

## St. Patrick's Parish Confirmation Guidelines

"Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

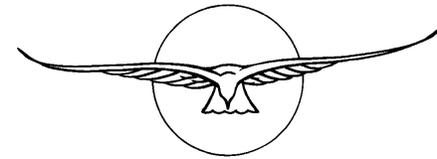
And you shall renew face of the earth.

Let us Pray:

O God who has taught the hearts of the faithful  
by the light of the Holy Spirit;  
grant that, by the gift of the same Spirit,  
we may be always truly wise,  
and ever rejoice in His consolation.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen."

For updated information you can also go to:

- Facebook—Sidney St Patricks
- Follow on Twitter @sidstpats and Instagram
- At our website: [sidneystpats.com](http://sidneystpats.com)
- Bulletin
- Remind



Send forth your Spirit,  
and they shall be created.  
And you shall renew face of the earth.



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### REMINDER LIST—

Parish has a copy of my Baptismal certificate.

Yes       No

My mentor is: \_\_\_\_\_

My sponsor is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Confirmation name is: \_\_\_\_\_

Retreat: \_\_\_\_\_

Service/Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



be present at Confirmation, a proxy may be chosen.

**Continuing Your Faith Journey**

Because Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation, post-Confirmation catechetical and service/ministry opportunities are an important bridge to on-going, life long learning and discipleship. *Confirmation is not a form of graduation, but a deeper call to immerse oneself into the living Body of Christ.* Therefore, the newly confirmed will meet after the celebration of the sacrament to explore the many options available.

**Delaying Confirmation**

Because Confirmation celebrates the response of the individual to the gift of faith, the primary responsibility for determining when the candidate is ready for the sacrament lies within the individual candidate. It may happen that a candidate will not feel ready to be Confirmed. It is important that the candidate then does not feel somehow ostracized from the Catholic community or forgotten.

That very important moment requires on the part of the community and its representatives understanding and support and continued contact with those making a decision to postpone Confirmation.

(from Diocese of Gallup Confirmation guide)

Meeting with Fr. Jim and/or Pat would be helpful in determining readiness. It is a way of helping a candidate come to an understanding of their motives in accepting the sacrament or delaying it.



Dear Candidates for Confirmation,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for saying “Yes” to the Holy Spirit at this time in your lives. Your parents chose to pass the Catholic faith on to you when they had you baptized in the Catholic Church. Their goal, as parents, has been to raise you in the Catholic faith and now you have the opportunity to affirm your faith with the sacrament of Confirmation.

For the next several months you will be preparing to say “Yes” to your Catholic faith with the sacrament of Confirmation. The Holy Spirit has brought you to this moment in your lives and it is the same Spirit who will guide and strengthen you during this time of preparation.

I very much look forward to spending time with you, getting to know you, and sharing my faith with you during this time of preparation. I am grateful to the adults from our parish who will serve as catechists and accompany you on the road to Confirmation.

Again, thank you for taking your faith seriously and committing yourselves to this time of preparation. We live in a very noisy world with many voices vying for your attention. God bless you for hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit in your hearts and choosing to deepen your faith as you move to the sacrament of Confirmation.

With every best wish I ask God’s blessing upon you as you prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sincerely,  
Fr. James Heithoff



### Goals of Confirmation preparation:

- To invite young people to more fully participate in the Eucharistic community in the mission of Jesus to promote justice, service, and healing.
- To help young people recognize and identify the Holy Spirit's action in their lives and in the life of the Church.
- To help young people see themselves as "disciples in a way that helps them live out their baptismal calling..."
- To provide a positive experience of being welcomed more deeply into our faith community.

### Who is eligible?

- Youth candidates in the diocese of Grand Island must be in the 11th or 12th grade by the time of Confirmation.
- Candidates must have been Baptized and received First Eucharist and Reconciliation. *Please note: If the candidate was not baptized at St. Patrick's OR did not receive First Eucharist at St. Patrick's a copy of their Baptismal certificate **MUST** be provided.*
- Candidates must be practicing Catholics to be eligible for preparation

### Immediate preparation and life long prep

This key phase of Confirmation preparation is entered into with the understanding that much has already been learned through previous family, faith formation and worship experiences. This final phase of Confirmation preparation is not intended as a crash course in Catholicism. "Preparation for a sacrament is not about clock hours or the length and quantity of content. It is a conversion process."

from "Confirmed in a Faithful Community" Catechist's Guide



symbolize a new beginning in your faith life and a connection with that saint. This would be especially appropriate if you are now making a renewed commitment to your faith. Your commitment would be symbolized with the taking of a new name to show that you are in some ways a new person. The name chosen would represent the direction you feel your faith life is taking, or would represent a strength or attribute you feel you need.

Perhaps you are already familiar with one of the saint's whose qualities inspire or challenge you. In that case, you could choose that saint's name. There are many good resources to learn about saints, both in our parish library and on-line. It is important and necessary to know something about the saint before you decide on a name. This option of taking a new name is not to be used because you like the sound of the name, but is to come from serious and prayerful reflection.

(adapted from *The All-purpose, Hands-On Confirmation Director's Manual*, Bernard Ciernick and Louise J. Santiago)

Whether you are choosing to keep your Baptismal name or choose a new name you will be asked to fill out a form stating your name and why you chose it.

