

CELEBRATING
THE
SACRAMENT
OF
CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Preparation Handbook

2017-2018

Holy Name Catholic Church
Religious Education
9 South Connor St
Sheridan, WY 82801

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BAPTISMAL PROMISE

Do you reject Satan, and all his works and all his empty promises?

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

Do you believe in the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.

We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.



CONFIRMATION POLICY

Holy Name Catholic Church ~ Sheridan, Wyoming

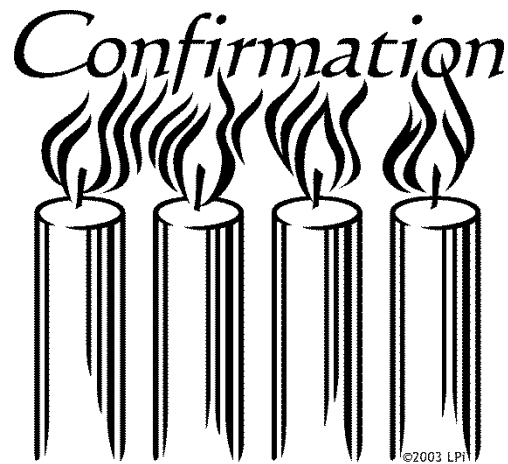
Confirmation is a community's sacramental celebration of an individual's mature and personal affirmation of the gift of Faith, which seals the work of the Spirit begun in Baptism. The parish celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated annually at Holy Name.

PREPARATION

Preparation for Confirmation begins at Baptism. There are four (4) elements to this formation:

1. **Message** (Scripture, Tradition, and Doctrine)
2. **Service** (loving response to the Gospel message and response to the gift of Faith)
3. **Community** (formation within the Community of Believers)
4. **Worship** (personal prayer, communal prayer, and sacramental participation)

These four (4) elements are inter-related and should be ongoing throughout a person's life.



IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR CANDIDACY FOR CONFIRMATION

The immediate preparation prior to candidacy for Confirmation is viewed in terms of Formation. Successful participation in the parish religious education Confirmation program or in the parish school religion-theology class.

FINAL FORMAL PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

A specific program is conducted in the parish for all those wishing to be candidates for Confirmation. This program is conducted annually and a candidate must comply with the following in order to be a candidate for Confirmation.

- Each candidate must have been previously baptized and have received the sacrament of First Eucharist in the Catholic Church.
- Each candidate must be in the 7th grade or older at the time of celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation.
- An individual willingness of each candidate to participate in the program.
- Each Candidate must participate in ALL of the sessions. If a session is missed due to an unforeseeable circumstance, the session must be made-up. The candidate must schedule the make-up by contacting the Director of Religious Education or the Confirmation instructor.
- Each candidate will be expected to accomplish 20 hours of Christian service in 3 areas:
 1. Liturgical Ministry (focused in and around Mass)
 2. Community (at least 2 different opportunities)
 3. Parish Service (parish outreach, for example: hosting coffee/donuts, helping at the Holy Name Thrift Store, participating at the Soup Kitchen, etc)

After you fulfill a service opportunity you will need to fill out a reflection sheet on your service. The forms are attached. If you need additional forms, they can be printed from our parish website at: www.holynamesheridan.org. **All service forms are to be turned in on or before March 4, 2018.**

- Each candidate will have a faith sharing session with one of the parish priests to assess their readiness for the reception of the sacrament. The sessions will take place in February/March of 2018. (A parent/guardian must be present at the session.)
- Diocesan and parish guidelines for Confirmation require that the candidates participate in a retreat. This retreat is seen as an integral part of the candidate's preparation. It is expected that all candidates for Confirmation will attend the **Holy Name Confirmation Retreat on Sunday, March 4, 2018**
- Each candidate will write a letter to the Bishop requesting permission to be confirmed at Holy Name. Letters are to be handwritten and placed in an unsealed envelope and handed to the Director of Religious Education. Letters will be written during the retreat on Sunday, March 4, 2018.
- Each candidate is expected to fully and willingly participate in the sacramental life of the parish.
- The family of the candidate must be registered members of Holy Name Catholic Church.
- Any exceptions to the policies listed above must be approved by the Director of Religious Education.

