

ST. JOSEPH BASILICA ALAMEDA

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Specific Requirements for Youth Confirmation

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is generally a one year process, grades 8-12. The young people presenting themselves for Confirmation must have participated fully in the preparation process, with attitudes and understandings appropriate to adolescence. They must be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Jesus, his teachings, and the values and practices of the Risen Christ, and be willing and able to express their free decision to accept Confirmation and their desire to continue to nurture their relationship with the Risen Christ.

Candidate's Responsibilities:

- Registration in the Confirmation program
- Weekly attendance at 11:30 AM Sunday Youth Mass
- Regular participation in Confirmation classes from August to May. (Only a limited number of excused absences are permitted in order to complete)
- Parent and sponsor participation at least two meetings throughout the year
- Selection of Confirmation name which can be the baptismal name (patron Saint)
- Interview by the Pastor
- Participation in a Confirmation retreat
- Completion of Saint Reflection paper and Stations of the Cross project with the sponsor.
- Selection of sponsor (see below)
- Fifteen hours of community service and a reflection paper
- Participation in one of the liturgical ministries at 11:30 Mass.

Candidate Interview

Confirmation Candidate interviews are held with the Pastor towards the end of the process to assess the needs and readiness of the Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This is an opportunity for the pastor to meet with our Candidates and ensure that our Confirmation Process is meeting their needs. It is also a great opportunity to address topics or questions about which the candidates desire clarification.

Retreat

Candidates must participate in Confirmation retreat, an opportunity for our teens to grow deeper in faith and learn more about themselves and their relationship with God and their peers.

There is no substitute activity to fulfill this requirement. Advance notice is given so families can make appropriate arrangements for their teen to be available for this retreat. While we recognize there are other activities and pressures that teens are involved with over the course of the school year, teens must make priorities in their lives for this event.

Community Service

Teens have an opportunity to serve the needy in community and experience the mission of Jesus Christ. They must complete at least 15 hours of service and a reflection paper.

Liturgical Ministry

One of the most transformative parts of our faith life as Catholic is the celebration of the Mass together every Sunday. Candidates must serve Youth Mass at 11:30 AM through participation as altar servers, ushers, choir members, musicians or lectors. These ministries help unite the importance of the Mass with a ministry of service to our church.

Selection of sponsor:

- Must be a confirmed Catholic 16 year of age or older
- Must be an active member of a Catholic Church
- May not be the candidate's parent
- Must have the intention of performing his/her role of an ongoing spiritual relationship with the candidate and not merely function as a passive witness to the Sacrament.

Confirmation Sponsor Role and Best Practices

Your role as a Confirmation sponsor is multifaceted. As you accompany your candidate throughout the preparation process, your role includes affirming the strengths of your candidate and pointing out ways he or she can grow and become better in the practice of faith. It may involve some guidance, teaching, and explanation of points brought up in the candidates' classes. Your candidate may look to you for examples of how to live a life of faith.

The role of a sponsor is one of companionship. Good sponsorship does not demand perfection. It flows from walking with the candidate, sharing your own faith story and experience, and listening to his or her story. You do not need to be an expert in adolescent psychology or the doctrines of the faith. Good sponsorship is based on your willingness to share your own experiences of being Catholic and growing in your relationship with God.