

Blessed John XXIII Community
Sacramental Preparation
Procedure for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation

This sacrament is more involved than the sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion. It is a serious step in the faith journey of an individual. For those who were baptized as a baby, they did not have the opportunity to choose the Faith. This sacrament becomes that important step in one's life. It is here where they are able to say, "I no longer live and believe as a Catholic because my parents tell me to, but because I choose to of my own free will."

Bishop Boyea has set the standard that Confirmation happens during 8th Grade. No date is set for Confirmation until one has completed the instructions below.

If you need any help or have a question during this process, please feel free to contact your pastor. In asking to be Confirmed, you are asking to be treated as an adult in the Church, therefore you are responsible to meet all the obligations stated below.

The pastor reserves the right to call meetings for those who are preparing for confirmation. These meetings will be part of the requirements and will be mandatory unless stated otherwise. You will need to give them priority.

In order to be Confirmed, one needs to have been Baptized and made their First Confession and received First Holy Communion.

The procedure to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is as follows:

Step ONE:

If you are in 8th grade, at the beginning of the school year, let the pastor know that you desire to be confirmed.

Step TWO:

You need to go to the parish of your Baptism and get a new copy of your baptismal record. Give this new record to your pastor that he may determine if you are eligible to be Confirmed.

Step THREE:

Learn, know and be ready to discuss the following information:

Prayers:

- Sign of the Cross
- The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Act of Contrition
- Apostle's Creed
- Confiteor (I confess to Almighty God...)

The Seven Sacraments (be able to define them):

Baptism	Initiation:	Baptism
Confession		Holy Eucharist
Holy Eucharist		Confirmation
Confirmation	Healing:	Confession
Sacrament of the Sick		Sacrament of the Sick
Holy Orders	Vocation:	Holy Orders
Holy Matrimony		Holy Matrimony

- Baptism (*Sacrament of Initiation*)
Baptism is the sacrament which cleanses us from original sin, makes us Christians, children of God and heirs of Heaven.
- Confession (Reconciliation or Penance) (*Sacrament of Healing*)
Confession is the sacrament by which sins committed after Baptism are forgiven through the absolution of the priest
- Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion) (*Sacrament of Initiation*)
Holy Eucharist is the sacrament which contains the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the appearances of bread and wine
- Confirmation (*Sacrament of Initiation*)
Confirmation is the sacrament through which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way and enables us to profess our Faith as strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ.
- Sacrament of the Sick (*Sacrament of Healing*)
Sacrament of the sick is the sacrament which through the anointing and prayer of the priest, gives health and strength to the soul, and sometimes to the body, when we are in danger of death from sickness, accident or old age.
- Holy Orders (*Sacrament of Vocation*)
Holy Orders is the sacrament by which bishops, priests and other ministers of the Church are ordained and receive the power and grace to perform their sacred duties.
- Holy Matrimony (*Sacrament of Vocation*)
Holy Matrimony is the sacrament which unites a Christian man and woman in lawful marriage.

The Laws of God and the Church:

The Decalogue (Ten Commandments, Ex 20:1-17 & Deut. 5:6-18)

The Golden Rule (Mt 7:12)

The Greatest Commandment (Mt 22:37-40)

Precepts of the Church

1. To hear Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
2. To fast and abstain on the days appointed
3. To confess our sins at least once a year (Easter Duty)
4. To receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season
5. To contribute to the support of the Church

Holy Days of Obligation

1. Two feasts of our Lord:
 - Christmas - Dec 25
 - Ascension Thursday - Thursday of the 6th week of Easter (Transferred to the 7th Sunday)
2. Three Feasts of Our Lady:
 - Mary, Mother of God – Jan 1
 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Aug 15
 - The Immaculate Conception – Dec 8
1. Feasts of the Saints:
 - All Saints – Nov 1

The Effects of Confirmation:

1. An increase of Sanctifying Grace received at Baptism
2. The Strengthening of our faith
3. The gifts of the Holy Spirit
4. An indelible mark imprinted on our soul

Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

1. Wisdom: Wisdom gives us a strong desire for the things of God and directs our whole life and all our actions to His honor and glory.
2. Understanding: Understanding enables us to know more clearly the mysteries of faith.
3. Counsel: Counsel gives us the light of grace to guide us in practical matters.
4. Fortitude: Fortitude strengthens us to do the will of God in all things.
5. Knowledge: Knowledge enables us to discover the will of God in the use of the world and to see the nothingness of all creatures so that we desire God alone.
6. Piety: Piety makes us love God as a Father and obey Him because we love him.
7. Fear of the Lord: Fear of the Lord fills us with a dread of sin.

ALSO – Be ready to talk about:

- What the Faith means to you
- What Confirmation means to you
- Why you want to be Confirmed
- Why you think you are ready to be Confirmed
- What being an adult in the Faith means
- How you plan on living your Confirmation

Step FOUR:

Part of preparing for Confirmation has to do with a person's willingness and readiness to live the life of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. During the school year, in preparation for confirmation, you need to do some kind of community service. There is no set amount of time that you must do, but something needs to happen.

When you have achieved a significant experience in helping others, write a letter to the pastor explaining your experience. The letter should follow these norms:

- Not more than 5 pages
- Typed, using 12pt font, double spaced
- Answer the following:
 - What did you do?
 - Why did you choose it?
 - What did you learn?
 - Was it difficult or challenging?
 - How did you feel about yourself after you helped others?
 - How do you think that it has helped you prepare for Confirmation?

Give the letter to the pastor.

Step FIVE:

Pick a Confirmation name. You need to pick a saint that inspires you in some way. To do this you will need to research several saints. Look at their life, what did they do to get holy. How does what they did inspire you and encourage you in the Faith?

Step SIX:

When you feel you have learned the required information stated above and have turned in your letter for community service, contact the pastor to arrange an interview.

Step SEVEN:

After having passed the interview:

Write a Letter to the Bishop of the Diocese of Lansing.

The letter should include the following:

- Asking the Bishop to confirm you
- Why you think you are ready
- What the faith means to you

Give the letter to the pastor who will then send it on to the Bishop with his own letter introducing you to the Bishop.