

The Sacrament of Confirmation 2018-2019



*“You will receive the power
when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,
and you will be my witnesses
to the ends of the earth.”
-Acts 1:8*

Saint Susanna Catholic Church

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Faith Formation Office: (317) 838-7722

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Catechists:
Christine Bender, Elliott Doan
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Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and enkindle in us the fire of Your love.

Send forth Your Spirit
and we shall be created;
and you will renew the face of the earth.

O God, who did teach the hearts of Your faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant in us the same Spirit to be truly wise,
and ever to rejoice in His consolation.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

(Traditional Prayer to the Holy Spirit)

Readiness for the Sacrament

A Candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs.



The Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1319

A candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation is moving toward:

- a desire for intimate union with Christ
- a response to Jesus' mysterious mercy and forgiveness
- an acceptance of our goodness as God's beloved creation
- a conscious and faithful response to the actions, gifts, and biddings of the Holy Spirit
- a sense of belonging to the universal Church and the parish community
- experiencing significant relationships with persons of faith
- a conscious awareness of personal spirituality
- a disposition to be educated in the faith and Christian way of life
- a deeper relationship with his/her parish community

Determination of readiness is made by the pastor in consultation with the candidate, parent(s), coordinator of youth ministry, and catechists.

Confirmation is more than a rite of passage...

The Effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation include:

- It affirms our identity as children of God
- It unites us more firmly to Christ
- It increases in us the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
wisdom, understanding, council, fortitude, knowledge, piety,
and fear of the Lord
- It strengthens our bond with the Church
- It strengthens us to spread and defend the Faith by our words and actions as true witnesses of Christ
- It enables us to confess Christ boldly and never be ashamed of the Cross

Role of the Candidate:

Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit — his actions, his gifts, and his bidding — in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging in the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church, as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of candidates.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1309

A Confirmation Candidate should:

- ❖ discern if he/she is willing to learn more about God and actively participate in the program? If so, he/she only needs to be open to how God will strengthen him/her and continue to be present in his/her life. Family, sponsors, and the community are present to help candidates prepare for this sacrament.
- ❖ have an idea of the meaning of commitment and must be willing to learn more about the Catholic Faith
- ❖ regularly attend Mass and make daily prayer a priority
- ❖ complete & submit all forms and a letters written to Fr. Glenn & Archbishop Thompson on time
- ❖ choose a sponsor based on the requirements and meet regularly with the sponsor for instruction and discussion
- ❖ choose a Confirmation name that meets the requirements
- ❖ read, study, and choose freely to understand your faith
- ❖ participate fully in your Confirmation retreat experience
- ❖ attend the Rite of Acceptance and Rite of Sending with your parents and sponsor
- ❖ receive the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- ❖ complete at least 20 hours of community service
- ❖ Contact Ellice Bedel or any of your catechists with questions you have about program requirements, the Sacrament of Confirmation, or the Catholic Faith!

Role of the Parents:

As the primary educators of their children, parents, along with sponsors, are to be intimately involved in catechesis for Confirmation. This will help them strengthen and renew their own faith, as well as enable them to set a better example for their children or godchildren. The parental program is an important element in planning for Confirmation for children and young people.

National Catechetical Directory, #119

- ❖ #1 Role is to continue praying for your child
- ❖ The essential role of parents or guardians is to encourage, support, and affirm the teen's involvement in the Confirmation process.
- ❖ Attend Parent/Candidate Meeting, in which they will receive background on the meaning of the sacrament in light of their own experience of Confirmation, an understanding of the schedule of the sessions and Confirmation process, and their role and responsibilities
- ❖ Attend all liturgical rites during the Confirmation process.
- ❖ Affirm, support, and pray for the candidates and their sponsors throughout the process
- ❖ Engage their children in conversations about faith, prayer, Church, morality, authority, and commitment in the context of family
- ❖ Provide a warm, accepting, and prayerful environment in the home
- ❖ Participate in adult Faith Formation offerings. Parents evidence the meaning of faith by incorporating prayer and a sense of God in their daily lives.
- ❖ By recognizing a young person's need for owned faith, parents help and support their child's decision regarding this sacrament but never force it. Jesus always invited. He never forced people to follow him.
- ❖ Parental involvement is vital (retreat, service opportunities, praying, Reconciliation service, etc.) throughout the program.