WHAT QUALIFIES AN INDIVIDUAL AS A SPONSOR?

The selection of a sponsor for Confirmation is not to be taken lightly. The Church sees three (3) roles for Confirmation sponsors:

First, as a role model in the faith, because of this, the Church asks that the sponsor must be: a) over the age of 16 years and a mature Roman Catholic, b) who has been fully initiated into the three (3) sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, c) and active and practicing member of the Roman Catholic Church and must not be prohibited by Church law from exercising the role of sponsor.

Second, a sponsor is a companion on the candidate's faith journey. Someone who can truly support the candidate in the desire to believe in Jesus Christ and to live out that belief in daily life. While the entire faith community, group leaders in the Confirmation program, and the parents of candidates perform many of the duties of sponsor, the Revised Code of Canon Law (Church law) states that the liturgical sponsor for Confirmation cannot be either the father or mother of the candidate (Canon Law #874). The ideal sponsor would be the candidate's baptismal godparent. The sponsor can be of the opposite gender of the candidate.

Third, the Confirmation sponsors witness for the candidates before the Church by their presence at the Confirmation celebration, they publicly proclaim the candidate's readiness to become a fully initiated member of the Catholic community.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

Each candidate is required to submit a copy of their baptismal certificate. Information from the baptismal certificate will be recorded. You may obtain a copy of the certificate by calling the parish where your baptism took place and they will send one to you. Or, if you were baptized at Holy Name, please provide us with the date of baptism. **(Due Nov 1, 2017)**

CONFIRMATION NAME

Selecting a Confirmation name **(Due by March 4, 2018)**

- Candidates may use their baptismal name (if it is a Christian name) or another Christian name when receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- A Christian name would be the name of a saint or blessed.
- Derivatives of names (Kelly for Catherine; Jenna for Genevieve) or Old Testament names are also appropriate.
- Candidates may use their first or middle name if they are Christian, or they may select a new Christian name.
- Most importantly, candidates are to learn about their patron as part of their preparation for the sacrament and should particularly focus on the virtues of their patron they wish to emulate.

Witness of Sponsor

Please return by Sunday, November 1, 2017

Sponsor's Name _____

Address _____

Mailing address City State Zip

Sponsor sacramental information:

Baptism _____

Parish & City

Date

Confirmation _____

Parish & City

Date

Current Parish _____

Name

City

State

Candidate Information:

Name: _____

Sponsor's Relationship to Candidate _____

Godparent – Friend – Sibling, etc.

Sponsor's duties: The sponsor is a Spiritual Companion to the Candidate who walks with, shares faith, and calls the young person to growth. The sponsor continues to encourage and help the Candidate grow in wisdom, awe, wonder, reverence, knowledge, courage, understanding, and right judgment.

Requirements: It is required that the Sponsor be mature, at least 16 years of age, a practicing Catholic, and one who has already received all the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

I fulfill the above Church requirements and will make a sincere effort to be a quality Spiritual Companion to the Candidate.

Signature and Date

Return to:

Stacy Preszler

Director of Religious Education

9 South Connor St
Sheridan, WY 82801

My Confirmation Name

Please **PRINT** your full name:

First	Last	Middle
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Selecting a Confirmation Name (Due by March 4, 2018)

- Candidates may use their baptismal name or another Christian name for the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- A Christian name would be the name of a saint or blessed.
- Candidates may use their own Christian name or derivatives (Mike for Michael, Kate for Katherine, etc.).
- *Most importantly, candidates are to learn about their patron as part of their preparation for the sacrament and should particularly focus on the virtues of their patron they wish to emulate.*

Check one of the following:

_____ I choose to be confirmed using my baptismal name – St. _____

OR

_____ I would like to choose a Confirmation name

Print name – St. _____

I have chosen the name listed above because: (Write a reflection paragraph – use back if necessary)

September 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope this handbook will help guide you and your child through the process of preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and that the year ahead will be a wonderfully faith-filled experience.

Feel free to contact me at any time during this process with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Stacy Preszler

Director of Religious Education, Holy Name Catholic Church

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the “sacraments of initiation,” whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For “by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” (CCC, no. 1285)