

St. Francis Borgia Parish

Family Handbook For:
Confirmation
7th Grade



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
You have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit help us choose what is right
And always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK

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General Information and Requirements

- 1) The period of preparation for Confirmation Candidates is two years.
- 2) Parents should be active participants in the Confirmation process with their child. See 'Getting into the Spirit at Home" sheet for additional at-home activities.
- 3) The preparation will include two retreats; the 7th & 8th grade Lock-In and a full day retreat in 8th grade.
- 4) Confirmation Candidates must attend Sunday Mass regularly.
- 5) After Confirmation, parents should continue to show the importance of this Sacrament by emphasizing the importance of regular Penance and Communion.
- 6) Preparation will include service to family, church, and community.
- 7) Candidates should recognize that Confirmation should help to integrate them into the Parish and that their service to the Parish should continue after the Sacrament is received.
- 8) Candidates, with the help of their parents, will need to choose one Sponsor. See Sponsor sheet for more information.
- 9) Confirmation is a re-affirming or Con-firming of Baptism; that is, it completes, strengthens, and brings to maturity what Baptism started. It is appropriate to keep the Baptism name; however, the candidate may choose to take a new name. The students will study different Saints and write a report on the Saint whose name they have decided to take as their Confirmation name.
- 10) Class attendance is required. Candidates will be allowed 3 excused absences. Beyond 3 excused absences, class time will need to be made up through tutoring.
- 11) Candidates will complete an interview with the parish priest.

- 12) Candidates being presented to the Bishop must recognize the importance of this Sacrament in their choice of dress. Girls must wear dresses or skirts, appropriate for church and dress shoes. Boys must wear dress pants (no cargos or jeans), dress shirts (no t-shirts), a tie, and dress shoes.
- 13) Confirmation is NOT an end of spiritual growth, but a beginning to a deeper level of spirituality and a closer relationship to Jesus.

We are looking forward to assisting you on this important journey in your child's spirituality! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher, Father Damien, or Sinéad Chaffee

God bless you and your Confirmation Candidate during this very special time!

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402-426-3823
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Sinéad Chaffee
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Confirmation Roles and Responsibilities

Candidate: The person earnestly interested in completing initiation into the Catholic Church.

Responsible for:

- Entering the journey with a willing heart and an open mind.
 - Maintaining an open and honest relationship with instructors, parents, and sponsors.
 - Committing oneself to personal prayer and supporting classmates on their Faith journey.
 - Attending all entrance information meetings.
 - Attending all Parent/Student/Sponsor Nights, all learning sessions and one Retreat.
 - Participating in service work.
 - Celebrating Rite of Enrollment Mass and Confirmation Mass.
 - After Confirmation, sharing new knowledge and experience with the community.
-

Sponsor: A person who has already celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church, recognizes his/her role as a representative of the larger Christian community, and is complementary to the parent's role in the candidate's life. Someone supportive of the candidate throughout the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and after as one committed to a life in the Holy Spirit. If the Sponsor cannot physically be there, the candidates will need a local Mentor to be there for them throughout their time of preparation.

Responsible for:

- Modeling commitment to personal prayer, community worship, and ministry expected by a mature Christian.
- Attending Rite of Enrollment Mass, Rehearsal and Confirmation, possibly Spring Retreat.
- Working with the candidate on the preparation process through discussions with the candidate.

- Working with the candidate to resolve any questions, concerns, or confusion, which might arise during the preparation process.
 - Sharing with the candidate his/her own faith experiences and struggles in their faith journey.
 - Praying for the candidate's spiritual growth and decision concerning the celebration of Confirmation.
-

Parent: Adult responsible for the candidate.