Choosing a Sponsor:

Every candidate is required to choose a sponsor. The sponsor serves as a witness on behalf of the faithful of the Catholic Church. The person selected will serve as a mentor and friend. The Sponsor should be someone who will support and encourage the candidate during their preparation, at the Confirmation celebration, and in their faith life.

Sponsors should plan to attend the Rite of Sending, the Rite of Acceptance Mass and meeting, and the Confirmation Ceremony.

Defined by Canon 893-

- a. A sponsor must be an active member of the Catholic Church
- b. A sponsor must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist
- c. A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age
- d. A sponsor must be in good standing with the Catholic Church
- e. A sponsor cannot be the mother or father of the one to be confirmed

Candidate, below is a list of simple guidelines to help choose your sponsor:

- ❖ Talk to your parents about who can best support you during and after the Confirmation preparation.
- ❖ Consider a person you know who is a **Christian role model**, who truly lives the Good News.
- ❖ Consider a person who **teaches others through their own example** of Catholic Christian living.
- ❖ Consider a person who knows you and is **available to listen and talk** to you about your concerns and questions about your faith and the Church.
- ❖ Does he/she live within a reasonable driving distance?
- ❖ Consider a person who is **willing to make the commitment** to be with you at this time and beyond the celebration.
- ❖ Pray about your decision. With God's help, you and your sponsor can be great **spiritual friends**.
- ❖ Sponsors are encouraged to do the following things with Candidates: help with service projects, attend Sunday liturgy, or discuss what is being learned/discussed during class.

Note: According to the Church's Code of Canon Law (canons 872-873), parents are **not** eligible to be sponsors for their own son or daughter. The ministry of the parent and the ministry of the sponsor are intended to be two separate and distinct ministries.

Candidates must complete online form by **Sunday, October 7, 2018:**

<https://catholicforms.com/forms/view.php?id=632835>

Choosing a Confirmation Name

The Rite of Confirmation seals us, **names** us, and claims us for a new life as an adult Christian in the Holy Spirit that began at Baptism. This is an opportunity for one to choose a name in Christ and affirm their love for Him.

Choosing a Confirmation name needs to be a prayerful experience. The candidate's new name in Christ should be someone Christ-filled that they admire and want to emulate. A candidate may choose a new Confirmation name or retain a recognized saint's name given at Baptism. The Confirmation name must be that of a *recognized saint* (not a derivative or variation of a name as we have allowed in the past). This is the name that will be on your name tag and it is what the Bishop will call you during the anointing.

A Confirmation name is a permanent reminder which links the candidate with the way in which the mission of Jesus lives on in those special persons recognized by the Church as saints or heroic people in its history. In Scripture, receiving a new name is often associated with a change in life. Taking a new name carries with it that the one to be confirmed is asking for the Lord to change them, give them courage and strength to live their faith more fully. The process of researching the life of a saint can be an enriching part of the preparation program and can serve as the basis for reflection on the qualities of a present day witness for Christ. Family members and sponsors can assist the candidate in choosing a Confirmation name.

Here is a helpful website for information about saints recognized by the Catholic Church:
<http://www.americancatholic.org>

Candidates must complete online form by **Sunday, November 4, 2018:**
<https://catholicforms.com/forms/view.php?id=633152>

Letter to Father Glenn O'Connor & Letter to Archbishop Thompson

Candidates will write a letter to Father Glenn and a letter to the Archbishop stating the reasons why they feel they are ready to be confirmed. Directions from the Archdiocese are below:

“Letters to Archbishop Charles Thompson

As part of the candidates' preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the archbishop requests that each candidate submit a letter to him. This letter is meant to be more than just a statement from the young person asking for the sacrament. Since he cannot be a part of each and every formation program, the letters help the archbishop to see how the young people have been preparing for this celebration, as well as for life strengthened by the Holy Spirit after the celebration. In addition, so many of the letters stand as a testament to faith and devotion of the young Church, a sign of hope for us all.

Since it is meant to address each young person's own journey and preparation, the letter should not be a "form letter." While some guidance may be given, it needs to stand as a composition of that individual. The candidates should note in the letter to which parish they belong.

When the archbishop is the celebrant, he uses the information from the letters as a part of his homily, enabling him to speak to the experiences and needs of the candidates more personally. The archbishop does not use names from the letters in his homily so as not to embarrass anyone, aside from speaking about the selection of the saint name and why.

