

# Confirmation Guidelines

## The Rite of Confirmation:

- Is celebrated during the Holy Mass,
- Begins after the Liturgy of the Word,
- Is presided over by the Bishop.

There are four parts to the Rite:

- Renewal of Baptismal Promises,
- Laying on of Hands,
- Anointing with Chrism (oil),
- Sign of Peace.

## The Responsibilities of Parents

Parents:

- are the primary educators of their children,
- are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life,
- serve as role models for their child by being committed Christians,
- worship with their families regularly,
- nurture their child in faith,
- should encourage their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation,
- are asked to attend meetings, programs and prayer services that are planned to help their child prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation,
- are no longer permitted as Confirmation sponsors for their own child,
- are asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, and Christian service,
- can emphasize the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation,
- should stress the initiation aspect of the sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith,
- should help their child in understanding that Confirmation service project is the beginning of a life committed to Christian service.

### **The Role of Sponsor**

- support the person to be Confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life,
- must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate,
- may help the candidate prepare for Confirmation,
- may assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the service project commitment,
- may accompany the candidate to special preparation meetings or liturgies,
- will present the candidate to the bishop for reception of the sacrament.

### **Requirements to be a Sponsor**

- must be at least 16 years old and sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment,
- must belong to the Catholic Church and be fully initiated having received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation,
- if married, must be in a valid marriage,
- must obtain a statement of eligibility from the pastor of their home parish,
- may be male or female for any candidate,
- may be a baptismal Godparent,
- may NOT be the parents of the candidate.

### **Candidates Preparing For Confirmation**

- must freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known,
- must be in a state of grace,
- must have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith,
- must participate in all classes and special sessions,
- must complete all required home study and service projects,
- should attend Mass and receive the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly,
- must be aware of the initiation aspect of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion.

### **Confirmation Name**

- choice may be to repeat Baptismal name,
- choice may be to repeat middle name,
- choice may be in honor of a special person,
- choice may be a saint to serve as a model,
- name chosen must be a recognized saint of the Church,
- research the life of the saint and complete an essay.