



SPIRIT DAY 1:

Sunday, January 9th or 23rd 6:00–8:00 pm

Spirit Day 1 is a family event. The candidate and parent(s) are required to attend one of the two Spirit Day 1 events. Families will explore the connection between Baptism and Confirmation and how, using Jesus as our model, we are being called to live out our baptism everyday. Spirit Day 1 is offered twice. [Click here to RSVP](#) for the session that works best for your family.

SPIRIT DAY 2:

Sunday, March 13th 1:00–4:30 pm (Sponsor/Journey Partners from 3-4:30pm)

Spirit Day 2 continues the theme of living our baptism by examining the reality that God has created each one of us for a purpose: a purpose that is ours and ours alone. Sponsors will join their Confirmation Candidates for the last portion of the Spirit Day. There will be a brief Sponsor Meeting at 3 pm before the Sponsors share in the last activity of the day with their candidate.

SPIRIT DAY 3 (RETREAT):

Sunday, April 24th 1:00–8:30 pm (Sponsor/Journey Partners from 5:30-8:30pm)

Our Confirmation Retreat will prepare us to become more fully the Missionary Disciples God created us to be. We will discover the unique gifts God has given us and imagine how those gifts can be used to fulfill our purpose in Building the Kingdom of God. Sponsors will again join their Confirmation Candidates for the last portion of the day. We will all share dinner together before closing the evening with our final activity of the day.



CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL:

Saturday, May 7th
10:00am-11:00am

RITE OF CONFIRMATION:

Saturday, May 7th
5:00pm Mass

Our Confirmation Ministry (cont.)

Discernment & Preparation

Confirmation Ministry is a process of discernment and preparation during which the Candidates are encouraged to consider everything they've learned, and are still learning about themselves and their faith. It is the parents' responsibility to make sure that their child receives faith formation and preparation for sacraments. When the preparation process is nearing completion, each Candidate and their parents should decide together if the Candidate is ready to be confirmed. Parents should not force their child to be confirmed.

Confirmation Ministry Objectives:

- ◆ To lead them on an initial conversion and an awareness of the spiritual journey as a lifelong process of conversion

- ◆ To engage those seeking Confirmation in the life of the parish community

- ◆ To invite and encourage them in a life of prayer that takes place in the midst of the parish community and at home

- ◆ To provide an encounter with Christ through human experience, sacramental signs that appeal to the human senses, parish and outreach to those seeking the sacrament of Confirmation

- ◆ To provide the domestic church (the family) the opportunity to fully participate in the process of

- ◆ To walk with and apprentice them on the path of discipleship - life of service and outreach to the poor and most vulnerable

- ◆ To provide those seeking Confirmation with the opportunity to grow in knowledge of Christ, the Church, and her teachings through a broad spectrum of formational experiences

Confirmation Name ... you need one!

Long ago when Baptism and Confirmation were celebrated together a new name was chosen to indicate that this person was no longer the same person he/she was before, but had assumed a new Christian lifestyle. Except for the RCIA process (Rite of Christian Initiation where we bring people into the Catholic Church) we no longer celebrate Baptism and Confirmation together. Instead, we celebrate Confirmation as a continuation and finalization of the

So the Church provides us with two options for choosing a Confirmation Name:

- In order to show unity in the initiation process, the Church encourages us to use our baptismal name (first or middle) for Confirmation.
- In keeping with the theme of assuming a new lifestyle, the Church encourages us to find a Saint we would like to model our life after and take that Saint's name for Confirmation.

[Confirmation Name Form](#)

The Sponsor is the person chosen by the candidate as a representative of the Catholic Church community to support the candidate on her/his journey. This should not be viewed as an honorary role, but that of a role model. Each candidate must choose a sponsor who, along with the family and the Confirmation Team, will help him or her prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Along this journey, you need the support and presence of your sponsor. When choosing a sponsor, keep in mind that the sponsor must take an active part in the process. Your sponsor should be someone that you can share openly and honestly with; someone who can help you on your faith journey. Please carefully read the following descriptions of the requirements, role, and participation of the sponsor.

Choosing a Sponsor

Requirements for Your Sponsor...

- Must be at least 16 years old (*on the day of Confirmation*)
- Must be a Confirmed Catholic
- Must have already received the sacrament of Eucharist
- Must lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role of sponsor (good Christian, practicing Catholic)
- May NOT be the parent or step-parent of the candidate! (other relatives are okay)

***Does not** have to be the same sex as the candidate.

***Does not** have to be the Baptismal sponsor, although this is encouraged by the Church to emphasize the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation.

The Role of the Sponsor and Journey Partner

The Role of the Sponsor Within the Confirmation Ministry

- To journey with the Confirmation candidate through the discernment and preparation process
- To share his/her own faith journey with the candidate
- To be open and respectful of the candidate including being respectful of the candidates beliefs (listen well)
- To challenge the candidate to grow in in his/her faith
- To present the candidate to the bishop for anointing
- To support the newly Confirmed young adult as she/he continues on their faith journey

What is a Journey Partner?

Sometimes Sponsor live out of town or have circumstances, which prohibit them from participating at Spirit Day events (including the Confirmation Retreat). If this is the case, another person (parent, older sibling, family friend) can be designated as a Journey Partner. The Journey Partner would fill in for the Sponsor in those instances.

