



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PREPARATIONS

All families are to attend Mass regularly and on Holy Days of Obligation.

PARENTS

The Archdiocesan decree on the sacrament of Confirmation encourages personal initiative by the Confirmation candidate, as well as parental support. It is most important that the parents know and understand this in order to support their children on their Confirmation journey. No teachers, school, or textbook can match the formative influence parents have on their own child(ren)'s growth and development, especially in the area of religious values.

PARENTS & CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

A. Registration & Instruction – Classes are Wednesdays 7:30-8:45pm at the school

8th Grade Public School & non-Catholic Private School (RE) students need to register for the Religious Ed program and attend classes regularly from *September through March*, as well as, to participate in activities with their fellow Confirmandi in the Parish.

Registration: <https://www.lfparish.org/religious-education/registration>

8th Grade Private Catholic School (PCS) students need to register for the Religious Ed program and attend classes regularly from *January through mid-February*. These classes are specific Confirmation preparation classes and to participate in activities with their fellow Confirmandi in the Parish.

Registration: <https://www.lfparish.org/religious-education/registration>

8th Grade Little Flower School (LFS) students receive specific Confirmation preparation instruction at school. They do not need to register for the Religious Ed program but do participate in activities with their fellow Confirmandi in the Parish.

B. Sacramental Catechesis

To fully prepare for Confirmation, each Confirmation Candidate needs a thorough understanding of the basic teachings of the Catholic Faith and the sacrament of Confirmation. These will be reviewed with your students in their classes. Parents and students can also refer to the “Little Flower Parish Confirmation Reference Guide” as a resource for studying and discussion.

C. Baptismal Certificates

Baptismal certificates are a required document by the Archdiocese of Washington for all Sacraments. If your child was Baptized at Little Flower, the Baptism is already recorded and submitted. If your child was not baptized at Little Flower, a copy of their baptismal certificate needs to be submitted to Inga Barry at ibarry@lfparish.org.

D. Confirmation Candidate & Family Pledge Form

Involvement of the family is very important in preparing your child for the reception of this sacrament. This pledge of commitment should be discussed as a family so as to understand the mutual responsibility each person has in preparing for Confirmation. Both Confirmation candidate and at least one parent sign the form and submit it to their teacher.

(Sacrament of Confirmation Preparations continues on the back.)

Questions? Contact Inga Barry at ibarry@lfparish.org

Office of Religious Education 5607 Massachusetts Ave. Bethesda, MD 20816 301-320-5233

E. Confirmation Sponsor Information & Certification Forms

Confirmation candidates invite a special person in their life to guide them and support them as they prepare for Confirmation. The Sponsor must be over the age of 16, Confirmed, and a practicing Catholic in good standing. The Sponsor can be a sibling but not a parent, as parents already have a significant role in their child(ren)'s faith formation. Confirmation candidate fills out his/hers Sponsor's Information and submits the form to their teacher. The confirmation candidate gives the Sponsor Certification form to their Sponsor for them to fill out, bring to their parish office to be signed and sealed, and returned to Inga Barry at ibarry@lfparish.org.

F. Community Service Project Plan

Serving the community is in keeping with the corporal and spiritual works of mercy we value as Catholics. Confirmation candidates are asked to thoughtfully create a plan for how they plan to serve the community during their journey to Confirmation. Through their service to others, Confirmation Candidates learn that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to each of us in order to serve the Lord by serving others. Candidates are asked to volunteer for at least 5-10 hours.

G. Confirmation Enrollment Mass

Confirmation candidates and families attend Mass and receive a special blessing from Msgr. Vaghi. Sponsors are encouraged to attend.

H. Evening of Recollection for Parents

Parental involvement is of the utmost importance in helping prepare your child(ren) to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. At this meeting, there will be remarks from Msgr. Vaghi, Adoration & Reflection led by Father Tom, and an opportunity for Confessions.

I. Retreat form Confirmandi

All Confirmation candidates will spend a morning together in reflection, prayer and fellowship. If there is a conflict with this date, parents and confirmation candidates may attend a Confirmation retreat at another parish.

J. Patron Saint/Confirmation Name Project

Confirmation is an opportunity to enter into a deeper relationship with God and the wider Church. The choice of a Confirmation name, based on a Saint that the Confirmation candidate identifies with and would like to emulate in their everyday life, is the opportunity for them to deepen their faith in the Church and with God. The Patron Saint/Confirmation Name is used within the ceremony and symbolizes this deeper connection. Candidates may choose their birth name if it is a Saint's name, and a Saint they would like to emulate.

Once Confirmation candidates identify their Patron Saint, they will research their Saint further and prepare a written presentation that will be reviewed by their teachers and then shared with their interviewer at the Confirmation interviews. The written presentation may be an essay, poster, slide presentation, or pamphlet/brochure. It will be returned to the Candidate at their interview.

K. Confirmation Interviews

All Confirmation Candidates have a short, 10-15 minute personal interview with a Little Flower Priest, Deacon, Sister or Teacher. The purpose of this interview is to review the candidate's religious education preparations and their intent regarding the reception of the sacrament.

L. Confirmation Rehearsal & Confirmation Mass

Confirmation Rehearsal will be held at 7pm on the Wednesday before Confirmation. Sponsors do not attend. The Rehearsal is for Confirmation candidates only. Confirmation will be at 10am on a Saturday in March. The date has yet to be confirmed by the Bishop's office. If a Sponsor cannot attend the Mass, a proxy may attend for them. A parent may be a proxy.