

Holy Trinity Catholic Community
Sacramental Preparation Program for Confirmation
Confirmandi and Parent Information Packet



Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

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Dear Confirmandi & Parents,

To properly prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, we will be using *DECISION POINT* as the curriculum. *DECISION POINT* is the first Confirmation program specifically developed to engage young Catholics in a meaningful conversation about the genius of Catholicism. It teaches and inspires teens to respond to God's grace, and it's changing hundreds of thousands of young lives. Today, *DECISION POINT* is the most used Confirmation program in America. This program is designed to offer a powerful, life-changing experience. It is our hope that this program will not only offer an understanding and knowledge of the Catholic Faith, but also inspire you/your child to embrace a life of strong faith. Additionally, we hope to share Scott Hahn's bible study "Genesis to Jesus", to teach our Confirmandi their salvation history and provide a better understanding of why they are here in the first place.

The following pages provide details on the requirements, responsibilities, and important dates for the Holy Trinity Confirmation Sacramental Preparation program.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, please email or call using the front contact page.

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Christian Initiation. Confirmation perfects the graces received at Baptism, empowering us to be followers of Christ. (CCC 1316) The ordinary minister of Confirmation is the bishop, a successor of the apostles. During the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop will extend his hand and pray over the candidate. The Confirmation candidate will then be anointed with chrism and the words, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 1320)

Five effects of this Sacrament are as follows (CCC 1303):

1. It affirms our identity as children of God.
2. It unites us more firmly to Christ.
3. It increases in us the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of God).
4. It strengthens our bond with the Church.
5. It strengthens us to spread and defend the Faith by our words and actions, to be fearless witnesses to Christ

Since 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 of Confirmation lies within the individual candidate himself/herself. Parents may decide for their child that he/she will be instructed for Confirmation; however, the final decision to be confirmed is determined by the Candidate.

Confirmandi Requirements:

- Minimum of 13 years old
- Baptism and First Holy Communion Certificates with raised seal (dated within six months)
- Proof of prior CRE attendance. Obtain transfer letter from previous parish/community if other than Holy Trinity.
- Regular Participation and Attendance at Weekly Confirmation Sacramental Preparation Classes (no more than two excused absences)
- Saint Name Project
- Community Service (15 hours)
- Letter of Intent to the Bishop
- Confirmation Sponsor
 - Be a Confirmed, Practicing Catholic living a life in harmony with the faith
 - Be at least 16 years old
 - Cannot be the Confirmation Candidate's Parent
- Confirmation Interview (based upon Required Knowledge)
- Confirmation Retreat Attendance (MANDATORY—no excused absences)

Confirmandi Responsibilities:

- Weekly Mass attendance and on Holy Days of Obligation
- Participation in class discussion and activities
- Daily Prayer and Daily Scripture Reading
- Reconciliation before receiving Confirmation
- Respect for all Catechists and fellow Confirmation students
- Appropriate & respectful attire for class

Confirmation Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2020, at Patch Chapel

Confirmation Attire:

Attire at Confirmation Mass reflects your reverence for Christ and the Candidate's sincerity in taking his/her final Sacrament of Christian Initiation. As the Candidate is presented before Bishop Spencer and receives the indelible mark of the Holy Spirit, Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors should be appropriately dressed for the Sacrament.

Please follow these guidelines:

MALES

- Dress shirt and tie (If possible, a suit and tie)
- Dress pants
- Dress Shoes

FEMALES

- Conservative "Sunday" dress or blouse and skirt/dress pants
- Covered shoulders (If wearing a sleeveless dress or blouse, please use a cardigan, jacket, or shawl)
- Dresses and skirts must not be tight, low-cut, or shorter than 2 inches above the knee

