

CONFIRMATION

St. Mary of Lourdes Candidate/Parent/Sponsor Expectations



Expectations of the Candidate

Those to be confirmed freely choose to pursue the sacrament and must be willing to participate in the Confirmation Preparation process, consisting of study, fellowship, prayer and service. Their faith in God is evidenced through their participation in the sacramental life of the Church. They need to be attending Mass and receiving the Eucharist regularly on Sunday and living an active Christian life. Understanding there are times when one turns away from God or fails to follow his will for us, Candidates are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the preparation.

During the period of catechetical formation for the sacrament of confirmation, the expectations of the Candidates are:

- Enter the journey with a willing heart and an open mind
- Commit oneself to consistent personal prayer throughout the journey and beyond
- Regular participation and attendance at faith formation sessions and activities by the parish (Excused absences would require completion of any missed activities)
- Fully participate in any community service activities

Expectations of the Sponsor

Each candidate, with the help of their parents, is expected to choose a sponsor. This person is a mentor who, along with the candidate's parents, will accompany the young person on their faith journey. The sponsor is another adult in the life of the candidate who models the commitment to personal prayer, living as a disciple themselves, fellowshiping with other believers, communal worship, and engagement with the life and mission of the parish.

The sponsor also agrees to discuss their Catholic faith with the candidate, and participate with them in any of the program offerings from the parish as part of the preparation process. They support the candidate during the journey of preparation through ongoing dialogue, personal encouragement, and a willingness to listen to the concerns and hopes of the young person. The sponsor prays for and with the candidate.

According to Canon Law, the sponsor:

- Must be a confirmed, active practicing Catholic, receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly and sufficiently mature for this role (over age 16)
- If married, be in a valid marriage recognized by the Catholic Church; not married in a civil marriage service
- Cannot be the parents of the candidate
- Is encouraged to be one of the baptismal godparents to more clearly solidify the connection between Baptism and Confirmation

offered by the parish as part of the process

- Participate in a retreat
- Maintain an open and honest relationship with one's parent(s) and sponsor

Expectations of the Parent

Parents play a critical role in the sacramental preparation process. The environment of the home, from the time the child is born and baptized, is the source of faith formation preparation.

Parents model: the commitment to personal prayer, living as disciples themselves, fellowship with other believers, communal worship, and engagement with the life and mission of the parish. Parents also assume responsibility to assist their child in meeting the candidate expectations listed to the left.

And finally, the parents become active participants in the process of preparation, as much as is realistic and possible at the parish. They help their child understand the experiences they are having along the journey, enter into dialogue with them about these faith experiences, pray for and with the candidate, and are willing to share their personal faith story with them. Also, parents may periodically need to step in for the sponsor at any time if they are unable to fulfill their commitment.