



St. Thomas More

**Parent Confirmation
Information
2007-2008**

CONFIRMATION DATE

The Bishop will notify us of the date for Confirmation in December. We will send a notice home with the students as well as post the information in the bulletin.

DRESS CODE FOR THE CONFIRMATION MASS

Boys: Dress slacks, dress shirt, tie (jacket or sweater optional)
No jeans, athletic shoes or T-shirts

Girls: Dress, skirt with appropriate sweater or blouse, or pantsuit
Skirts must be at least knee length.
No low cut tops; shoulders must be covered
No tight fitting clothing

Do not wear any ornamentation that denotes non-Christian attitudes and values.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, Whom the Lord sent upon His apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts of the Holy Spirit in those who have been baptized. Those confirmed are true witnesses of Christ and more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

In 1972, the church published the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA stresses the connections between the three sacraments of Christian initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

In Baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life.

In Eucharist, the great sign of Christian unity, the faithful are nourished and strengthened. They are transformed into a more loving and united community of believers. Through these sacramental rites the faithful are officially acknowledged as Christians. They are commissioned to carry out the mission of Christ and His Church.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation time in the parish is a time when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation:

- is celebrated during Mass
- begins after the Liturgy of the Word
- is presided over by the bishop or a designated auxiliary or pastor.

There are four parts to the rite:

- renewal of baptismal vows
- laying on of hands
- anointing with oil
- sign of peace

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS

Parents:

- are the primary educators of their children
- are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- serve as models for their child by being committed Christians
- worship with their families regularly
- nurture their child in faith
- should encourage their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation
- are asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, and Christian service
- can emphasize the importance of the Sacrament of Confirmation by taking an active part in the celebration of Confirmation
- should stress the initiation aspect of the Sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith
- should help their child in understanding that the Confirmation service project is the beginning of a life committed to Christian service.

CANDIDATES PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

Candidates:

- must freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known
- must be in the state of grace
- must have adequate knowledge of the Catholic faith and have participated in required learning sessions
- must be practicing their faith
- should attend Mass and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly
- are responsible for completing all required home study and service projects
- must be aware of the initiation aspect of the Sacrament of Confirmation and be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion
- must be willing to participate in the Confirmation program.

CANDIDATE REVIEW GUIDE

The following topics should already be mastered by anyone entering a Confirmation preparation program. Parents and sponsors should assist candidates in reviewing this material.

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord, your God; you shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Duties of a Catholic Christian

1. To keep holy the day of the Lord's resurrection (Sunday). To worship God by participating in Mass for every Sunday and holy day of obligation. To avoid those activities (like needless work) that would hinder worship, joy, or relaxation.
2. To lead a sacramental life. To receive Holy Communion frequently and the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.
3. To study Catholic teachings in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, to be confirmed, and then to continue to study and advance the cause of Christ.
4. To observe the marriage laws of the Church. To give religious training, by word and example, to one's children. To use parish schools and catechetical programs.
5. To strengthen and support the Church – one's own parish community and parish priests, the worldwide Church, and the Pope.
6. To do penance, including abstaining from meat and fasting from food on the appointed days.
7. To join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church.

Holy Days of Obligation in the United States

1. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: January 1 – We honor Mary, the Mother of God.
2. Ascension: Fortieth day after Easter – Jesus ascended into heaven.
3. Assumption: August 15 – Mary was taken into heaven, body and soul.
4. All Saint's Day: November 1 – We honor all the saints in heaven.
5. Immaculate Conception: December 8 – Mary was free from sin from the first moment of her life.
6. Christmas: December 25 – We celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The Seven Sacraments

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist
4. Reconciliation (Penance)
5. Anointing of the Sick
6. Matrimony
7. Holy Orders

The Cardinal Virtues

Prudence, temperance, justice, fortitude

The Theological Virtues

Faith, hope, love (charity)

Days of Fast (for adults)

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

Days of Abstinence (for all those over age 14)

Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful Mysteries:

The Annunciation
The Visitation
The Nativity
The Presentation in the Temple
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection
The Ascension
The Descent of the Holy Spirit
The Assumption of Mary
The Crowning of Mary as
Queen of Heaven and Earth

Sorrowful Mysteries:

The Agony in the Garden
The Scourging at the Pillar
The Crowning with Thorns
The Carrying of the Cross
The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

Luminous Mysteries:

Baptism of Jesus
Wedding at Cana
Proclamation of the Kingdom
Transfiguration of Jesus
Institution of the Eucharist

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
Visit the sick
Shelter the homeless
Visit the imprisoned
Bury the dead

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ. These gifts are:

1. Wisdom
2. Understanding
3. Counsel - Right Judgment
4. Fortitude – Courage
5. Knowledge
6. Piety - Reverence
7. Fear of the Lord -
Wonder and Awe in God's presence

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Help the sinner
Instruct the ignorant
Counsel the doubtful
Comfort the sorrowing
Bear wrongs patiently
Forgive all injuries
Pray for the living and the dead

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

From the Gifts of the Holy Spirit come the Fruits, which are:

Charity	Long-suffering
Joy	Mildness
Peace	Fortitude
Patience	Modesty
Kindness	Self-control
Goodness	Chastity