

Preparation is an important part of Confirmation.

WE GATHER

✚ *Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, guide our way.*

Both at home and in our neighborhoods, we prepare for important events. Think of one. How and why do you prepare for it?

WE BELIEVE

Preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation is very important. Those preparing for this sacrament are called candidates. Candidates prepare for Confirmation by praying and reflecting on the life of Jesus Christ and on the mission of the Church. During this time candidates learn about the Gift of the Holy Spirit.



Candidates discover what it means to be anointed with chrism. They are led to see how this anointing will change their lives.

During this preparation candidates grow closer to Christ. The relationship with Christ that began at their Baptism is strengthened. The candidates begin to see how they can better live out the promises made at Baptism. Through their preparation, candidates can feel a greater sense of belonging to the Church. They learn to share more completely in the mission of the Church. They learn to give witness to the good news of Christ through their lives.

The whole parish can participate in this preparation. People in a parish:

- pray with and for the candidates
- meet with the candidates to talk about their faith
- help the candidates to find ways to serve together in the parish.

Connections to Baptism If we were baptized as infants, our parents made some choices regarding our Baptism. They selected a name for us. Our name is often that of a saint or someone whom our parents admire. In fact, one of the first questions asked during the celebration of Baptism is “What name do you give your child?”



At Confirmation we choose a name usually that of a saint whose example we can follow in becoming closer to Jesus. Although we can choose the name of any saint, we are encouraged to take the name given to us at Baptism. This highlights the link between the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

If we were baptized as infants, our parents also chose godparents for us. Godmothers and godfathers are people who help us to grow in faith. When we are preparing for Confirmation, we also choose someone to help us grow in our faith. We choose a sponsor. A sponsor needs to be a Catholic who has received the sacraments of initiation and is a person we respect and trust. Our sponsor can be a family member other than a parent, a friend, or someone from our parish. Selecting one of our godparents to be our sponsor again shows the link between Baptism and Confirmation. But whomever we choose, our sponsor should be an example of Christian living so that he or she can continue to encourage us to follow Jesus.

Sponsors can be involved in our preparation for Confirmation. They can share their own experiences with us and answer any questions we may have about our faith. Sponsors also play an important role in the celebration of Confirmation. They present us to the bishop for anointing.



WE RESPOND

Think of people in your neighborhood, parish, or school who are examples of Christian living. In what ways do they encourage others to follow Jesus? How can the way you live encourage others to follow Jesus?