The letter should answer the following questions:

1. What does Confirmation mean to me?
2. Why am I choosing to be confirmed?
3. What saint's name did I choose and why?
4. Whom did I choose for my sponsor and why?
5. What did I do for my service hours? What did I learn/gain from the experience?"

These letters should be typed (not rough drafts). We expect the candidate to thoughtfully write, edit, and complete these letters before turning them in during class. The Archbishop, Father Glenn, the youth minister, and the catechists will read these letters. Parents and friends can help with the writing process. Catechists will go over the letters during class in December.

The final copies of both letters are due Sunday, January 13, 2019 during class.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

During candidates' preparation for Confirmation, they will take a renewed look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our task as Christians and members of the Church is to preach the gospel in the way we live. When we acknowledge our failures and selfishness by seeking God's forgiveness we are renewed in faith and hope.

"To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the Sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, p242)

We will have a Penance Service for all middle and high school students during class time on Sunday, April 7, 2019 in the church (6:45-8:00). Fr. Glenn and a few other priests will hear confessions. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend and receive the sacrament as well.

If for some reason you cannot attend this session you will have to receive the sacrament at another Penance service or during a regularly scheduled reconciliation at church (4:30-5:00 p.m. every Saturday) or make an appointment with Fr. Glenn O'Connor.

Confirmation Reflections Retreat

The Confirmation Retreat will be held at Bradford Woods on Saturday, November 17 (1:00 p.m.)- Sunday, November 18 (5:30 p.m.).

The retreat is a very important part of the preparation for this sacrament. It is a different kind of experience than class or any other trips or service that make up the program. The Retreat Team is comprised of confirmed teens as well as adults and college students.

Must register online by October 3.

\$65 payment for retreat is due by November 1.

<https://catholicforms.com/forms/view.php?id=623805>



If your son/daughter cannot attend the retreat I need to know this as soon as possible. It is also important that the teens attend the ENTIRE retreat because of the nature of the retreat. If your child is unable to attend the retreat they will be asked to attend a retreat at another parish or at the CYO camp. Contact Ellice for details.



Youth Masses

I'm asking all the Confirmation Candidates to commit to helping with one of the following ministries at one of our Youth Masses during this year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- Greeters at the front doors of church,
- Bringing Gifts to the Altar,
- Readings (including Petitions),

Ushering, or helping with music during the Mass (singing, playing guitar etc.)

Reading, Ushering and Music Ministry will require additional practice time commitment.

Please plan to use the Sign-up Genius to let me know how you will be helping. If you already know a future Mass you want to help with, E-mail me anytime and I'll reserve that ministry for you in advance.

YOUTH MASS OPTIONS

Sunday, September 23- 11:30 a.m. Mass

Sunday, October 7- 7:30 a.m. Mass

Saturday, November 10- 5:30 p.m. Mass (Confirmation Rite of Acceptance)

Sunday, December 9- 9:00 a.m. Mass

Sunday, January 20- 9:00 a.m. Mass

Sunday, March 10- 5:00 p.m. Mass (End of 9th Grade Retreat)

Sunday, April 28- 6:45 p.m. Mass (Confirmation Rite of Sending & last class of RE)

Service Hour Experience

Candidates must complete 20 hours of service in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. A successful Confirmation candidate is one who participates in service opportunities and, when fully initiated into the community of faith, goes on to continue to serve God and the People of God.

Throughout the preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, the candidates will search for Gospel passages in which Jesus acts as, speaks of, or refers to servants, stewards, and the poor. It is through the teachings and actions of Jesus that we become true servants of God.

So...how can you make a difference in your 20 hours of service?

What are some ways to earn 20 hours of service?

Here are 99 ways to get started:

