

Confirmation Preparation Requirements

Confirmation is one of the initiation sacraments, along with Baptism and Eucharist. This sacrament is called Confirmation because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made strong. During your Baptism, your parents and godparents made promises to renounce Satan and believe in God and the Church on your behalf. At Confirmation, you renew those same promises, this time speaking for yourself. This comes with the responsibility of not just following Jesus Christ but spreading the Good News as Confirmed disciples.

Confirmation is not:

- ❖ Graduation from Christian Formation classes
- ❖ Claim of adulthood in the Church
- ❖ Single affirmation of the Catholic religion
- ❖ Decision to be or not be Catholic



Requirements

The family must be registered members of Holy Cross Church.

Baptism: The office of Christian Formation must receive proof of the child's Catholic baptism.

Age/Grade: Candidates must be in 10th grade to be eligible for Confirmation. 11th and 12th grade students that have not received Confirmation are eligible as long as they continue to be enrolled in religious education.

Education: Candidates must be enrolled and attending regular religious education classes OR must be attending a Catholic high school in order to be eligible for Confirmation. Candidates must also have been baptized Catholic and received both Reconciliation and First Eucharist.

Place of Instruction: All instruction that pertains to preparation for Confirmation should take place through the candidate's home parish. Those enrolled in non-parish-based religious education (i.e., home school or Catholic school) must prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the program of their home parish.

Attendance: Candidates are expected to participate in an entrance interview, all of their religious education classes as well as a Confirmation Retreat.

Sponsors are an extremely important part of Confirmation. A person is eligible to be a sponsor if: They are a baptized, confirmed and practicing Catholic.

Should the Practice of Choosing a "Confirmation Name" Be Encouraged?

Since Confirmation stands in relationship to Baptism, any discussion of a Confirmation name must be placed in that context. The current *Rite of Confirmation* recommends that the sponsor for Confirmation be the baptismal godparent.[1] It presumes that the candidate for Confirmation will be addressed by his or her baptismal name.[2] Nowhere does the rite mention the custom of choosing a separate Confirmation name; neither does the *Code of Canon Law*. Only in the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* is there mention of a rite whereby a catechumen may receive a "baptismal name." [3]

While the affirmation of one's baptismal name is thus preferred, one could choose another saint's name or a mystery of the Lord to be pronounced by the bishop in addition to—not in place of—one's baptismal name (e.g., "John Sebastian Smith" or "Jane of the Incarnation Smith"). There is no restriction as to the sex (male or female) of the saint, just as in many cultures baptismal names may be combined (e.g., "Peter Mary" or "Ann Daniel").

The custom of choosing a patron saint or taking an additional name for the Rite of Confirmation should be accompanied by catechesis regarding the communion of saints. The candidate should demonstrate knowledge of the saint or mystery of the Lord that he or she has chosen. It should be emphasized that if a name is chosen, it is to honor a saint or mystery of the Lord, rather than to honor a loved one.

[1] *Rite of Confirmation*, no. 5.

[2] *Rite of Confirmation* nos. 21, 27.

[3] See "Rite of Choosing a Baptismal Name," *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, no. 202.