### Sponsor

A Confirmation sponsor is the person who will stand with the candidate for the celebration of the sacrament. A sponsor acts as a representative of the Catholic faith community. **Ideally, the Confirmation sponsor is also one of the Baptismal godparents.** This is a strong sign of the connection of these two sacraments of initiation.

The three requirements for a sponsor are:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must be fully initiated into the Church (having celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), and must be an **active, participating member of the Church**
- May not be a parent of the one to be Confirmed

A mentor may be asked to be a sponsor. If a sponsor is unable to



“Candidates are encouraged to be involved in ministry or service for the same amount of time as an adult would ordinarily give to the same ministry or service. Preferably, the candidate’s involvement and participation should be at least every other week. Ideally, some of this service or ministry would take place with the candidates parents, sponsor or mentor.”

- Diocese of Grand Island Confirmation Guide, 2011

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Inscription service**

This service of publicly signing one’s name demonstrates the candidate’s commitment to faithfully continue the preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. This will take place at one of the Masses in the next school year, time to be announced.

When candidates are presented at this service the faith community can welcome and celebrate their commitment to support the candidates on this part of their faith journey.

### **Confirmation name**

As a candidate for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation, you have two options concerning the choice of a Confirmation name.

1. You may choose your present baptismal name (your regular first name). This shows the sacramental connection with the first and second parts of your initiation into the Catholic Church—Baptism and First Eucharist. To use your baptismal name would demonstrate that you feel there has been a continual growth in your faith and you now wish to make this formal through Confirmation.
2. You may also choose the name of a saint. This would



## **PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

### **Participation in class/mentor meetings**

Classes are held (usually) 3 Wednesday evenings per month, the same as all high school class times. Please check the printed schedule, bulletin or website, (sidneystpats.com)

Candidates are expected to be present and actively participate in classes and meetings on a regular basis. It is understood that illness or emergencies may cause a candidate to miss a class or meeting. When that happens it is the responsibility of the candidate to notify Pat in the parish office, 254-2828, to schedule a time for make-up.

If a candidate misses more than 2 classes and/or meetings in a semester it raises the question of whether Confirmation is a priority, and if this is the appropriate time in their life for Confirmation. The candidate and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be called to arrange a meeting with Fr. Jim and/or Pat.

### **Worship**

Because Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation into the Catholic community it is reasonable to expect candidates to make a commitment to worship with the community at weekend liturgies.

### **Retreat**

When asked to name the most significant experience in their faith life, many young people name a retreat experience. This time away, dedicated to exploring one’s spiritual journey to God is often a powerful and moving experience.

Candidates are expected to make a retreat some time in the next year. Available retreats in the diocese include TEC (Teens Encounter Christ), and Higher Ground. TEC is a three day retreat, usually during the school year. Higher Ground is week-long diocesan summer retreat, with multiple weeks to choose from. Information on



these opportunities will be shared at classes, in the bulletin, on our facebook page, and website . (If candidates have previously participated in one of the above named retreats that fulfills this expectation.)

### **Mentor**

Each candidate will be asked to choose an adult from St. Patrick's parish who is willing to be a mentor for the time of preparation. If a candidate does not know who to ask, contact Pat.

### **Purpose:**

To provide each Confirmation Candidate an opportunity to walk with an adult from St. Patrick's Parish community as a partner in this portion of their faith journey.

### **Qualifications:**

Any adult who is

- At least 25 years old.
- Is an active, practicing Catholic, with a willingness and capacity to engage in the Confirmation process as a means of enhancing her or his own growth as a Christian adult.
- Is genuinely interested in the ideas, beliefs, and questions of our youth.
- Is capable of developing a positive and comfortable relationship with a candidate.

### **Commitment:**

- Participation in two introductory/training sessions, which will include Safe Environment training and the required background check.
- Willingness to meet once a month in a large group setting during the school year, beginning once this year, on a Wednesday in April, and 7 or 8 times in the 2016/17 school year.

**Note:** *sometimes the mentor is asked to be the Confirmation*



*sponsor also, but this is not always the case. The mentor and the sponsor may be two different adults.*

### **Service/Ministry**

*"My brothers and sisters, what good is it for someone to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save one has it? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and no food for the day, and you say to them, 'Goodbye and good luck! Keep warm and well fed,' but do not meet their bodily needs, what good is that? So it is with the faith that does nothing in practice. It is thoroughly lifeless."*  
James 2: 14-17

"The central message is simple: our faith is profoundly social. We cannot be called truly 'Catholic' unless we hear and heed the Church's call to serve those in need and work for justice and peace. We cannot call ourselves followers of Jesus unless we take up his mission of bringing 'good news to the poor, liberty to captives, and new sight to the blind.'"  
-from *Communities of Salt and Light*, United States Bishops

Living as disciples of Jesus requires taking to heart His call to serve others, as is reflected in the above quotes from Scripture and the United States Bishops. For this reason, service/ministry is a requirement for Confirmation preparation. This may take place in a group in the parish, in the local community or global outreach. It may also take place individually, or with families, mentors or sponsors. Logging of service hours just to fulfill a requirement will not be asked for. Instead, candidates are encouraged to look for the connection between their service/ministry and their response to their baptismal call, thus helping to form a life-long commitment to serving others in Jesus' name.