

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

St. Anna's Church welcomes you to our Confirmation preparation program. Our preparation program is the "*Decision Point*" by *Dynamic Catholic Publishing*. 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 requested date.

**Confirmation Interview:** Candidates will be interviewed by Fr. Dan at the beginning and end 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 at least one month prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Candidates are responsible for completing the 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:

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<b>FORM</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
Baptismal Information	February 3, 2019
Sponsor Information Form	February 3, 2019
Confirmation Name Form	February 3, 2019
Service Project Forms	April 28, 2019

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 participate in the youth Masses held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at the 12:00 p.m. Mass.
- Are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes in the Confirmation program
- Are expected to participate in the Confirmation classes
- Are expected to attend the Confirmation retreat
- Are expected to complete 30 hours of Christian service (two year total)
- Are expected to have forms turned in on or before the due date
- Are expected to manifest Christian charity and kindness to others, especially other catechists and other confirmation candidates.