

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH



2017 - 2018

High School Confirmation Guide

“In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.”

St. Paul

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION GUIDE

CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES

Confirmation preparation at Sacred Heart Catholic Church emphasizes a more intimate relationship with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit. It involves the Confirmation catechist, parents, sponsors, and the entire parish community, and it prepares candidates for their call to full participation and active discipleship in the church.

Why Confirmation

“Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the ‘sacrament of Christian initiation,’ whose unity must be safeguarded...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 enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.” (CCC 1285)

Who Can Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

“Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that “the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time, for without Confirmation and Eucharist, Baptism is certainly valid and efficacious, but Christian initiation remains incomplete.” (CCC 1306)

Class Times

Confirmation Year I & Year II class time will be on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.

Participation in Class

Students should not miss more than 3 classes. Parents must contact the Confirmation catechist to let them know of an absence. Candidates are asked to write a paragraph on the topic from the class they missed and turned in to the catechist (teacher). If a student exceeds the limit of 3 absences, they and their parents will meet with Father Michael or the Confirmation Coordinator.

Participation in Mass

The Confirmation candidate and his or her parents should have a sincere intention of participating in Mass every week. Participation in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of Confirmed Catholics. All candidates will be required to sign in before or after Mass. There will be a binder in the back of the Church with the candidates’ names.

Works of Mercy Hours

Service to God and neighbor is not optional for those who follow the Gospel and claim the name Christian. It is integral to the message of Christianity.

Confirmation candidates will participate in Parish projects and liturgy. It is mandatory that the students participate in Parish projects. The following activities are required: The Fall Festival with our Parish Council (Friday 5-9 PM Oct. 27th), The Christmas Bizarre with the St Lydia's group (Friday & Saturday Dec. 3rd & 4th), & Stations of the Cross with our Liturgy committee (During Lent on a Friday @ 5PM). If the candidate cannot participate, we will try to find an alternative for them.

Each candidate will be trained to serve at Mass (Liturgy). The purpose is for them to try out different tasks to discover what they like or are good at. Options are: altar server, lector, greeter, usher or choir. They will need to be aware of when they are scheduled to serve by watching the bulletin or looking it up online. Parents will need to guide them on this!

Candidates will have the opportunity to participate in planned community service projects and with Parish projects. Year I & YR II candidates will be asked to complete 4 community service hours (these are not the Parish projects or liturgy).

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Each candidate preparing for Confirmation is asked to choose a Sponsor. Sponsors must be chosen and then a Sponsor Eligibility Form must be filled out by their pastor and turned in by **November 30, 2017** to the parish office. A Confirmation sponsor has these primary purposes:

- Serve as a role model of the Catholic faith
- Be committed to praying for you regularly
- To guide and assist you in your faith
- To be a companion for you on your journey of faith
- Will be able to attest to your practice of the Catholic faith to the bishop and the church community. (Proclaim you are ready to receive the sacrament and become a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church).

Confirmation Sponsor Eligibility & Role

At least 16 years old, Baptized and Confirmed Catholic

If married, must be married in the Catholic Church.

Practicing Catholic in good standing (able to receive the Sacraments). The Sponsor should live according to the Catholic Faith: attend Mass every weekend and receive the sacraments of the Church regularly, especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist. (A Catholic is required to receive Reconciliation and Eucharist once each year.)

Registered at a parish. The Sponsor should practice the Faith within a Catholic parish community, and live a moral life.

Additional Information about Sponsors

A parent may not serve as a Sponsor for their child.

The gender of the person serving is not a deciding factor. The Sponsor may be a man or woman. A man may serve as a Sponsor for a girl, a woman may serve as a Sponsor for a boy, or the Candidate may choose a Sponsor of their own gender.

One of a Candidate's Godparents is an ideal choice. Choosing the same person as Sponsor for both Baptism and Confirmation helps emphasize the connection between the two sacraments.

Suggested Ways to Support a Candidate

Help the Candidate become aware of his or her reasons for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

Help the Candidate understand and appreciate the sacrament of Confirmation, and have the right intention for receiving it.