Responsible for:

- Providing primary education of candidate in matters of faith.
 - Modeling commitment to personal prayer, Mass attendance, community service, and ministry expected by a mature Christian.
 - Being actively involved in the Sacramental preparation of the candidate.
 - Attending all entrance information meetings and the Rite of Enrollment Mass, volunteering to help at various activities throughout the year, and attending Rehearsal and Confirmation Mass.
-

Program Director: The person providing the framework and support for the preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Responsible for:

- Working with the Pastor and parish to provide a preparation program and train Catechists.
- Notifying potential candidates about the preparation program.
- Communicating regularly with the candidates about the program requirements.
- Communicating with parents, sponsors/mentors, and parish regarding the candidates' progress and any upcoming program details.
- Working with the parish Liturgy Committee on the planning, rehearsal, and Liturgy for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Parish: Local Christian Catholic community that supports the candidates through prayer and other parish resources.

Responsible for:

- Supplying candidates with the necessary materials to complete the program of instruction.
 - Praying for the candidates.
 - Supporting the confirmands in nurturing the new awareness that the young people have gained about their faith.
-

Pastor: Leader of local Christian community.

Responsible for:

- Guiding the parish, program director, catechists, parents, and sponsors/mentors through their duties to the candidates, possibly assuming some of those duties as necessary.
- Recognizing parents as the primary educators of the candidates.

Sponsor Information

The Right Sponsor Makes the Difference

Every year thousands of young people prepare for Confirmation. Although the young people come to the Confirmation classes faithfully and are confirmed, the leaders of the Church still complain, "We are losing our young people!" What can we do to keep our young people involved in the Church?

Young people, who have a commitment to Jesus and who try to keep that commitment, need the example of adult Christians. Sometimes the adults are parents, relatives, or friends. However, according to hundreds of young people questioned, the answer is sponsorship.

The RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS states that each candidate must have a sponsor in order to show the candidate, in a realistic and practical way, the place of the Gospel in his or her own life and in society, to help with doubts or anxieties, to give public testimony for the candidate, and to watch over the progress of the baptismal life. These norms can be useful in determining sponsors for the Confirmation process.

Reverend Ray Kemp, a priest in the city of Washington, D.C., has implemented the adult catechumenate in his parish for several years. He makes a point that the sponsor should be chosen, or at least validated, by the parish. The parish must make it clear that sponsorship carries more responsibilities than merely appearing on the scene at Confirmation; sponsorship should be a lifelong commitment.

Often, the people most willing to serve as sponsors are young people who have recently been confirmed. The idea of youth ministering to youth is a valuable one; and the enthusiasm of such recent candidate is invaluable. Perhaps one caution is to avoid asking people to sponsor more than one person, since the commitment is lifelong and sponsorship of a different candidate each year or two minimizes the role.

The following are qualifications of a **sponsor**:

- The sponsor must be a person of faith and confirmed Catholic in good standing.
- The sponsor should reflect Christian values in word, worship, and service.
- The sponsor is encouraged to attend the Spring Retreat.
- The sponsor must be willing to meet personally with the candidate to discuss that candidate's prayer life and to share faith and prayer.
- The sponsor must be willing to attend all liturgical rites of the confirmation process.

The purpose of the candidate and sponsor relationship is to lead the candidate into a deeper relationship with Jesus. The faith sharing that occurs between candidate and sponsor builds their relationship and enables the candidate to accept the Holy Spirit more freely. As the candidate and sponsor share experiences of the past, explore the meaning of the present and set goals for the future, they affirm one another in their journey of faith.

The Sponsor in Confirmation

The following information may be useful in selecting a Confirmation sponsor and in understanding the rationale of the Church for the role of the sponsor.

1. WHY DO YOU NEED A SPONSOR FOR CONFIRMATION?

I need a sponsor for Confirmation to encourage me to live up to the Catholic religion.

2. WHAT IS REQUESTED OF YOUR SPONSOR IN CONFIRMATION?

My sponsor in Confirmation must:

- Be Confirmed and sixteen years of age.
- Have the use of reason and the intention of acting as a sponsor.
- Be a good Catholic and not excommunicated (for instance, not married outside the Catholic Church).
- Be a person chosen by me, my parent, or guardian.

3. ARE THERE ANY OTHER CONDITIONS THAT YOUR SPONSOR MUST FULFILL?

Unless there is good reason and the Bishop or Pastor gives his permission otherwise, the sponsor must:

- Be more than sixteen years old and Confirmed.
- Know the chief teachings of the Church.

