

Confirmation Preparation



*... you will receive power when
the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
Acts 1:8*

A Guidebook for Confirmation Candidates And Their Parents 2017-2018

**Catholic Church of St. James
1071 Academy Drive
Conway, South Carolina 29526
Phone 843-347-5168 FAX 843-347-1212**

We look forward to sharing your journey of faith as you prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation next year. This preparation involves spiritual growth, learning, service to others, and fellowship with other Catholic teens.

Confirmation, together with Baptism and Eucharist, form the Sacraments of Initiation. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit," and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. When you were baptized, your parents promised to raise you in the Catholic faith. At Confirmation, you will receive and celebrate the transforming grace of the Holy Spirit.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Guidelines Regarding Confirmation

The bishops clearly state in the *National Directory of Catechesis* that:

- Confirmation preparation must call Christians to a real relationship with Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit through a “vigorous sacramental life, prayer, study, and service.”
- The Faith Community, made up of the pastor, parents, and other committed adults, has the primary obligation to provide programs and participate in preparing those to be confirmed.
- Parents are called to renew and strengthen their own faith. They must set an example of mature faith and involvement in their parish through their own efforts to grow spiritually and be of service to others.
- The program should include hours of service, retreats and renewal experiences, a letter of request, longer periods of preparation, and adult supervisors.

Who May Be Confirmed?

The Confirmation Candidate:

- Has received the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist.
- Has a sincere desire to receive the sacrament.
- Participates weekly in the Eucharist.
- Is open to growing in faith.
- Has an adequate grasp of the basic content of the Catholic faith.
- Recognizes that he/she is a unique individual with gifts to offer and a willingness to share these gifts with the faith community.

Preparing for Confirmation

- Participate in Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday EVERY WEEK and on Holy Days of Obligation.
- Attend Confirmation Family Class with parent(s) and sign the Confirmation Covenant.
- Participate in Confirmation classes. *A candidate may miss only four classes per year*, unless documented by a medical excuse.
- Attend a minimum of 5 Middle School Youth Group sessions in grade 8.
- Attend the Junior High Rally in the fall of grade 8.
- Choose a sponsor.
- Create a biography and a poster of the saint chosen to be one's Confirmation name, and present it at Newcomer's Welcome Reception.
- Write a letter to Bishop Guglielmone and Fr. Tim, requesting Confirmation.
- Attend a minimum of 5 Life Teen Masses and 5 High School Youth Group sessions in grade 9.
- Participate with parent(s) in an interview with Fr. Tim to determine the candidate's readiness and desire to receive the sacrament.
- Attend the Confirmation Retreat in the fall of grade 9.
- Attend the Confirmation rehearsal with parents, sponsor, or proxy.
- Participate in Confirmation.
- Complete and document stewardship and spiritual activities:
 - 5 hours or more of community and/or school service
 - 8 hours of parish service
 - 2 additional spiritual activities

Roles and Responsibilities of Parents

“Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. (CCC 2223)
Parents make that initial promise to raise their child in the Catholic faith when their child is baptized. Preparation for Confirmation continues that commitment.

Because parents are the primary educators of their children, **parents are expected to:**

- Worship with your family regularly.
- Encourage your child to complete assignments and activities.
- Encourage your child to pray about the decision to be confirmed.
- Pray for your child’s spiritual growth every day.
- Bring your teen, and when necessary yourself, to meetings, programs, etc.
- Be involved in church activities.
- Explain that Confirmation is not graduation. By making the decision to be confirmed, students are agreeing to remain active in their faith and their parish community.

The Holy Spirit is waiting to rain down upon the entire family,
along with your Confirmation candidate!

*But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:18)*

Candidate's Letter of Request for Confirmation to the Bishop

First Draft due to Religious Education Office by

April 22, 2018 or Before

Final draft due by May 13, 2018, or Before

The purpose of the letter is to give you the opportunity to express why you want to be confirmed.

The letter will be mailed to the bishop after being reviewed by the pastor.

