



St. Aloysius Parish Confirmation Class of 2017 St. Aloysius School

What happens in Confirmation?

To be Confirmed means to make a "covenant" with God. The Confirmand says, Yes, I believe in you, my God; give me your Holy Spirit, so that I might belong entirely to you and never be separated from you and may witness to you through my whole life, body and soul, in my words and deeds, on good days and bad." And God says, "Yes, I believe in you, too, my child--and I will give you my spirit, my very self. I will belong entirely to you. I will never separate myself from you, in this life or eternally in the next. I will be in your body and your soul, in your works and deeds. Even if you forget me, I will still be there--on good days and bad."¹

Welcome to Level 2 of your Confirmation Preparation program! Please mark your calendar for the following dates:

Confirmation Retreat – Saturday, January 21, 2017
Two sessions 9 am – 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm – 5 pm
Mandatory for all students & either sponsor or parent

Confirmation Mass – Saturday, TBD at 9:30 am and 1:00 pm
In the fall, your Mass time will be assigned.
The school will all be assigned the same Mass.

Between now and spring 2017, in order to be best prepared to receive the fullness of the Sacramental Grace that is available to you in the Sacrament of Confirmation you need to:

- † Invite someone to be your Confirmation Sponsor,
- † Choose a Saint to be your patron and model and write a "Saint report",
- † Choose a Confirmation Name,
- † Fulfill your St. Aloysius School service requirement,
- † Attend a Confirmation Retreat,
- † Attend all St. Aloysius religious education special events,
- † Have a sincere desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to communicate this to Fr. Kinnally, our Pastor next year and
- † Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation just prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

¹ YouCat; Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, Ignatius Press, 205

Confirmation Sponsors

"Choosing a Confirmation sponsor is important, and the Church spells out some basic requirements. A sponsor needs to be mature, a member of the Catholic Church, and already fully initiated through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. When a baptismal godparent also serves as the Confirmation sponsor, it clearly shows the connection between Baptism and Confirmation, and strengthens an existing relationship."²

But these are just minimal requirements. The word "*sponsor*" comes from the same root as "responsible," and a well-chosen sponsor can help you grow in your faith. Don't pick a sponsor because he's a lot of fun or she hasn't had a turn yet. **Pick a sponsor who is actively practicing his or her faith and who will assist you as you prepare for Confirmation**, present you to the bishop for anointing and support you in the years ahead as you discover how the gifts of the Holy Spirit are unfolding in your life."³

Please approach this decision seriously. Pray about it!

According to the Code of Canon Law a Confirmation sponsor must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be at least 16 years old at the time of Confirmation,
2. Must not be your parent,
3. Must be Confirmed in the Catholic Church and
4. Must live a life in accordance with the Catholic faith and appropriate to the duty they have taken on.

Please complete the attached Sponsor Information Sheet and bring it to Mrs. Nisco the first day of the school year.

If the person that you invite to be your sponsor is a registered parishioner here at St. Aloysius they do not need a Sponsor Certificate.

If your sponsor is not a St. Aloysius parishioner they must then go to the parish where they are registered and obtain a Sponsor Certificate and send it to you.

- † Please have your sponsor send you the ORIGINAL sponsor certificate. We cannot accept copies. Attach it to your *Confirmation Sponsor Form*
- † If your sponsor is not able to attend your Confirmation, you can ask someone else to be the proxy. A proxy stands in for the sponsor and must meet all of the same requirements of the sponsor. We will need a sponsor certificate for your proxy if they are not parishioners of St. Aloysius.

² Brian Singer-Towns, *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth*, Saint Mary's Press, 169

³ Ibid

Choose a Saint to be your patron and model

One of the traditional practices of the Church is to choose a "Confirmation saint", a saint to inspire you for the rest of your life on your Christian journey. This saint will be your "patron saint".

In the Apostles Creed we say I believe in the Communion of Saints. "The Communion of Saints is like us! They are our ancestors, our teachers, our friends, our siblings. They are real, truly human. They are sinners, they are repentant children of God."⁴

"The saints lived on this earth and experienced suffering, joy, pain, broken promises, peace, frustration, war, injury, heart-break... they know our hearts. But mostly, they know what it takes to be united with God here on this messy earth. They know what it takes to live well for Him."⁵

Did the lives of any of the saints that you read about last year in class speak to you? Were you named after a saint? Check out LifeTeen's "[Biggest and Best List of Confirmation Saints](#)".

This summer pick out a Saint to become your "prayer buddy" and your patron. Someone for you to pray to Jesus with, someone who is actually there in heaven with him! Get to know your saint. What were they like when they were your age? What made them a saint? Did they have a lot of brothers and sisters? In the fall you will need to write a one-page report about your saint but for the summer, get to know them.

"We choose a Confirmation saint (like we choose a Confirmation sponsor) not out of due diligence to the "rule," but rather because we realize how unfortunate it would be to travel alone."⁶

Choose a Confirmation Name

A Confirmation name is usually the name of their patron saint or their baptismal name. It also can be the name of someone they admire for being a strong Christian witness, such as the first name of their Confirmation name.

- Genders do not have to match up - i.e boys can have a girls name and visa versa.
- It is the first name only, ex. If they would like to take the name of their patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi; the Confirmation name would be Francis.

Please review your child's spelling - it will go on their name badge that they will wear on Confirmation day.

⁴ Rachel Penate, *Lifeteen*, <http://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

Level 2 Summer Confirmation Checklist

1. Invite someone to be your Confirmation Sponsor,
2. If your sponsor is not from St. Aloysius, ask them to get a Sponsor Certificate from their parish and attach it to your Confirmation Sponsor Form,
3. If your family is not a parishioner at St. Aloysius ask your pastor for a letter giving you permission to be Confirmed at St. Aloysius,
4. Choose a Saint to be your patron and model and start to learn about them,
5. Complete the Confirmation Sponsor Form.
6. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

**ATTEND SUNDAY MASS
WHEREVER YOU MAY BE!**

Please check the religious education page of our parish website in the summer if you are looking for these dates. Also, copies of this letter and your sponsor form will also be on the religious education page of our website. The website is www.starcc.com.