The sponsor may be

- A Godparent, a family member, not necessarily of the same sex, **but not a parent.**
- A member of the clergy.

4. HOW MANY SPONSORS ARE NEEDED FOR CONFIRMATION?

There should be one sponsor for each person that is confirmed. The individual sponsor need not be present at the ceremony. When the confirmations are permanently recorded in the Parish Register, the chosen sponsor will be shown. It is, however, necessary for a representative of the sponsor to be present at the Confirmation.

5. WHY SHOULD YOUR SPONSOR BE A GOOD CATHOLIC?

Your sponsor should be a Catholic in good standing because:

- Of the honor given his or her of presenting me to the Bishop.
- He or she must always think of me as under his or her special care.
- He or she must see that I learn what the Catholic Church teaches and serve as an example to me during my growth into adulthood.

Getting into the Spirit at Home

Confirmation is an important right of passage for young teens. It is a call to conversion and discipleship and can enrich the faith life of the whole family. The following are some suggestions to help get your household into the spirit of Confirmation.

1. **Remember your Baptism** – Confirmation continues the process of initiation into God's family which began with baptism. Celebrate your baptism by taking out pictures, baptismal certificates, or mementos of your own or the Confirmand's baptism. Put these in a prominent place. Have a special dinner or give a small present on the anniversary of baptism. Attend a family or friend's baptism and ask your child to make a special card for the newly baptized child or adult. Have your child write to godparents describing his or her Confirmation process.
2. **Take a Sponsor to Lunch** – Choose a Confirmation sponsor early in the preparation time. Invite him or her for dinner or go to lunch together. Ask him or her to attend Mass with your family on the Confirmand's birthday or other special days. Invite the sponsor to write a letter or send some greeting of encouragement to the child throughout the period of preparation for Confirmation.
3. **Adopt a Saint** – As a family, adopt your child's patron saint for the year. Check out information about the saint. Place a picture, statue, or medal of the saint in a special place at home. Include the saint in your family prayer at meals or bedtime.
4. **Share the Spirit** – Confirmation calls Christians to discipleship. As a family, choose some special service to the community to participate in together during Confirmation preparation. Consider soup kitchens, nursing homes, food pantries or special needs in the neighborhood, extended family, or community. Decide together what you will do, how often, and for how long.
5. **Give Praise for Progress** – During the months of Confirmation preparation, follow your child's progress carefully. Each week set aside a special time to look at texts or papers the Confirmand is using in class. Point out positive growth you see in your child and decide together how you will take part in his or her preparation.

6. **Get out the Gifts** – In preparing for Confirmation, Christians are encouraged to pray for and develop the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in themselves. There are seven of them: Knowledge, Understanding, Right Judgment, Courage, Wisdom, Reverence, and Wonder and Awe. In a permanent place, post the gifts and talk about one each week. Your child's teacher will have information to help you "unpack" the gifts. You can
- a) Watch a movie or television show together and point out when characters use the gifts (or do not use them).
 - b) You can choose one gift a week on which to focus. At dinner or bedtime, share how you used the particular gift that day, or how you might use it tomorrow.
 - c) Make a list of persons that your family regards as "heroes" or "saints." Talk about what gifts that you think that they have and how they use them.

Reflections

REFLECTION 1: *Making the Decision*

Deciding to be **confirmed** is a choice after prayer, reflection, and discussion with parents or guardians. Use this page to help you make your decision. Ask the Spirit to be with you as you read, reflect, and write. Since no answer is “wrong”, write honestly about what you think.

Who is God for me? (Some common responses: parent, friend, creator, judge, guide, provide, etc.)

What does being a member of the Catholic Church mean to me?

How would preparing for Confirmation and being Confirmed help me?

Why is being Confirmed important?

REFLECTION 2: *Choosing a Sponsor*

Your sponsor will be a Christian role model and a faith companion as you prepare for Confirmation. These questions can help you choose a sponsor who will help you as you grow toward Christian adulthood. After you have completed these questions, pray, reflect, and discuss your considerations with your parents or guardians.

List a few people you might choose to be a Confirmation sponsor.