Letter guidelines:

- Letter can be typed or written legibly in ink. It needs to be personally signed.
- Begin the letter by writing

Date

Dear Bishop Guglielmo and Father Tim,

- Write three paragraphs:
 1. Tell why you want to be confirmed.
 2. Name the gift of the Holy Spirit that you want to receive more of, and explain why. (Choose from Wisdom, Understanding, Courage, Wonder and Awe, Knowledge, Right Judgment, Reverence.)
 3. Explain how you have prepared for Confirmation. Remember to include the acts of stewardship that you have performed, **and how the project(s) helped you understand the value and importance of Christian service.**
- Sign the letter with your full name.

Confirmation Sponsor Requirements

Your sponsor should be someone with strong faith, someone you are close to, someone you admire. Your sponsor can be from St. James, but they are not required to be.

A sponsor:

- Must be a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church, which means the person has received the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church.
- Must be an active, registered member of a parish, attending Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, and receiving Holy Communion regularly.
- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- Must be present at Confirmation.
- Must be a good role model to give a good example of mature Christian faith in action.
- Can be male or female.
- Must NOT be the parent of the candidate.

The sponsor will:

- Bring you forward to receive the sacrament.
- Present you to the Bishop for anointing.
- Help you to fulfill your baptismal promises under the influence of the Holy Spirit (From *The Rites of the Catholic Church*, vol. 1, p. 480.)

After you have chosen your sponsor,

1. Complete the top section of the **Confirmation Sponsor Form** and give it to your sponsor.
2. The Sponsor will fill out the “**Sponsor’s Statement of Faith**” section and then send it to his or her parish to fill out the “**Sponsor’s Parish Certificate**” section. Return the completed form AND a **copy of his/her confirmation certificate (and marriage certificate, if married)**. to the St. James Office of Religious Education, Attn. Paulette Flench, no later than **Sunday, February 11, 2018**.
3. Please call Paulette Flench at 843-347-5168 or email her at pflench@stjamesconway.org if you have questions.

For the Sponsor

You have been chosen to be a Confirmation sponsor. How wonderful! This Confirmation candidate admires you for your strong Catholic faith, and believes that you will be supportive as he/she continues his/her journey of faith. Here are a few suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor you can be:

- **Confirmation Sponsor's Form.** Please fill out the "Sponsor's Statement of Faith" section and then send it to your parish to fill out the "Sponsor's Parish Certificate" section, *complete with parish seal.*

The completed form AND the Sponsor's Confirmation Certificate and Marriage Certificate needs to be sent back to the St. James Office of Religious Education, attn: Paulette Flench, by February 11, 2018 or before.

- **Be a good example of how a mature Catholic Christian lives.**
- **Pray for your candidate and yourself.** Your prayers are important. Attend Mass together whenever possible.
- **Be generous.** Please write a letter of encouragement and support to your candidate. Offer a gift of spiritual significance – a new Bible, rosary, or book about our faith or about the saint the candidate has chosen for a Confirmation name.
- **Attend the Mass of Confirmation.** At that Mass, you will bring your candidate forward to receive the sacrament, place your hand on your candidate's shoulder, and act as a witness when he/she is anointed by the bishop.
- **Remember to stay in touch with your newly confirmed Catholic after the big day.** Suggestions include remembering birthdays and the anniversary of this special day by sending a card or email or making a phone call. Encourage him/her to continue attending Mass, be a member of Youth Group, and stay involved in activities at church.

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH
1071 ACADEMY DRIVE, CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29526
PHONE 843-347-5168 FAX 843-347-1212
Sponsor Eligibility Form

BAPTISM/ FIRST COMMUNION/CONFIRMATION
SPONSOR/GODPARENT TESTIMONY FORM

I, _____, a practicing member of _____
(NAME OF SPONSOR/GODPARENT) (NAME OF PARISH)

testify by my answers and signature below that I am qualified to serve as a

- Baptism
- First Communion
- Confirmation

sponsor/Godparent in the Catholic Church for _____
(NAME OF BAPTISM/FIRST COMMUNION/CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE)

Please circle either YES or NO for each statement below. (Canon 874)

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| YES | NO | I am a Roman Catholic. |
| YES | NO | I am at least 16 years old. |
| YES | NO | I have received Confirmation and Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church. <u>Please attach Confirmation certificate.</u> |
| YES | NO | I am free to receive Holy Communion when I come to Mass. |
| YES | NO | I am someone other than a parent of this candidate. |
- Ca

Answer the following ONLY if married:

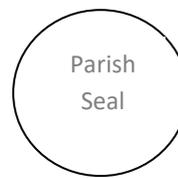
- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| YES | NO | Was your present marriage celebrated in the presence of a Catholic bishop, priest or deacon or if celebrated outside a Catholic Church was done so with the written permission of a Catholic bishop? (If not, please provide a written explanation.) <u>Please attach Marriage Certificate.</u> |
|-----|----|--|

Answer the following ONLY if unmarried:

- | | | |
|-----|----|---|
| YES | NO | Are you living with another person in a romantic relationship or as a couple? |
|-----|----|---|

I sign this document in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon or a representative of the pastor of a Catholic Church and understand that by my signature that what I have answered above is truthful.

Sponsor/Godparent Signature _____
Sponsor Address and Phone _____
Church Representative Signature _____
Church Representative Title _____
Church Representative Parish _____
Church City/State _____
Date _____





Confirmation Covenant

I, _____ and _____, will help my child prepare to be ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation by supporting my child's efforts.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

I, _____, will work with my family and sponsor to follow the guidelines in this guidebook and will complete all the requirements expected of me to the best of my ability. I promise to be an active Catholic and will participate in Sunday Mass every week, as well as pray every day. I understand that if I do not complete the requirements, the sacrament of Confirmation may be delayed.

Student Signature

Date

Return to Religious Education
Office by Oct. 27, 2018 OR
BEFORE.

P. 1 Record of Stewardship and Spiritual Activities

Candidate's Name _____

The candidate must commit to complete a **minimum** of 13 hours of stewardship activities and participate in a **minimum of** two spiritual activities.

Community or school service Minimum of 5 hours, such as mowing a neighbor's yard, babysitting for a neighbor, helping a teacher after school, tutoring, etc.	Hours	Date	Supervisor Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
Total hours			

Spiritual Activity-minimum of 2, such as Eucharistic Adoration, daily Mass or Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Easter Vigil, praying all five decades of the Rosary for nine consecutive days (a Novena), the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, or a Posada. It does NOT include going on the Jr. High Rally or going to a regular Sunday Mass, since those are already required.	Date	Signature of Adult Present
1		
2		
3		
4		
Total Activities		

P. 2 Record of Stewardship and Spiritual Activities

Return to Religious Education
Office by Oct. 27, 2018 OR
BEFORE.

Candidate's Name _____

Parish stewardship service Minimum of 8 hours, such as decorating for Christmas, Lent, Easter, helping with the Feast of St. James or Vacation Bible School, helping with the Ladies Guild Rummage sale; babysitting at church during for events; being an altar server, lector, usher, or greeter at Mass; helping in the Religious Education office, service projects with the Youth Group, etc.	Hours	Date	Supervisor Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
Total hours			

We will provide sign-in sheets for the Middle School Youth Group sessions and for the 6 PM Saturday night Life Teen Masses and for the High School Youth Group sessions.

Service/Spiritual Activity	Minimum	Actual
Community / School	5 Hours	
Spiritual Activity	2 Events	
Parish Stewardship	8 Hours	
Life Teen Mass and Youth Group in grade 8	5 events	
Life Teen Mass and Youth Group in grade 9	5 events	
	Total = 25	Total =

TURN IN TO MRS. PAULETTE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE
BY OCT. 27, 2018, OR BEFORE.

QUICK CHECK LIST for Grade 8

- _____ Junior High Rally Saturday, Nov. 4, 2018
- _____ Attend at least **5 Middle School Youth Group meetings, Sundays, 3:00-4:30**
- _____ Saint biography and poster due January 28, 2018, or before
- _____ Sponsor form and sacrament certificates due February 11, 2018, or before
- _____ First draft of Letter to Bishop due April 22, 2018, or before
- _____ Final draft of Letter to Bishop due by May 13, 2018, or before

QUICK CHECK LIST for Grade 9

- _____ **Attend at least 5 Life Teen Masses and High School Youth Group meetings, Saturdays, 6-9 PM, by October 27, 2018.**
- _____ Turn in Stewardship Service hours by October 27, 2018, or before
- _____ Interview with Fr. Tim – date to be determined
- _____ Confirmation retreat, autumn of 2018
- _____ Confirmation rehearsal, date and time to be determined.
- _____ Confirmation, date and time to be determined