1. Be sure the Faith Formation Office has your e-mail address- keep updated with current youth events!
2. Be a greeter at weekend Masses
3. Volunteer at an area nursing home
4. Plan a service project for 'Make a Difference Day' on October 20- <http://www.usaweekend.com/section/MDDAY>
5. Share your musical talents as a musician (voice or instrument) at Saint Susanna Masses- see Agnes Magnaye: amagnaye@saintsusanna.com if interested
6. Actively participate in high school youth ministry events (weekly peer ministry meetings/ social outings/ service events)
7. Usher at weekend Masses
8. Did you help with Vacation Bible School (VBS) here at Saint Susanna in June 2019
9. Make sleeping bags for the homeless:
<http://thesleepingbagproject.org/Home.html>
10. Help as an aide in the preschool R.E. classes on Sunday mornings (or any grade level class in the morning)- e-mail me or Bridget Schlebecker about this: bschlebecker@saintsusanna.com
11. Help shop for gifts for the angel tree during December
12. Archdiocesan Homeland Mission trip here in Indy in the summer
13. Assist on Saturdays at the St. Vincent DePaul Warehouse (ask Ellice if interested)
14. Help an elderly neighbor or parishioner- rake leaves, shovel snow or help with other chores
15. Help at or collect items for Ronald McDonald House-- <http://www.rmh-indiana.org>
16. Volunteer at a local animal shelter
17. Help every 2nd Thursday of the month at St. Mark's Food Pantry from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
18. Prepare entertainment for holiday or birthday parties for nursing homes
19. Write cards or letters to hospitalized children, teens, shut-ins or nursing home residents
20. Collect school supplies for children through a 'backpack' collection drive
21. Collect items for a food pantry
22. Develop leadership skills at the Catholic Leadership Conference in June
23. Collect hats, scarves, and mittens for homeless kids and adults
24. Adopt a senior adult as a grandparent
25. Volunteer for Special Olympics-- www.somariioncounty.netfirms.com
26. Assist in coaching a grade school sports team (CYO is one place to look)
27. Help with set-up or take down of church during Christmas and Easter season- see Michelle Wiegand.
28. Bake cookies for parish special events or bake sales
29. Help spruce up parish grounds, paint classrooms etc. (help Tuesday night crew)
30. Knit scarves for the homeless or for Special Olympics
31. Send care packages to those serving in the military overseas
32. Serve meals to homeless at Wheeler Mission-- www.wmm.org
33. Tutor a classmate with their schoolwork
34. Volunteer with a literacy program to help people learn to read
35. Go to grocery for homebound parishioner and neighbors

36. Organize a car wash with proceeds going to a needy organization of family
37. Organize an afternoon to play card and board games with the elderly at an assisted living facility
38. Collect and donate toys for Project A.N.G.E.L
39. Help sort and distribute toys for Project A.N.G.E.L
40. Campaign to save an endangered animal
41. Plan and organize a 'prom night' for the elderly
42. Invite family, friends, and others to get involved with service
43. Help collect and sort food donations for the homeless
44. Help make lunches for the homeless
45. Deliver lunches to the homeless downtown Indy
46. Organize a group of Saint Susanna teens to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk (10/14/18)
47. Help with food baskets before Thanksgiving
48. Read to the elderly in nursing homes
49. Help a Saint Susanna teacher create bulletin boards or cut out things for projects
50. Help the youth ministers clean/decorate out the youth room & bulletin boards
51. Prepare a meal for a family who is dealing with serious illness
52. Check online resources for area volunteer opportunities:
www.helpindyonline.com www.uwci.org www.dosomething.org/volunteer
53. Send a note or card to someone who has just lost a friend or loved one
54. Organize a bake sale with proceeds going to the homeless, pro-life organizations, or immigrant families struggling in our community
55. Walk for a cause- Race for the Cure (to fight breast cancer), homeless, AIDS, etc.
56. Organize a cell phone drive for The Julian Center to distribute to victims of domestic violence
57. Volunteer at Sheltering Wings-- www.shelteringwings.org
58. Volunteer at Hendricks Regional Health in Danville of IU West Hospital in Avon
59. Organize a Teddy Bear Drive to donate to local fire or police station for traumatized children
60. Volunteer in the Faith Formation Office or bring things home to staple, fold, etc.
61. Check online resource for even more ideas-- www.TogetherWeCanChangeTheWorldDay.com
62. Go 'trick-or-canning' for canned goods to donate on Halloween
63. Provide free babysitting for families who can't afford a sitter
64. Read to children at a public library
65. Provide some cheer to sick kids- put together little care packages
66. Plant a tree to beautify the community-- www.ArborDay.org
67. Organize a kids coat drive
68. Offer free computer assistance- to kids thru senior adults who can't afford to take a class
69. Organize a weekly Bible study for your peers
70. Save a life- save a community- send an animal:
www.HeiferInternational.org
71. Throw a birthday party for yourself or a loved one: instead of gifts ask people to contribute to a favorite charity
72. Organize and sponsor a children's book drive
73. Plan a project for community service
<http://psl.oditech.com/students/index/php>
74. Help organize an Egg Hunt in the spring for parishioners
75. Be a 'door keeper' for Faith Formation evening events or for morning R.E. classes
76. Volunteer at the parish festival in the summer
77. Hold a 'Mom & Dad's Night Out' babysitting event at the school during Nov-Dec so parents can go Christmas Shopping
78. Plan a parish movie night
79. Volunteer or collect items for Holy Family Shelter (for homeless families)-- www.holyfamilyshelter.net
80. Knit/ crochet hats for babies of young mothers
81. Help with Fish Fry's, Stations, and or Soup Suppers - Fridays during Lent
82. Help with cleaning the church (contact the Faith Formation Office for details)
83. Help with babysitting for families who want to attend adult education opportunities.
84. Bring recycled paper and cans to church and put in respective recycling containers
85. Start a clown-troupe to perform in children's homes and nursing homes
86. Help plan and run a Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Service