(Remember that your sponsor must be at least 16 years old and a practicing, Confirmed Catholic who is not your Mother or Father.)

What do I admire about each person I listed above?

Why would each of these people be a good sponsor?

With which people listed would I feel comfortable discussing my faith journey?

Spend some time talking to the person(s) you are considering. Ask them these questions:

- Do you remember your Confirmation and your preparation? What was it like?
- Do you find God in your life? How? Where?
- What does the Church mean to you?
- Who is Jesus for you?

REFLECTION 3: *Choosing a Confirmation Name*

Your Confirmation name will reflect your desire to grow in your relationship with God and to use the power of the Holy Spirit to be a disciple of Jesus. Use the questions below to help you make a wise choice for your Confirmation name. Some research will need to be done to answer these questions. Pray, reflect, and write. Choose the name that is best for you!

List several names that you might choose as a Confirmation name.

Why would you choose each name? (For example, is there someone you admire associated with the name; do you like the meaning behind the name; is it a hero or favorite saint name?)

What is the meaning of each name you listed?

What did you learn about these names that really caught your interest?

Which names will be most meaningful for you in your relationship with God and in your search for the Holy Spirit?

REFLECTION 4: *Preparing for Service*

"I can do all things in God who strengthens me." Saint Paul (Philippians 4:14)

What talents do you have that can be used in the service of others?
(Check those that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> cooking, baking	<input type="checkbox"/> organization skills	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> artistic	<input type="checkbox"/> making crafts	<input type="checkbox"/> hard working
<input type="checkbox"/> reading aloud	<input type="checkbox"/> listening	<input type="checkbox"/> handy with tools
<input type="checkbox"/> telling jokes	<input type="checkbox"/> patience with children	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Check areas in which you are interested in serving.

<input type="checkbox"/> yard work	<input type="checkbox"/> work at a soup kitchen
<input type="checkbox"/> visit shut-ins	<input type="checkbox"/> work on a church committee
<input type="checkbox"/> make cards for the sick	<input type="checkbox"/> help scout troop
<input type="checkbox"/> baby-sit	<input type="checkbox"/> manager for a sports team
<input type="checkbox"/> read to younger children	<input type="checkbox"/> tutor someone after school
<input type="checkbox"/> sing in Church choir	<input type="checkbox"/> clean for the elderly
<input type="checkbox"/> help with projects at home	<input type="checkbox"/> rake leaves/shovel snow for needy
<input type="checkbox"/> serve at parish gatherings	<input type="checkbox"/> roadside cleanup
<input type="checkbox"/> run errands for elderly	<input type="checkbox"/> volunteer at an animal shelter
<input type="checkbox"/> assist-PRE or Tutus Tuus	<input type="checkbox"/> teacher's aide
<input type="checkbox"/> serve/greet/usher at Mass	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

A variety of service activities are possible, fun, and meaningful. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate with their child in their service activities. Candidates are to complete a minimum of ten hours in the three areas of Church, Community, and Home. Candidates are not to receive compensation for the service they do. At the completion of each service project, please date and list the project done and the hours involved and reflect on whom you helped and how you felt about the service you provided. You also need to obtain the signature of the person/organization that you served. This information is to be put on the attached sheets and turned into your PRE teacher.

Service Hours

IDEAS

Confirmation Candidates are required to complete 20 hours of service to be divided into 10 hours in 7th grade and 10 hours in 8th grade.

The following are the areas of service required and some suggestions on projects to complete them. The students may have great ideas of their own! We encourage them to choose projects that are meaningful to them!

