



## 2023-24 Confirmation

**What happens at the Sacrament of Confirmation?** The baptized become more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. They, as witnesses of Christ, are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

### Requirements to present oneself to be confirmed

The candidate should:

1. Be baptized Catholic. In addition, they should have celebrated the Sacrament of Eucharist in the Catholic Church or made a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church if the child was baptized in another denomination.
2. Be an 8th grade student in the Parish Religious Education Program or school or other Catholic school in the diocese.
3. Be in a state of grace. This means that you are free from sin. The Sacrament of Reconciliation should be celebrated prior to reception of the Sacrament.
4. Intend to be confirmed. This means that it is not the wish of the parents, rather the desire of the candidate. The candidate must embrace all that it means to be a true disciple of Jesus and be willing to train for a life of service and ministry to the Church and the world as a witness of Christ.

### The Formation Process at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Parish:

The Confirmation formation process is multifaceted and intentional in structure. We ask that the families adhere to the requirements so that the children yield the maximum benefits. The formation process consists of coursework, performing works of mercy, a retreat experience and ongoing mentoring by a sponsor.

### Registration:

Please complete a registration form found on the parish website and provide the required documentation. We will not be able to present a candidate for confirmation without the required documentation. Registrations ensure that you receive updated information pertaining to the Sacrament. We must have a record of Baptism and First Holy Communion at this time as well.

**Rite of Enrollment:**

At the beginning of the formation process candidates will attend a Sunday liturgy and declare their desire to take seriously the Confirmation formation and discernment. The parish community will pray for them as they begin the process. Promise Pledges are turned in at this time!

**Catechesis:****Youth**

All candidates for Confirmation must either attend a Catholic School or be enrolled in the Family Faith Program at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns. If you attend a Catholic School other than St. Patrick of Heatherdowns, then you will need to attend several Religious Education Sessions beginning in November in order to receive the Confirmation Prep.

**Parent**

There are two sessions for Parent Catechesis as part of the formation process. One is in January and the other is in February. If you did not have a child celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2023 at least one parent must attend both sessions. Sponsors are also welcome, but not required to attend.

**Sponsor Selection and Requirements and Responsibilities**

*"The sponsor's function is to take care that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this Sacrament."* Canon 892

**The following requirements are necessary in order for a person to fulfill the role of sponsor:**

1. The sponsor must be 16 years of age or older.
2. The sponsor should have received the three Sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist
3. The sponsor should participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy days of obligation in the Catholic Church; and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly.
4. The sponsor should actively strive to live out their commitment to Christ and to the community life of the Church.
5. If married, the sponsor should be validly married according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
6. The sponsor should not be the father or mother of the candidate.

**We ask that the sponsor be selected by October 1. In addition, we need a letter of "good standing" from the parish of the sponsor by Oct 16.**

**Sponsor Responsibilities:**

Sponsors should attend a meeting at the parish in November for guidance and clarification on their responsibilities. In addition, they should meet at least two times with their candidate as well as engage in works of mercy with their candidate. The meetings can be in person, over

Zoom/Google Meet, or on the telephone. I will provide guidance to the sponsor on what to cover in the meetings during the November meeting.

Sponsors are also asked to write a letter to the parish stating that their candidate is indeed ready to celebrate the sacrament. Directives for the letter will also be provided.

### **Retreat**

Our Parish Confirmation Retreat is on a Saturday morning in October. If you are not able to attend our retreat, we have arranged for you to attend the retreat at St. Joseph in Sylvania Parish. If you can not attend that retreat, then you need to seek out another retreat that fits your schedule. A retreat is required prior to celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation.

### **Works of Mercy:**

Candidates are asked to show that they are living a life of Mercy. Living the Works of Mercy is one of the most concrete expressions of discipleship. To help with this, St. Patrick of Heatherdowns Parish is running a Service Saturday Program! The 2nd Saturday of each month September- March , we will run a two hour service project connected to a work of Mercy. The Sponsor or a parent is highly encouraged to attend. Each Confirmation Candidate should plan on attending at least one Service Saturday event. Other Works of Mercy are permitted with documentation of the Work of Mercy. Forms are provided on the website. The goal is to achieve 6 hours of service prior to celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation to help get you in the habit of living a life of Christian service. I have provided a handout to help you understand acceptable Works of Mercy as you set out to concretely witness your faith! If you do your Works of Mercy during the Service Saturday program no additional documentation will be required. If you choose to do your Works of Mercy through another program, please submit the service hour form to Anita Francis at [Anita.Francis@toledostpats.org](mailto:Anita.Francis@toledostpats.org)

### **Confirmation Interview:**

Each candidate will meet with Fr. Mark or one of his designated staff members to make sure that they are well prepared for the Sacrament. Two dates will be provided for interviews and families will be asked to register for a time. The interview is approximately 30 minutes long.

### **Confirmation Name:**

Each candidate will pick a saint that will serve as a role model in living the faith. It is strongly encouraged that the candidate choose their Baptismal name, but only if it is the name of a saint. The Parent and candidate must sign the name form. Because of the fact that name tags must be printed in advance in order to present the candidate to the bishop we will not be able to accommodate Confirmation name changes. We will assign the names of Mary the Blessed Mother for a girl candidate and St. Patrick for a boy candidate if we do not have your name forms by the due date. I have provided a list of names to help you in the selection process.

## **Stations of the Cross**

The Sacrament of Confirmation candidates will have the honor of leading the parish in praying the Stations of the Cross during lent. This is an important part of formation in that it provides an opportunity to take a leadership role in the Church. Scripts will be provided and a rehearsal will occur. The Stations are on the 4th Wednesday of March.