

A Confirmation Name

What name will your child choose as his or her Confirmation name? Some use the name given to them at baptism (their name) and some pick the name of a favorite saint. Talk this over with your child. Either way, be sure you child can say *why* he or she picked that name. The Bishop often asks why!

Confirmation Interview

Your child will have a short meeting with Fr Cliff, Deacon Joe, Deacon John and me. This is also a mandated requirement for Confirmation, per the diocese. Please tell them not to worry; this is NOT a test! This is a great way for the kids to ask questions in a small group setting and get to know their clergy. This is worth 1 credit hour!

Required Hours

As you know, each child must complete 30 contact hours to be eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your child has _____ hours. Please be sure to sign them up for upcoming sessions to ensure that the required hours are met. Don't forget, they will get 6 hours for the retreat and 1 hour for the Confirmation interview.

CONFIRMATION DRESS CODE

Girls: Please wear dresses that go to at least the knees. Shoulders are to be covered. If the dress has spaghetti straps, please wear a little bolero sweater to cover the shoulders. Dresses are not to be low cut or revealing. Although heels are allowed, please remember that sometimes they can be challenging to walk in and can also get stuck in the gaps between the tiles. We wouldn't want anyone to trip or fall! So, practicality may be the best option in footwear.

Boys: Please wear dress pants, dress shoes, a dress shirt, and a tie. A suit is recommended but not required.

The dress code also applies to the sponsors, as well. Keep in mind that the Confirmandi will be talking to the Bishop and the sponsors will be with them, so appropriate dress is necessary.

Many add red to their outfit, since red symbolizes the Holy Spirit, whose grace and gifts will be given to them on this very special day!

CONFIRMATION RETREAT, REHEARSAL AND CONFIRMATION:

Your child has to meet the diocesan requirement of a **Confirmation retreat**. Remember that the Confirmation retreat is SATURDAY, MARCH 26 from 12:30-6:30 at St. Augustine's. This includes Mass. We will have the Confirmation Enrollment during the Mass and parents should attend the Mass. If your child is unable to attend this retreat, they will have to attend a retreat with another church at another time. Retreats are mandated by the diocese to be eligible for Confirmation. Please let me know ASAP if you need me to find another retreat for your child.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: since we are one of the last retreats of the year and because of Covid restrictions, it may not be possible to find another retreat for your child to attend. So, please make absolutely every effort to have your child attend this retreat so she or he is eligible for Confirmation.

The retreat is worth 6 credit hours towards the 30 hours needed.

Confirmation is June 4 at 4:00 at St. Mary's. **The rehearsal** will be the night before, June 3, and will start at 6:30 at St. Mary's. Confirmandi (your child) and their sponsors must attend the rehearsal. If the sponsor cannot attend the rehearsal, a parent will have to stand in his or her place. The rehearsal and the Confirmation Mass will both be approximately an hour to an hour and a half.

A letter to the Bishop

The kids will have to write a letter to the Bishop letting him know they want to be confirmed and telling him a bit about themselves. Below is the template. THIS IS DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 10. ***They are to actually sign their names. I cannot accept letters that are not signed and only have their name typewritten.*** All letters must be given to me and I send them as a group. So, please mail me the letter or drop it off at either Parish Office during office hours. THE BISHOP READS EACH AND EVERY LETTER!

Candidate's Address

Most Rev. Douglas Lucia
Bishop's Office
240 E. Onondaga Street
Syracuse, NY 13201-0551
Date

Dear Bishop Lucia,

LETTER SHOULD REQUEST CONFIRMATION

TELL SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF

GIVE EXAMPLES OF SERVICE YOU'VE DONE/THINGS YOU'VE DONE FOR OR WITH THE CHURCH

EXPRESS GRATITUDE TO _____ FOR _____

MENTION CONFIRMATION NAME AND REASON FOR TAKING IT

VOICE HOPES AND CONCERNS FOR THE CHURCH

CONCERNS ABOUT THE PANDEMIC AND HOW IT HAS AFFECTED SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH

KEEP THE BODY OF THE LETTER BRIEF BUT MEANINGFUL

The closing should be respectful for example: Sincerely yours, With prayers, Gratefully yours

What to say during the Sacrament of Confirmation

The Catholic being confirmed stands before the bishop, and the sponsor lays his or her right hand on the right shoulder of the one being confirmed. The Confirmand (one being confirmed) says, "Bishop, my name is _____ and I wish to be confirmed." The name stated should be the Confirmation name, not his or her birth name, unless it is one in the same. The bishop puts Chrism Oil on the person's forehead, says the Confirmand's name aloud, and then says, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." The person responds, "Amen." The bishop then says, "Peace be with you." And the person responds, "And with your spirit." The bishop will then shake the newly confirmed's hand.

***Important: Bishop often asks what made the Confirmand pick that Confirmation name. So be sure to be able to share the reason!