Important Dates

22 September 2019: Candidate Commitment Form Due (form in folder)

27 October 2019: Saint Name Presentation Due

17 November 2019: Baptismal and First Holy Communion Certificates with Raised Seals Due

08 December 2019: Letter to the Bishop due

26 January 2020: Confirmation Sponsor form due (form in folder)

28 March 2020: Confirmation Retreat, Robinson Barracks Chapel & Fellowship Hall

28 March 2020: Community Service Hours due (form in folder)

TBD: Confirmation Rehearsal, Patch Chapel

8 April 2020: Sacrament of Confirmation, Patch Chapel

Lent 2020: Host Stations of the Cross, One Friday during Lent, Patch Chapel

Original Sacramental Records

All candidates must bring in original copies **(with raised seals)** of their Baptismal and First Holy Communion certificates. The certificates must be dated within six months of Confirmation (8 Oct 2019 or after). You can request from the parish where the child was baptized or the Archdiocese for Military Services (AMS), as appropriate. If done correctly, the Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be annotated on the back. If the candidate was baptized within the AMS, the certificate will not have a seal, but will have a record number. We will not keep any of the documents; we will only scan a copy for our records to be submitted to the Bishop's office. Any questions or problems in obtaining or understanding the necessary document, please contact Chris Isham.

Confirmation Saint Name Project

Each candidate needs to pick the name of a Saint he/she admires. This is the name the Bishop will address the candidate by when he/she is sealed with the Holy Spirit at Confirmation.

Candidates need to write a minimum of one-page on the Saint and provide a picture or visual aid. The paper should contain the Saint's feast day, the time period of the Saint, when and why the Saint was canonized, and why he/she chose the Saint. Candidates are not required to pick a Saint who is the same gender as him/her. **All Candidates will present their Saint to the class on 27 October.**

Confirmation Sponsor

The duty of the Confirmation Sponsor is to guide the one confirmed to act as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfill the duties inherent in this Sacrament. It is desirable that one's godparent also serves as one's sponsor for Confirmation; however, if that is not possible, any other confirmed, practicing Catholic who is living according to the Catholic faith, is a minimum of 16 years old, and is NOT the candidate's parent may be the sponsor.

Included is a Confirmation Sponsor form that must be completed by all sponsors and is due on 26 January 2020. If the Confirmation Sponsor is unable to be present at the Sacrament of Confirmation, the candidate will need a proxy. Parents are allowed to serve as the proxy.

Guidelines for Letter to Bishop Spencer

Before the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Bishop is required by Canon Law to know that candidates have been properly prepared. He should also know that each candidate has a desire for and knowledge of the sacrament. To help the Bishop meet his responsibility, candidates are asked to write a letter to him. This letter will be read by the Bishop when he arrives for Confirmation. He may ask you a question or two during the ceremony.

Candidates are encouraged to write their letters from the heart, but the letter should demonstrate the candidate's understanding of the sacrament, his/her desire to receive the sacrament, and how Confirmation will change his/her life.

The following suggestions may be useful as you write your letter:

- Discuss why you want to be confirmed. Remember that receiving the sacrament of Confirmation is your decision. As much as a family member may want or encourage you to be confirmed, it is your decision.
- State why you feel you are ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation
- Discuss what being confirmed means to you.
- Share with the Bishop how you have prepared for Confirmation (Study, Instruction, Prayer)
- Discuss what being Catholic means to you.
- Discuss what role God and your faith have in your daily life.
- Inform the Bishop of how you plan to participate in our parish community after Confirmation, and how you will accept the responsibility of being a fully-initiated member of the Church.

The letter should be typed and grammatically correct. If necessary, ask your parents to review/proofread your letter. Remember to address the Bishop as “Your Excellency” and hand-sign the letter in ink.

Confirmation Retreat

The Confirmation Retreat is an important day in the preparation for Confirmation. It will be all day (tentatively 0900-1900) at Robinson Barracks Chapel and Fellowship Hall. This event is **MANDATORY**, so please mark your calendars now for **Saturday, 28 March 2020**. When the event is closer, additional details will be provided, and a Sign-Up Genius will be circulated to parents to provide meal and snack support for the day.

Community Service Hours

Confirmation candidates are required to do 15 hours of *Community* Service. This requirement is an effort to get our children involved with the Church and/or doing service within the community. Service hours can be earned by being altar servers, lectors, or ushers. Service hours can also be earned by working with volunteer organizations on community service projects. Included is a form to record volunteer hours with appropriate signatures. This form is due prior to Confirmation—on 28 March 2020.

Required Knowledge to Prepare for Interview

Following is information that is necessary to know for Confirmation. These topics may be discussed during the interview with Bishop Spencer prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Over the course of Confirmation classes, we will touch on all of this information, but it is also important that preparation is also being done outside of class time.

