

# ST. ANNA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

## WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is...

The final Sacrament of Initiation which completes our Baptism and make us fully initiated members of not only St. Anna's Catholic Church, but the universal Holy Catholic Church.

- \* a sign of God's special love.
- \* an invitation to deepen our relationship to God, our Creator, Redeemer, Spirit.
- \* a time to deepen our involvement in our faith community.
- \* a profession of faith by personally proclaiming our baptismal vows.
- \* an outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- \* an anointing with chrism – a sealing or marking – as God's own.
- \* an acknowledgement of spiritual maturity.
- \* a lifelong challenge to live the way of Jesus, to pray individually and as members of the Church throughout the world.
- \* a lifelong challenge to build up the Body of Christ through worship, formation, evangelization, and service.
- \* a call to be a sign of God's presence.

### **Gifts of the Spirit**

Wisdom  
Knowledge  
Understanding  
Courage  
Right Judgment  
Reverence  
Wonder and Awe

### **Fruits of the Spirit**

Love  
Joy  
Peace  
Patience  
Kindness  
Generosity  
Faithfulness  
Gentleness  
Self-Control

**ST. ANNA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
CONFIRMATION SERVICE REQUIREMENT INFORMATION  
GRADE 10**

*Recognizing the value of Christian service is an integral part of the confirmation process. It is essential in living a Christian life. The following are guidelines for service projects for the tenth grade confirmation preparation period. These guidelines are intended to help avoid confusion as to what is accepted as Christian service for the confirmation requirement. The service requirement for tenth grade confirmation preparation is 20 hours. Candidates who did not complete 10 hours of service in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade are required to complete 30 hours in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.*

**Group Service Project**

All 10<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation candidates are required to attend the service project at the Druid Hills Night Shelter in downtown Atlanta as part of their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This shelter has approximately 30 men who are working on getting back on their feet. The confirmation candidates will be responsible for making a part of the meal, taking the meal to the Night Shelter and serving the residents. Two dates are available for the candidates to do this project: Dates and Time to be Determined We will only take half of the class at a time, so those who sign up first will get the date of their choice. We will leave St. Anna's at 5:00 p.m. and return at approximately 9:00 p.m. **This service project does not count toward individual service hours as it is a group service project to be done as part of their Confirmation class.**

**Individual Service Hours**

Service must be volunteer based. No compensation for service rendered.

Service is based on community and family outreach. Outreach to the Walton County community, the St. Anna's community and your family community is required. In some instances, service related to the **school community** is accepted, as well (school related projects that are required of you or any sports related activity would not fulfill the confirmation service requirement). If you do service for your school, please check with your catechist to see if it will fulfill the confirmation service requirement. Candidates are required to do twenty (20) hours of service in the following capacity:

- 5 to 10 hours in the community
- 5 to 10 hours in the parish
- 5 hours in the family

You must do at least 5 hours of service in each of these areas. Family service must be above and beyond what is normally required of you as a member of your family (ie. cleaning the house every week, doing your own laundry, etc.)

**Examples of service that would fulfill confirmation requirement**

- \*Service at a social agency such as FISH
- \*Service at a food kitchen

\*Most any service volunteered through a social agency, non-profit agency or organization. For example: Relay for Life, American Cancer Society, Autism Awareness, American Heart Association, etc.

\*Most service through the church: Altar Server, Lector, Usher or Greeter for church, church nursery, child care during a meeting, Youth Group Service Projects, Lenten Fish Fry's, Fall and Spring Church Clean Up days.

\*Service projects done through school that are an outreach to the community. For example: service projects done with National Honor Society, Key Club, ROTC

\*Service Projects done through the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts

### **Examples of service that would not fulfill confirmation requirement**

\*Babysitting

\*School related projects or activities such as: School choir or plays, projects that directly assist any club or organization such as fund raisers to benefit the club or organization

\*Any sports fund raisers or concession stand work for school

\*Any sports related activity that is considered part of the team. Example: Statistician for a team, student trainer, equipment, etc.

\*Coaching or assisting a coach for any sports team.

Verification of the service provided must be submitted on the form provided. Adult supervisor or coordinator of the project must sign the form. You must complete the form in full before submitting it to your catechist.

If you are unsure whether a service project will fulfill the confirmation service requirement, please check with your catechist or the Director of Religious Education before doing the service project.

## GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

A sponsor is required for the candidate being confirmed. Canon 872 and 874 of the Code of Canon Law lists those requirements for valid and lawful sponsorship in Confirmation:

- \* The sponsor's role is to assist the person in Christian initiation
- \* The sponsor's role is, together with the parents, to present the young person for the sacrament and help him/her to live a life befitting a baptized Catholic Christian.

A Sponsor:

1. Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility
2. Must have received the sacraments of initiation, namely Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
3. Must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who goes to Mass on Sunday, receives the sacraments regularly, and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family.
4. Must be a member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office.

Being a sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. Sponsorship implies a real appreciation of the faith, a practice of the same, and a sense of responsibility toward the person being confirmed.

Parents cannot be sponsors for their own children because they are already the child's most important teacher.

The first choice for a Confirmation sponsor would be one of the candidate's godparents, to show the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation. If this is not possible, a second choice would be a confirmed Catholic whom the candidate admires and who bears witness to the Gospel in his or her everyday life. If the sponsor is a high school student, he or she must be participating in a formal religious education program.

A sponsor also plays a vital role in the candidate's continuing initiation into full membership in the Christian community. A sponsor of a Confirmation candidate:

- \*Supports the candidate in their commitment to a Christian life
- \*Must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate.
- \*May help the candidate prepare for Confirmation
- \*Must be reasonably informed on current Church teachings
- \*Presents the candidate to the Archbishop during the Confirmation Mass

## INFORMATION ON CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

**A sponsor can make an enormous difference in the preparation of a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is important, therefore, that the candidates are encouraged to choose sponsors who are well suited to the role and who will be integral to the preparation process.**

The Church's tradition of involving a sponsor in the preparation of candidates for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation is one of our most ancient approaches to faith formation. In the early centuries, when the catechumenate was the entry point for anyone seeking to become a Christian, the sponsor played an extremely vital role.

The sponsor was a living witness and mentor who represented the Christian community (its values, beliefs, behaviors, and so on) to the catechumen. The sponsor would, in turn, witness to the community on behalf of the catechumen's readiness for the initiatory sacraments.

The role of a sponsor was not over with the celebration of the sacraments, however. It was seen as a lifetime commitment, a relationship that would last throughout the individual's journey of faith.

In the early Church the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation were always celebrated at one time; therefore, there was never a different sponsor at Baptism and Confirmation. In subsequent centuries, however, with the separation of Confirmation from Baptism, it became more common to have different persons act as sponsor for those two sacraments.

**Both the Code of Canon Law (Canon 89302) and the introduction to the Rite of Confirmation (5) suggest that in view of contemporary pastoral circumstances, it is desirable to have one's baptismal sponsor act as sponsor at Confirmation. While this remains the ideal, it seems much more important that the sponsor chosen be available and involved with the candidate in a significant way, and be able to offer an authentic example of lived Christian faith.**

As a bare minimum, the Code of Canon Law specifies that the requirements for acting as a sponsor as Confirmation (Canon 893) are the same as those for godparents at Baptism (Canon 874). Briefly, that canon directs that the person must have completed their sixteenth year, be fully initiated, live a life of faith, not be the parent, and not be bound by any other canonical restrictions.

**One of the challenges that might exist occurs when sponsors live at a distance and cannot interact in person with their candidate. However, in this day of instantaneous Internet and cell phone communications, only a little extra effort is required to maintain regular contact between sponsor and candidate. It is important that interaction occurs on a consistent basis and that sponsors are informed about meetings or information they may have missed because of their distance.**

## ST. ANNA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

St. Anna's Church welcomes you to our Confirmation preparation program. Our preparation program is the "*Confirmed in a Faithful Community*" program by St. Mary's press. We are excited about this year's class and are praying for the Lord's guidance in initiating our candidates in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Sophomore year of High School is filled with many exciting and challenging moments. Among all those events, it is a time for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. A relationship with God may not seem all that important right now to some young people. It may also seem to be very hard to comprehend – a relationship with an invisible being!

These feelings are completely understandable. Just the word religion can have several different meanings to different people. One person might think religion is attending Mass on Sunday. Another may associate the word religion with a deep love for Jesus Christ. For a third person, it could mean church teaching about morality. This is the time for finding meanings. One of the purposes of Confirmation is to help each individual candidate find, develop, and strengthen a relationship with Jesus Christ.

As well as working on spirituality and their relationship with God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the candidate is also preparing to receive a sacrament. Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation, therefore Canon Law requires certain information from the candidate. The following are the candidate's responsibilities. These responsibilities must be met by the candidate in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Anna's.

