



St. Patrick of Heatherdowns

Confirmation Program Information

2024-2025

Sacramental Preparation for the Rite of Confirmation

Why do we celebrate Confirmation?

To be Confirmed means to make a “covenant” in an exchange of persons with God. In this covenant, we are given the gifts of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety and the spirit of the fear of the Lord.

At 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 obligated to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

The church also speaks of the Fruits of the Spirit. These are the good things that result when we allow ourselves to be deeply guided by the Holy Spirit. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Chastity, and Self-Control. What beautiful gifts your student will receive to guide them as they grow into an adult member of the church.

How do I help my student choose a sponsor?

Please guide your candidate to choose someone who is truly a role-model of the catholic faith. The sponsor should be selected prior to the retreat. Ideally, the sponsor will be able to meet the candidate and participate fully in the formation process. Once the sponsor is selected there is a sponsor form that will need completed and returned to the Office of Youth Formation. Forms will have the due date highlighted on them each year. If your sponsor is from another parish, and not from St. Patrick of Heatherdowns, we ask for a letter of good standing from the parish the sponsor is a member of.

“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 for a person to serve as a sponsor:

1. The sponsor must not be younger than 16 years of age
2. The sponsor should have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist in the Catholic Church.
3. The sponsor should participate in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days in the Catholic Church and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance regularly.
4. The sponsor should actively strive to live out their commitment to Christ and community life of the Church.
5. The sponsor should not be the mother or father of the candidate.

What is Required of my student in the Formation Process?

The Confirmation process of St. Patrick of Heatherdowns is multifaceted and intentional in structure. We ask that families adhere to the requirements so that the student yields the maximum benefits possible. The formation process consists of course work, a retreat experience, living a life of service, and ongoing mentoring by a sponsor.

Religious Education Students: are required to be properly formed in the faith prior to their Confirmation. They must attend and pass either our hybrid or homeschool religious education class in both their 7th and 8th grade year. They must attend the Confirmation retreat in October and they must complete meaningful service hours; attending at least two of our service events, and be a part of our Stations of the Cross production.

Academy Students: are required to join our hybrid 8th grade fall religious education program starting in January, this will be five sessions and then stations of the cross on the 26th of March. They must attend the Confirmation retreat in October, and they must complete meaningful service hours; attending at least two of our service events, and be a part of our Stations of the Cross.

Saint Patrick of Heatherdowns students: must attend the retreat in October, Complete meaningful service hours; attending 2 of our service events, take part in our stations of the Cross, and participate in supplemental Sacramental Prep on top of their normal theology class.

What is required of me as a parent?

Parents are asked to participate in two catechesis sessions that are part of the process. Additionally we encourage sponsors to attend when able. In these sessions the parents of the candidates will learn some basic theology behind the Sacrament as well as tips on how to prepare the candidate for Confirmation at home. The dates of these sessions are: **October 9th 6-7:15 pm** and **February 26th from 7-8:15 pm**, both of these sessions will take place in the Holy Family Center

What is the Service requirement?

Candidates will be asked to participate in meaningful works of service as part of the formation process. This will include attending at least two of our parish service events, as well as outside acts of service. They will document this in their works of Mercy log located on the website. If you have any additional questions on this please reach out.