Help the Candidate prepare for Confirmation by encouraging him or her to pray, to participate in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and to become actively involved in the life of their parish.

Support the Candidate and their family, and be a good example of Catholic Christian living.

Meet with the Candidate on a regular basis for Mass, prayer, faith-sharing, reading Scripture, and discussions about the Christian life.

Help the Candidate understand what it means to be a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Present the Candidate to the bishop for Confirmation.

Ensure that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.

Continue to encourage the confirmed person to live a Catholic Christian life through: - prayer and the celebration of the sacraments - living the Gospel of Jesus Christ - turning to other Catholics for support and guidance - studying the Catholic Faith

Candidate Letter

Each Confirmation Year I candidate will write a letter of intent to Father Michael and the Confirmation staff, communicating his or her desire to be Confirmed and his/her willingness to make this commitment. Letters will be written during class time, unless the candidate is absent, then the letter will have to be done on their own time.

Each Confirmation Year II candidate will write a letter to Father Michael and the Confirmation staff, requesting to be confirmed. The letter will be due in April. Letters will be written during class, unless the candidate is absent, then the letter will have to be done on their own.

Confirmation Ceremony

When the final date for the Confirmation ceremony is received from the diocese, candidates and their families will be informed. It will be the candidate and their family's responsibility to inform the sponsor.

Candidates will meet before the ceremony with the bishop and will have a reception following the Mass. Year I candidates are responsible for helping during Mass and/or the reception. For the ceremony, Year II candidates: boys are asked to wear ties and dress pants (no t-shirts, tennis shoes or jeans); girls are asked to wear dresses or skirts and blouse. No strapless or low-cut tops will be allowed, shoulders must be covered and dresses/skirts should go below the knee.

REGISTRATION

Confirmation Year I

Registration and \$30.00 fee and sponsor eligibility form should be turned in by November. Candidates will receive a bible after the 10:30 AM Mass on November 26th. This is a special Mass where the community welcomes the new candidates (*Rite of Welcome). It is mandatory they attend this Mass.

Confirmation Year II

Registration and \$70.00 fee must be completed by November. All required paperwork needs to be handed in by 11/30. Paperwork: copy of baptism, First Communion, sponsor eligibility form and copy of sponsors certificates (Confirmation and marriage).

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*The year end Retreat is required.

*If the candidate was not baptized and/or received the First Communion at Sacred Heart Alamosa, a copy of their certificates will need to be turned into the parish office.

*Candidates must be in a state of grace to be confirmed. He or she must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Confirmation.

*Parent involvement is key to their child's preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please feel free to contact the catechist (teacher) directly or the Confirmation Coordinator with questions, concerns or just to find out what is going on.

CONFIRMATION CALENDAR 2017-2018

All classes meet at 6:30 – 8:00 PM in Faistal Hall. Year I meets in the Youth Lounge. Year II meets in the Fireplace Room. Middle School meets in the classroom off the stage.

September 20th – KICK-OFF	January 3rd -No class (Christmas)
September 27th	January 10th -Resume classes
October 4th	January 17th
October 11th	January 24th
October 18th	January 31st
October 25th	February 7th
Friday October 27th – Fall Festival *(Service Hours)	February 14th – No class (Ash Wednesday)
November 1st	February 21st
November 8th	February 28th
November 15th -	March 7th-
November 22nd – No Class (Thanksgiving)	March 14th –
Sunday November 26th – ‘Rite of Welcome’ for YRI	March 21st – No class (Spring break)
November 29th –	March 28th -Holy Week/ Rehearsals for Stations
December 3rd & 4th – Christmas Bizarre *(Service Hours)	Friday March 30th – Living Stations of the Cross (Good Friday)
December 6th – Adoration	April 4th –
December 13th -	April 11th –
December 20th No class (Christmas)	Friday-Sunday *Tentative: April 13th -15th - Confirmation YRII Retreat *(Required)
December 27th – No class (Christmas)	April 18th -
	April 25th