

# The Sacrament of Confirmation 2022-2023



*“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**

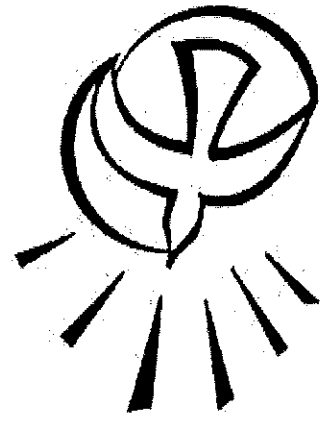
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Confirmation Small Group Leaders:

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Dan Wiegand, Katie Orlando, Mike Bedel, Kristy Gray, Elliott Doan



## 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.
- ❖ Regularly attend and actively participate in small group/ large group classes
- ❖ have an idea of the meaning of commitment and must be willing to learn more about the Catholic Faith
- ❖ regularly attend Sunday Mass and make daily prayer a priority
- ❖ complete & submit all forms and letters written to Fr. Rob & 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
- ❖ 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 small group mentors 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
- ❖ 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, penance 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.

## 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 or fill out & turn in a paper form by Sunday, October 2.**

## 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 an online form or fill out & turn in a paper form by Sunday, November 20.**

## Letter to Father Rob Hausladen & Letter to Archbishop Thompson

Candidates will write a letter to Father Rob 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 Rob, 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, February 5, 2023**

## **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)*

Candidates will be encouraged to go to confession during regularly scheduled parish confession times. Weekly confessions are available at 10am on Saturdays here at St. Susanna. Candidates can also go to confession at any other parish as well. Candidates should go to confession a few weeks before the sacrament of Confirmation. It would be wonderful to go a couple times this year even, but it's not required.



## Confirmation Reflections Retreat

Register online by Sunday, October 2.

The Confirmation Retreat will be at Bradford Woods on Saturday, November 5 (1:00 p.m.)- Sunday, November 6 (5:30 p.m.).

Cost for Participants is \$85 (due Oct. 26)



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 and adults. It is also important that the teens attend the ENTIRE retreat because of the nature of the retreat. Contact Ellice for details.

*Please contact me if your child will be unable to attend our retreat to discuss alternate options (attend a retreat with another parish, attend a CYO Confirmation Retreat CYO etc).*

## 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, lector, or help usher at weekend Masses
3. Volunteer at an area nursing home
4. Help with children's programming during the 3 Wednesday Faith, Food & Fellowship events ( Nov. 16, 2022; Dec. 14, 2022 & March 15, 2023)—will be like VBS
5. Volunteer to help at The Gathering Together (an amazing place here in Plainfield that provides care, nurturing, and support for end-of-life guests and their families—the services come free of charge).
6. Share your musical talents as a musician (voice or instrument) at Saint Susanna Masses
7. Actively participate in high school youth ministry events (weekly PEER YM meetings/ social outings/ service events

8. Help at the Lord's Pantry (Anna's House)
9. Help with Vacation Bible School (VBS) here at Saint Susanna
10. Help with CLOW during 9:15 Mass for kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students
11. Help as an aide in the preschool R.E. classes on Sunday mornings (or any grade level class in the morning)- e-mail me to get in contact with Laura Demerly.
12. Help shop for gifts for the angel tree during December
12. Sign up and attend Catholic Heart Workcamp - Summer 2023.
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 at St. Mark's Food Pantry here in Plainfield
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 and sort items for a food pantry
22. Volunteer to help with yardwork or other projects at Jameson Camp.
23. Help with the collections of winter coats, hats, scarves, and mittens for those in need.
24. Adopt a senior adult as a grandparent
25. Volunteer for Special Olympics-- [www.somarioncounty.net/firms.com](http://www.somarioncounty.net/firms.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
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](http://www.wmm.org)
33. Tutor younger children 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 sort toys for Project A.N.G.E.L
39. Help prepare and serve a meal for Family Promise one of the four weeks St. Susanna helps
40. Help babysit children for a Weds. night Family Promise night of learning for the parents
41. Plan and organize a 'prom night' for the elderly
42. Help collect and sort food donations for the homeless
43. Help make lunches for the homeless
44. Deliver lunches to the homeless downtown Indy
45. Organize a group of Saint Susanna teens to participate in the CROP Hunger Walk
46. Help with food baskets before Thanksgiving
47. Read to the elderly in nursing homes
48. Help a Saint Susanna teacher create bulletin boards or cut out things for projects
49. Help the youth ministers clean/decorate out the youth room & bulletin boards
50. Prepare a meal for a family who is dealing with serious illness
51. Check online resources for area volunteer opportunities:  
[www.helpindyonline.com](http://www.helpindyonline.com)      [www.uwci.org](http://www.uwci.org)      [www.dosomething.org/volunteer](http://www.dosomething.org/volunteer)
52. Send a note or card to someone who has just lost a friend or loved one
53. Organize a bake sale with proceeds going to the homeless, pro-life organizations, or immigrant families struggling in our community
54. Walk for a cause- Race for the Cure (to fight breast cancer), homeless, AIDS, etc.
55. Organize a cell phone drive for The Julian Center to distribute to victims of domestic violence
56. Volunteer at Sheltering Wings-- [www.shelteringwings.org](http://www.shelteringwings.org)
57. Volunteer at Hendricks Regional Health in Danville of IU West Hospital in Avon
58. Organize a Teddy Bear Drive to donate to local fire or police station for traumatized children
59. Volunteer in the Faith Formation Office or bring things home to staple, fold, etc.