Parish Service (4 hours each year)

- 1) Knights of Columbus pancake feeds. These are usually once a month. Watch the bulletin for dates. Just show up and report to a Knight for an assignment.
- 2) Altar Serving
- 3) Helping with children at 1st Confession (when needed)– Entertaining siblings of 1st Confession students in the basement during the Ceremony.
- 4) Annual BBQ event
- 5) Assisting with PRE or Sunday School
- 6) PRE or Sunday School Christmas Party
- 7) Assisting Celebration Committee
- 8) Parish Thanksgiving Dinner
- 9) Class service projects
- 10) Youth Choir
- 11) Living Stations of the Cross

Community Service (3 hours each year)

- 1) Recycling Center
- 2) Joseph's Coat
- 3) Food Pantry
- 4) Helping a Neighbor – babysitting or yard work for free
- 5) Serving at Open Door Mission
- 6) Nursing Homes
- 7) Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Family Service (3 hours each year)

- 1) Babysitting
- 2) House or yard work
- 3) Cleaning the car
- 4) Assisting in the care of a grandparent
- 5) Anything that is above your normal responsibilities, done for free and that helps your family.

When a project is completed, you should fill out one of the enclosed Service Hour Reports and have your hours signed by the person for whom you did the project and/or parent.

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA
7th GRADE SERVICE HOURS – FAMILY REPORT

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project: _____

Project Location: _____

Signature of Person overseeing service: _____

Why did you pick this activity?

How did it help your family? How did it help you?

Thinking about this project, what new actions or attitudes do you want to incorporate into your life?

**ST. FRANCIS BORGIA
7TH GRADE SERVICE HOURS – PARISH REPORT**

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project: _____

Project Location: _____

Signature of Person overseeing service (or parent signature):

=====

Why did you pick this activity?

How did it help your parish? How did it help you?

Thinking about this project, what new actions or attitudes do you want to incorporate into your life?

**ST. FRANCIS BORGIA
7TH GRADE SERVICE HOURS – EXTENDED COMMUNITY
REPORT**

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Project: _____

Project Location: _____

Signature of Person overseeing service (or parent signature):

=====

Why did you pick this activity?

How did it help your community? How did it help you?

Thinking about this project, what new actions or attitudes do you want to incorporate into your life?

Confirmation Information Form

Baptismal Information: Before your child receives Confirmation, it is necessary that we have a copy of his or her Baptismal Certificate. This information will be permanently recorded in our Parish records after Confirmation. We will return your Baptismal Certificate as soon as it is verified.

Along with the Baptismal information, it is necessary to have other information concerning your child. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page and return it to your child's teacher.

RETURN TO YOUR TEACHER

Please Print Clearly

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA CONFIRMATION FORM

Please fill this form out carefully, as the information from it will be used on the cards, which will be given to the Archbishop at the Confirmation Mass.

Name: _____ **Grade:** _____ **Age:** _____

Date of Birth: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name of Sponsor: _____

Confirmation Name: _____

Father's Name (First and Last): _____

Mother's Maiden Name (First and Last): _____

Church of Baptism: _____

Church of Baptism Address: _____

Date of Baptism: _____

Received First Communion at St. Francis Borgia? _____ **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Address of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Sponsor Sheet

Sponsor Certificate

(this section is to be completed by the Sponsor's Parish Priest)



Candidate for confirmation, requests the
following information for their sponsor.

Student's Name _____

This is to certify that _____

_____ Is a registered member of this parish.

_____ Committed to the practice of his/her faith.

_____ Has received the Sacrament of Confirmation

_____ If married; has he/she been married according
to the laws of the church.

Signature of Priest _____

Parish _____

City, State _____

Date & Parish Seal _____

Please Return to

*St. Francis Borgia Religious Ed
2005 Davis Drive Blair, NE 68008*

Confirmation Paperwork Checklist

The following can be used as a checklist of items that are required as part of the Confirmation process.

7th grade:

- ___ Baptismal Certificate **(due ASAP)**
- ___ Blue Information Sheet **(due when Saint and Sponsor are chosen)**
- ___ Service Hours – 7th Grade Family (Home)
- ___ Service Hours – 7th Grade Parish
- ___ Service Hours – 7th Grade Extended Community
- ___ Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility **(due March 2021)**

8th grade:

- ___ Saint Paper **(due December 2021)**
- ___ Sponsor Interview **(due January 2022)**
- ___ Service Hours – 8th Grade Family (Home)
- ___ Service Hours – 8th Grade Parish Report
- ___ Service Hours – 8th Grade Extended Community
- ___ Letter to Archbishop **(due February 2022)**