87. Pray at abortion clinic on 86th St. during 40 Days for Life
88. Help plan/lead the 9th Grade DISCOVERY Retreat (March 10 and there will be 8 planning meetings)
89. Make 'care packages' for teenage mothers, including diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, lotion, children's books, guide for new parents etc.
90. Form a prayer chain to pray for other in the youth group and school
91. Make Christmas stocking for prisoners
92. Volunteer at St. Elizabeth/Coleman-- www.stelizabeths.org
93. Orchestrate a church clean-up day
94. Organize Souper Bowl Sunday Collections after Masses on Feb. 3, 2019
95. Send letters to elderly church members on their birthdays
96. Help lead a group for the middle school retreat
97. Help with food, set-up, and clean up for the middle school retreat
98. Help with the elementary/family retreat
99. Help with Faith Formation bulletin boards

Remember- Invite your family, friends, and classmates to also get involved. Remember that we don't live in isolation – we live in a community with and for one another!

For more information on any of these ideas Contact Ellice Bedel at ebedel@saintsusanna.com



Key Dates for Confirmation

Regular Class Time: 6:45-8:00pm

*“They laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit”
-Acts 8:17*

Sunday, October 7 – Sponsor Information Report – Due BEFORE Class

Sunday, November 4- Confirmation Saint Online Report- Due BEFORE Class

Saturday, November 10 – Rite of Acceptance (this is also a Youth Mass)

- During 5:30 p.m. Mass
- Sponsors should attend the Mass with candidate (parents can stand-in)
- THERE IS EVENING CLASS THIS NIGHT

November 17-18 – Reflections Confirmation Retreat

- Registration for retreat – 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 17 @ Bradford Woods
- Parents Responsible for Transportation to and from Retreat
- Pick-up from Retreat – 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18

Sunday, January 13, 2019- Letters Due

- Final Typed Copy of Letter to Father Glenn O’Connor & a letter for Archbishop Charles Thompson - Due During Class

Sunday, April 7- Penance Service – during regular class time

- Fr. Glenn and a few other priests will conduct a penance service. All Confirmation candidates must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the sacrament of Confirmation at this service or at another time on their own.

Sunday, April 28 -Last Class, which is a Mass - Rite of Sending

- 6:00 p.m.- we will have a 45 minute meeting, then all should plan to attend the End of RE evening Mass at Saint Susanna (Mass begins at 6:45 p.m.)
- Sponsors & Candidates & Parents should attend the meeting and Mass

Rite of Confirmation- TBD - date will be set by the Archdiocese

- Candidates and sponsors must arrive by 5:45 p.m.
- Ceremony will begin at 7:00 p.m. at SS. Peter & Paul Cathedral

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation



**DATE TBA (most likely it will be a
Tuesday or Thursday in April/May)**

****I will notify you as soon as I get the date****

SS. Peter & Paul Cathedral
1347 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Ceremony Time: 7:00 p.m.

Candidates & Sponsors should arrive no later than 5:30 p.m.

Dress:

The Archbishop stresses the following guidelines for proper attire:

Males:

Collared, banded, or full turtleneck shirts

A tie is optional. If a tie is not worn, the top button of your shirt must be buttoned.

Sports coat/ suit is optional

Dress pants. Docker/ cotton style pants are acceptable. Please wear a belt.

Dress shoes and socks (No athletic shoes or flip flops)

No denim jeans

No shorts

Females:

Dress pants and blouse OR Dress

Dresses or skirts must be no more than 2" above the knee

Dresses **MUST** have sleeves or girls must wear jackets or sweaters over sleeveless dresses

Shoulders **MUST BE** covered

Proper necklines for tops/ blouses

Dress shoes (no athletic shoes or flip flops)