The Ten Commandments (CCC 2052)

1. I am the LORD your God. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1830)

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| 1. Wisdom | 5. Knowledge |
| 2. Understanding | 6. Piety |
| 3. Counsel | 7. Fear of the Lord |
| 4. Fortitude | |

Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1830)

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| 1. Charity | 7. Generosity |
| 2. Joy | 8. Gentleness |
| 3. Peace | 9. Faithfulness |
| 4. Patience | 10. Modesty |
| 5. Kindness | 11. Self-control |
| 6. Goodness | 12. Chastity |

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Seven Sacraments

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| 1. Baptism | 5. Marriage |
| 2. Reconciliation | 6. Vocations/Holy Orders |
| 3. First Communion | 7. Anointing of the Sick |
| 4. Confirmation | |

The Corporal Works of Mercy

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| 1. Feed the hungry | 5. Visit the sick |
| 2. Give drink to the thirsty | 6. Visit the imprisoned |
| 3. Clothe the naked | 7. Bury the dead |
| 4. Shelter the homeless | |

The Spiritual Works of Mercy:

1. Counsel the doubtful
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Admonish the sinner
4. Comfort the sorrowful
5. Forgive injuries
6. Bear wrongs patiently
7. Pray for the living and the dead

Five Precepts of the Church (CCC 2041-2043)

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

The Doctrine of the Communion of Saints (CCC 946, 1474)

The Christian who seeks to purify himself of his sin and to become holy with the help of God's grace is not alone. The communion of saints is the Church.

Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mystery of the Rosary (Monday & Saturday)

1. The Annunciation of the Lord to Mary
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
3. The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
4. The Presentation of our Lord
5. Finding Jesus in the Temple

Sorrowful Mystery of the Rosary (Tuesday & Friday)

1. The Agony of Jesus in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. Jesus is Crowned with Thorns
4. Jesus Carried the Cross
5. The Crucifixion of our Lord

Glorious Mystery of the Rosary (Wednesday & Sunday)

1. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
2. The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. Mary is Crowned as Queen of Heaven and Earth

Luminous Mystery of the Rosary (Thursday)

1. The Baptism in the Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Our Father

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary Prayer

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Parts of the Mass and Responses

<p>Part One: Gathering</p> <p>The Entrance Procession The Greeting: We begin in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Penitential Rite: We recall our sins, and pray for God's mercy and forgiveness. Glory to God: We sing or pray an ancient hymn in honor of God's goodness. The Opening Prayer</p> <p>Part Two: Liturgy of the Word</p> <p>The First Reading: We read from the Old Testament. Responsorial Psalm: We sign or pray a psalm together in response form. The Second Reading: We read from the letters of St. Paul or another book of the New Testament. Alleluia: We sing or pray a verse in honor of Jesus. The Gospel: We read a story or teaching from one of the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The Homily: The priest or deacon discusses the readings of God's Word and helps us to better understand and apply. The Creed: We proclaim our beliefs. The Prayers of the Faithful: We pray to God for the needs of God's family everywhere.</p>	<p>Part Three: Liturgy of the Eucharist</p> <p>The Preparation of the Gifts: The gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The Offering of Gifts: The priest prepares the bread and wine and prays a blessing. The Preface: The priest prays a prayer of introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer. We respond by praising God with "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord..." The Eucharistic Prayer: The priest prays a special prayer of thanksgiving to God. Using the words of Jesus, he consecrates the bread and wine, which become the Body and Blood of Jesus. We proclaim our faith in Jesus. The priest remembers all the members of God's Family, living and dead. He closes this prayer by honoring the Blessed Trinity. The Great Amen: We proclaim our belief. The Lord's Prayer The Sign of Peace Lamb of God: We ask for forgiveness and mercy before receiving the Body and Blood. Communion: We receive Christ's Body and Blood.</p> <p>Part Four: Sending Forth The Closing Prayer The Blessing: The priest blesses us in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Dismissal: We are sent forth to love and serve the Lord.</p>
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Thank you for your commitment to our Catholic faith and your children's journey toward the Sacrament of Confirmation! We look forward to teaching and walking this journey together. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact us at any time.

*-Holy Trinity Confirmation Team
USAG Stuttgart*