

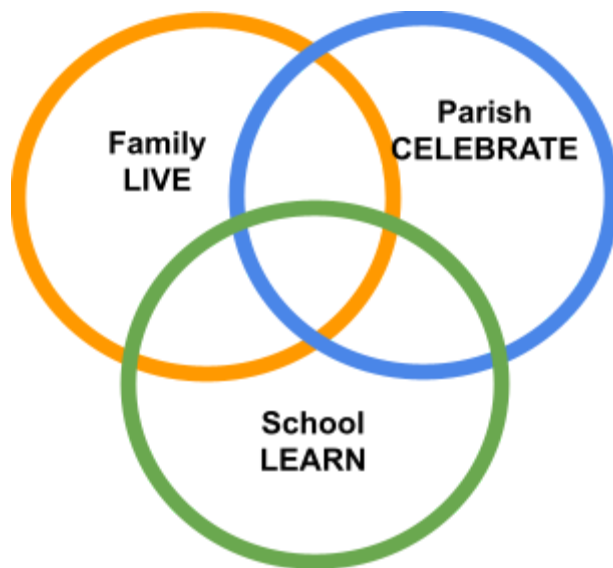
Answers to frequently asked questions about Confirmation in our parish

Roles of Parents, the School and the Parish

You, as parents share a special responsibility in the preparation for Confirmation. It is within your family that faith is lived. If the preparation is limited to what happens at school, the children will know about the Sacrament, but it will not be a significant time in their life.

We are a community and as such, you are invited to join with other families to support your children at this special time. Does this mean you are expected to be an expert? No.

This is a time for you to grow closer to your child by sharing your wisdom, memories and lived experience.



Parish Responsibility

Organise the sacramental program
Celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation

School Responsibility

Plan and teach an educational unit.
Explore structure, symbols, actions, words, meanings and significance.

Family Responsibility

Sacramental way of living - gather for meals at table, belonging, remembering, sacramental artefacts, community.
Joining a family group for preparation.
Attending church as a family.

Baptism

All children being confirmed need to have been baptised into the Catholic Faith. This is usually done when children are babies but many people are baptised as school age children or even adults. If you are unsure about your child's baptism, you are welcome to discuss this with Fr Michael.

Confirmation Name

All candidates will take a Confirmation name that is used during the Rite of Confirmation. This name is chosen by your child and should be a saint's name. The saint should be someone who displays a particular quality that your son or daughter would like to emulate. They need to be able to simply articulate why they have chosen this saint.

They may also be interested in your Confirmation name and why you chose a particular saint, or your own parents. This can be a great way to connect to our family participation in the sacraments over the years.

Some online sources can be helpful too. The following website catholic.org, has brief illustrated cartoon versions of different saints. These are great for kids to look at and read.

http://www.catholic.org/saints/fun_facts_arch.php

This link: loyola press.com, has long lists of saints but is better to use alongside your child as it is text rich and not particularly child-friendly.

http://www.loyolapress.com/saints-stories-for-kids.htm?class_id=17&parent_class_id=

The following link is a small collection of youtube clips of saints lives:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJLmIT7D44q5EEoKJknpb2bEoiJo_YMje

Confirmation Sponsor

All candidates have a sponsor. This person needs to be:

1. A Catholic
2. A role model of life and faith
3. Someone your child will have ongoing contact with.

The sponsor is usually the child's Godparent from Baptism, but doesn't have to be. A parent can be the sponsor, but it is preferred if the sponsor is from outside the immediate family. It is a real honour to be asked to be a Confirmation sponsor - people will be thrilled that you have asked them. During the Rite of Confirmation they stand with your child at both the laying on of hands and at the anointing with chrism - as a sign of their ongoing support for your child in their life and faith.

Clothing for the Sacrament

In some parishes, children wear a stole - this is not the case at St Pius X. and St John's. Children are asked to wear their best clothes - reflecting theirs and their family's commitment to this special faith event.

A special tradition, connecting Confirmation to Baptism, is that a candidate wears white. This could be all or a part of a garment, or for girls, it could be something worn in their hair.