[Sponsor Information Form](#)

Parish & Community Service

As a disciple of Christ, we are called us to live our lives as Jesus lived his and to follow the instructions he gave us. This is our mission as a Church, and it's a BIG responsibility! One of the most important lessons Jesus taught us was that we must be willing to be a servant to all people in His name. This means that we must actually DO something to be a disciple of Christ! By doing parish and community service, we demonstrate a willingness to show Christian responsibility to our mission of building the Kingdom of God.



Service therefore, is an important part of the Confirmation Ministry as it helps us to recognize those in need. It also helps us understand what the Kingdom of God looks like, and how we can participate in building it up. It is important for parents to be involved in this stage of the Confirmation Ministry in order to help their children learn and understand this key concept. We encourage families to do service experiences together and then talk about them through the lens of faith. We also would like to encourage families to make building the Kingdom of God a regular family activity to be lived out after Confirmation. Service should not be viewed as a box to check and then be done with. The rewards for serving others cannot be underestimated and often cannot be measured.

Often during their service experiences, Candidates realize that they are already doing “Kingdom building” work. However, some Candidates find that they are missing opportunities to answer Jesus’ call to serve. Parents, sponsors, catechists, and other candidates can then encourage and inspire them to continue finding ways to actively serve the parish and community after they are confirmed. Finding opportunities to serve the parish and the community, including our neighbors, is not hard if we take the time to see the world around us and use our imaginations.



Parish & Community Service (cont.)

The Service component of our Confirmation Ministry asks you to serve the Kingdom of God at least twice...more if you so desire and are able. Service should be something that truly gives you an experience of discipleship! GOOD examples of service:

JHYM Core Team	Visiting the elderly
JHYM Station of the Cross/Soup & Bread	Catechist Aide (RE)
JHYM Lenten Service Project	The Castle
Altar Attending, Lector, Usher	Youth Ministry Planning Teams
Choir/Music Ministry (including the Youth Ministry Praise & Worship Team)	Mission Trip/Urban Plunge
Soup Kitchen	Helping Elderly Neighbors
Vacation Bible Camp	Sending Cards/Letters to the homebound
St. Vincent Hotel	Pancake Breakfast
Bellbrook Resource	Tutoring fellow students

***If you already do long-term parish service (like altar attending or Jr. High Core Team), you only need to have ONE other service

There are of course some things that do not qualify as service. Those would include chores, normal responsibilities as a member of a family, or doing anything for pay. If you have any questions about what may be a qualifies service activity ask Marty or Phyllis.

Once you have completed your service activities, complete this form.



Frequently Asked Questions

What Is Confirmation?

Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church and, more specifically, one of the three sacraments of initiation into the Church. Those who have been baptized in the living waters of Christ continue on their journey of faith with the nurture and support of the community of believers through Eucharist and Confirmation. In Confirmation we celebrate the continuing grace-giving presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Jesus continually extends an invitation to us to join in a fuller and closer relationship with Him and with our faith community.

What Does Confirmation Do?

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, those who have been born anew in Christ through the living waters of baptism are bound more intimately to the community of believers, the Church. Confirmation joins believers more perfectly with Christ, and strengthens them with grace so that they may bear witness to Christ as His disciples.

What Is Anointing All About?

This part is really awesome! Christ was priest, prophet, and king. Anointing is historically and traditionally a sign of initiation into these servant roles. Being anointed with Holy Chrism on the forehead is a powerful sign of our unity with Christ as priests, prophets, and kings. Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam that is blessed by the bishop during Holy Week. It smells great! (Well, we think so anyway!)

Who Confirms?

The bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation, just as he was the ordinary minister of Baptism until the two sacraments were separated. (In the early church the three sacraments of initiation were all celebrated together within the same liturgy.) The bishop kept the role as ordinary minister of Confirmation to emphasize unity with the Church beyond the parish. In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati it is impossible for the Archbishop to confirm everyone, so he may delegate this responsibility to others (e.g., Auxiliary Bishops, priests by special permission, and local deans who represent the bishop in regions called “deaneries”). This preserves and upholds the concept that Church is more than a parish.

Does My Confirmation Mean That I Am An Adult?

Well... The sacrament of confirmation calls the one confirmed to greater maturity. Growth toward Christian maturity is a life-long journey and the Holy Spirit travels with us, strengthening us as we go. In Confirmation, we are bound more intimately to the Church, and become more strictly obliged to live out the baptismal call to be priest, prophet, and king as a disciple of Christ.... So, even though you may not be an adult yet, this is a really BIG deal in the Church!

Does Confirmation Mark the End Of My Faith Formation?

No way!!! Confirmation does not make us perfect Christians nor does the completion of the candidate's preparation for this sacrament complete the formation necessary for continued growth as a maturing Christian. The faith formation we experience when we are young is simply preparation for the ongoing faith formation we need as an adult in order to answer God's call to live as affective Christian witnesses in the world. Closely connected to Baptism and Confirmation is that other sacrament of initiation, Eucharist. **Through regular participation in the Eucharist** we are nourished for our continuing study and growth in the life of the Church, and in turn, we nourish and strengthen our sisters and brothers in our faith community so that they may grow in faith.

Hey! That brings to mind that other BIG question: Am I *really* supposed to go to Church?

Fair question, but you *really* know the answer is YES. We'll talk more about this during the preparation process.