60. Check online resource for even more ideas-- [www.TogetherWeCanChangeTheWorldDay.com](http://www.TogetherWeCanChangeTheWorldDay.com)
61. Go 'trick-or-canning' for canned goods to donate on Halloween
62. Provide free babysitting for families who can't afford a sitter
63. Read to children at a public library
64. Provide some cheer to sick kids- put together little care packages
65. Plant a tree to beautify the community-- [www.ArborDay.org](http://www.ArborDay.org)
66. Volunteer at Active Grace (Camp Camby)- Help with homeless community meals for residents, warehouse/pantry organization, yardwork, cabin repair, cleaning etc.
67. Offer free computer assistance- to kids thru senior adults who can't afford to take a class
68. Organize a weekly Bible study for your peers or younger children
69. Bake and deliver cookies or other baked goods for local fire fighters or police officers
70. Throw a birthday party for yourself or a loved one: instead of gifts ask people to contribute to a favorite charity
71. Organize and sponsor a children's book drive
72. Get involved with the St. Susanna Gabriel Project- helping young mothers who are in need (pregnant and after having the baby)
73. Help with the spring Easter Egg Hunt in the for parishioners
74. Be a 'door keeper' for Faith Formation evening events or for morning R.E. classes
75. Volunteer at the parish festival in the summer
76. Hold a 'Mom & Dad's Night Out' babysitting event at the school during Nov-Dec so parents can go Christmas Shopping
77. Plan a parish movie night
78. Volunteer or collect items for Holy Family Shelter (for homeless families)-- [www.holyfamilyshelter.net](http://www.holyfamilyshelter.net)
79. Knit/ crochet hats for babies of young mothers
80. Help with Fish Fry's, Stations, and or Soup Suppers - Fridays during Lent
81. Help with cleaning the church (contact the Faith Formation Office for details)
82. Help with babysitting for families who want to attend adult education opportunities.
83. Bring recycled paper and cans to church and put in respective recycling containers
84. Start a clown-troupe to perform in children's homes and nursing homes
85. Help plan and run a Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Service
86. Pray at abortion clinic on 86<sup>th</sup> St. during 40 Days for Life
87. Help plan/lead a middle school or 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat (more details to come)
88. Help with food during the 9<sup>th</sup> grade retreat (May 7, 2023)
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 others in the youth group and school
91. Make Christmas stockings for prisoners
92. Volunteer at St. Elizabeth/Coleman-- [www.stelizabeths.org](http://www.stelizabeths.org)
93. Orchestrate a church clean-up day
94. Organize Souper Bowl Sunday Collection after Masses
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 an elementary/family retreat
99. Make sleeping bags for the homeless:  
<http://thesleepingbagproject.org/Home.html>

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](mailto:ebedel@saintsusanna.com)



# Key Dates for Confirmation

Small Group Sundays: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

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

## **Sunday, October 2 – Sponsor Information Report**

### **November 5-6 – Reflections Confirmation Retreat**

- Registration for retreat – 1:00 p.m. on Nov. 5 @ Bradford Woods
- Parents Responsible for Transportation to and from Retreat
- Pick-up from Retreat – 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6

## **Sunday, November 20- Confirmation Saint Online Report**

### **Sunday, February 6, 2023- Letters Due**

- Final Typed Copy of Letter to Father Rob Hausladen & a letter for Archbishop Charles Thompson

### **Sunday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.**

- Parents should attend the last 30 minutes of class for a meeting to go over details for Confirmation

### **Rite of Confirmation- Wednesday, April 12, 2023 (date 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

### **Sunday, April 23 -Last Class**

- We will gather to celebrate and reflect on the Confirmation Process & train students to help in various ways during Masses and other ways at the parish now that they're confirmed.

# Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation



**Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

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

Mass will begin at 7:00 p.m.  
Candidates & Sponsors should arrive no later than 5:45 p.m.

## **Dress:**

The Archbishop stresses the following guidelines for proper attire:

## **Males:**

- Collared, banded, or full turtleneck shirts
- A tie is optional, but almost always worn.
  - If a tie is not worn, the top button of your shirt must be buttoned.
- Sports coat/ suit is optional
- Dress pants with a belt.
- Dress shoes and socks

## **Females:**

- Dress pants and blouse OR Dress
- Dresses or skirts of a proper length (may not be more than 2" above the knee)
- Proper necklines for tops/ blouses
- Shoulders must be covered (wear jackets or sweaters over sleeveless dresses)
- Dress shoes



## 2022-2023 Confirmation Candidate- Saint Name

Please complete this form no later than Sunday, November 20, 2022

\*Names must belong to recognized saints by the Catholic Church

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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.americanrzhbhc.org>

Your Full Name (Include middle name)

Confirmation Candidate Family E-MAIL

Confirmation Candidate E-mail

Saint Name

Saint's Feast Day

Saint's place of birth

Please write a paragraph about what is known about the saint's life (family, occupation, key life events/accomplishments, their death)

Explain what virtues this saint practiced in his/her life that you would like to emulate. What aspect of this person's Christian life attracted you to choose them as your Confirmation saint.

How is this saint a model for Christian's today?

Ask your parents how they picked the name you received at birth (your baptismal name). Please describe below:

Submit

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