

Family Guide for Confirmation

In this family guide you will find activities for you to do at home with your son/daughter. In the Diocese of Youngstown, we provide a sacrament preparation that includes the participation of the parents and a family component. **We recognize the parents are the primary educators of the faith of their children.** These activities are designed to encourage you and your son/daughter to live this sacrament more deeply in your daily lives.

What are the Seven Sacraments

The Catholic Church has seven Sacraments. A Sacrament is a gift from God instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church by which Divine life is given through the work of the Holy Spirit. All Sacraments are an encounter with Christ, who is Himself the original sacrament. There are Sacraments of Initiation, which introduce the recipient into the faith: They are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. There are sacraments of healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. And there are Sacraments of Communion and Mission: Matrimony and Holy Orders. (CCC 1210-1211).

Family and Candidate's Readiness

Before beginning, reflect on your relationship with God and the church. Ask yourself if there is something special that you would like to receive from this time. Pray with openness to the Holy Spirit each time you begin a session with your daughter/son.

There are requirements to prepare for Confirmation that must be met to show the candidate's readiness for the sacrament. The requirements have been set in place to help the candidate and the family understand the teachings of the church. These requirements also help the family participate more fully in the life of the church and to be in the state of grace required for the reception of the sacraments.

Candidates, according to their age and capacity, are to be considered ready to celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation when they:

- Are Baptized and not previously confirmed. A Baptismal certificate must be submitted.
- Attend Reconciliation and are in the state of grace
- Have an awareness that God loves them
- Are capable of renewing their Baptismal Promises
- Have an understanding of the doctrines and practices of the Catholic Church
- Can profess the beliefs of the Catholic Church
- Have an understanding of God, the Trinity and the Holy Eucharist
- Regularly participate in the Mass
- Have prayer as a part of their life and experience prayer within the family
- Are open and prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Jesus Christ
- Attend class
- Complete service hours
- Have selected a sponsor who is able to support them in the faith and is receiving communion weekly
- Have selected a Patron Saint with reflection page and report of that Saint