**Baptismal Information:** Candidates are responsible for completing the Baptismal Information form. Candidates not baptized at St. Anna's must submit a copy of their Baptismal certificate to the DRE.

**Confirmation Name:** A ritual of the sacrament of confirmation is the choosing of a confirmation name. The chosen name must be that of a saint of the Church. Candidates are responsible for completing the Confirmation name form and submitting it to the DRE by the request date.

**Confirmation Interview:** Candidates will be interviewed by Fr. Dan at the beginning of the Confirmation process. These interviews are a good opportunity for the candidate to ask questions and discuss; one on one, issues that may be concerning them. Interviews are scheduled after school.

**Confirmation Retreat:** The confirmation retreat is an essential step in the candidate's spiritual journey. All candidates for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation are required to attend the overnight confirmation retreat held usually in February or March.

**Confirmation Sponsor:** The purpose of a confirmation sponsor is to be a support and guide to the candidate during the Confirmation preparation process; a Catholic Christian to accompany the candidate on his/her spiritual journey to the Sacrament of Confirmation. The sponsor must

be a Catholic in good standing; living a Christian witness by attending Mass regularly, celebrating the Eucharist and actively living out the mission of Jesus Christ. Since confirmation is the completion of Baptism, one's godparents might be a choice for confirmation sponsor. Following are the sponsor eligibility requirements for confirmation as per Canon Law of the Church:

1. The sponsor must be already fully initiated into the Catholic Church ie. having already received the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation. (C.874 1,no. 3)
2. The sponsor must be 16 years of age or older. (C. 874 1, no. 3)
3. The sponsor must be living a life of faith in keeping with the function of sponsor. (C. 874 1, no.3) This requirement renders ineligible those who do not practice the faith.
4. Neither the father nor the mother of the one to be confirmed can be the confirmation sponsor. (C. 874 1, no. 5)
5. Both the Rite (C. no 5) and the Code of Canon Law (C. 892-893) envision only a single sponsor per candidate. It is desirable but not required that the confirmation sponsor be the same as the baptismal sponsor. (C. 893 2, no. 5)

Candidates are responsible for completing the Confirmation Sponsor form and submitting it to the DRE by the required date.

**Service Projects:** As confirmed Catholics, candidates are initiated into the Christian community of St. Anna's as well as the world Church. Candidates commit themselves to the mission of Jesus Christ through service to others. An integral part of preparation for the sacrament of confirmation is service. Candidates are required to complete a total of thirty (30) hours of service. (10 during the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 20 during the 10<sup>th</sup> grade preparation period). In the 10<sup>th</sup> grade candidates are to complete their hours in the following capacity:

- 5 hours in the family
- 5 to 10 hours in the parish
- 5 to 10 hours in the community

Service hours **must** be completed one month prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation (March 29, 2015). Candidates are responsible for completing the Service Project form and submitting it to the DRE by the requested date.

**Group Service Project:** Candidates are also required to attend a service project at the Druid Hills Night Shelter. The candidates will provide a part of the dinner that we will take to the Night Shelter to feed those who reside there. There will be two dates offered for the candidates to sign up for. Candidates are responsible for completing the Group Service Project form and submitting it to the DRE by the requested date.

**Attendance:** Attendance is a very important part of this preparation process. Each session is an opportunity for the strengthening of the candidate's relationship with God. All of the sessions are a time for the candidate to discover the meaning of that relationship in his/her life. Candidate attendance is mandatory at all confirmation sessions.

**Confirmation forms:** The confirmation candidate is responsible for submitting the following forms on or before the following due dates to the DRE:

FORM	DUE DATE
Baptismal Information	
Sponsor Information form	To be determined by the DRE
Confirmation Name form	

Service Project forms  
Group Service Project form

To be determined  
by the DRE

This information is necessary for church records and must be submitted to the DRE before the candidate can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The required forms are found in this information packet and online at [www.st-annas.com](http://www.st-annas.com).

## **CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE EXPECTATIONS**

Each candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation is encouraged to know the Lord in a personal and intimate way, to experience a sense of belonging to the Christian community, and to respond to the Gospel mandate of Christian service.

Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation

- Are expected to participate in Sunday Mass and receive the sacraments regularly.
- Should devote time to personal prayer and reading the Scriptures
- Are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes in the Confirmation program
- Are expected to participate in the Confirmation retreat
- Are expected to complete 30 hours of Christian service
- Are expected to manifest Christian charity and kindness to others, especially other catechists and other confirmation candidates.