

Overview Of The Program

Per the Diocese of Pueblo guidelines the formation process is a two year process that requires certain elements. They are:

- 4 semesters of classes
- Weekly attendance at Sunday Mass (or Saturday evening anticipated Sunday Mass).
- Two retreats, one in each year of preparation
- Some form of Christian Service.
- A letter petitioning the sacrament from the Bishop
- Pastor's approval and recommendation.

Additionally, The parish course requires:

- Closing interview with the Pastor
- Written assignments and homework, keeping a Spiritual Journal, pop-quizzes
- Attendance with no more than 2 absences per semester.
- A positive attitude and active participation in all the classes.
- Attendance at a Large Catholic Youth Conference such as Steubenville of the Rockies, or the National Catholic Youth Conference, the Pueblo Youth Day.
- Participation in fundraisers for the trip can help lessen the cost to the family, or even pay it off completely, depending on the level of involvement

First Year is completed satisfactorily, if a break is needed and agreed to by the parents, the Instructor and the Pastor., the candidate may start the second year the following Fall after the needed hiatus.

Documents and Fees

To enroll in the Confirmation class, the candidate must have the fee (\$30), the book fee (based on current market prices for the textbooks), and a copy of his or her baptismal Certificate. If it has been completed, also the First Communion certificate.

Sponsors

The Candidate will choose a Sponsor at the end of the first year. At that time a new original of the Sponsor's Baptismal Certificate with margin notes is due. The sponsor must meet the strict parish guidelines for sponsors. In short, a sponsor, if married must be living in accord with Church Teaching, attending weekly Sunday (or anticipated Sunday) Mass, not be attached to any serious or Mortal Sin, accept and support to the Church's Teachings and Apostolic Authority. Documentary proof of worthiness to be a sponsor must be provided.



St. Peter's Catholic Church

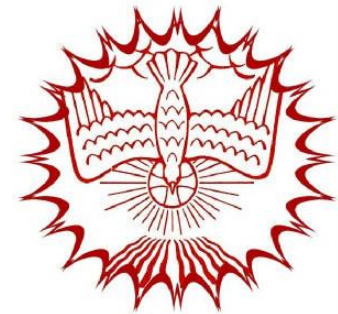
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Serving the People
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The Sacrament of Confirmation in The Arkansas Valley Parishes



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The Sacrament of Confirmation: The completion of Initiation into the Catholic Faith

Since Vatican II, the Sacrament of Confirmation has undergone a great deal of change and reinterpretation. Originally it was the “strengthening” of Baptism, which was derived from the Latin word *Confirmare* which means to strengthen or establish. Since then it has become a sort of “adult acceptance of the Faith given at Baptism, for those who were baptized as Infants.

The Age To Receive Confirmation

With the completion of the revision of the Rites in 2000, the Vatican turned to the dioceses of the world, and the National Conferences of Catholic Bishops to finalize the age of the reception of the Sacrament for the infant baptized. The US Bishops established that it was up to the local bishop to set the age, but that it would be after the candidate's 12th year. In our diocese, the Bishop has established the rule of 16 years and a Junior in High School as the earliest age that a candidate will be accepted for reception of the sacrament.

What is Confirmation?

It is the “sealing” of the sacrament of baptism, whether administered in the one cluster of sacraments called the Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults, or given some years afterward. In the Sacrament, there is a spiritually indelible marking, or sealing, of the soul, and the Holy Spirit is given as at Pentecost. In it the gifting of the Holy Spirit with the Fruits mentioned in Galatians 5 and the Gifts mentioned in Isaiah 11 is accomplished. By this gifting, the candidate is prepared to live as a member of the Church Militant, that is, working in the world to bring about the Kingdom of God. By the gifts received one can face down the foes of God's Kingdom even to the point of persecution and martyrdom. The Sacrament is ordinarily given

by the Bishop to the infant-baptized, and by the parish priest when given at the Easter Vigil, or when receiving a convert into the Church.

What are the elements of Confirmation formation?

The formation process lasts for two-years and contains the following elements

- Academic study of the Catholic Faith and Church Teachings and the lives and writings of the Saints.
- Spiritual formation in personal prayer and public prayer, and the Mass.
- Study and formation in Catholic attitudes and culture, Morality, and Social Justice.
- Evaluation and recommendation by the instructor to the pastor of the Candidate's readiness to continue formation at the end of each semester with a letter for all negative decisions going to the candidate and/or the candidate's parents..
- Two retreats,
 - The Justice Retreat is held in the Fall of the first year,
 - and the Confirmation Retreat in the spring of the second year. The Parish has selected the SEARCH retreat as the ordinary retreat for the second year.
- Attendance at youth conference (when available) such as Steubenville of the Rockies, the Diocesan Youth Day, National Catholic Youth Conference.
- Attendance at the Parish Mission (at least one night)
- At the end of the course, Pastor's Interview evaluating the candidate's readiness to receive the Sacrament
- Christian Community Service, whereby the candi-

date finds a need and provides for it, based on the teachings of Christ and the Corporal Works of Mercy.

The Criteria for Readiness For Continuing Study/Reception Of The Sacrament

At the end of each semester, the candidate is evaluated by the instructor and Pastor for promotion to the next level on the following points:

- Attendance: The Candidate may miss no more than two classes in any Semester.
- Participation: Class participation must be active, respectful, and on topic.
- Homework: Performance on assigned readings and study are evaluated by the instructor listening to in-class contributions, reading written assignments, timeliness of homework assignments.
- Attitude toward the process, the Church and the Faith.
- Fulfillment of requirements for class projects, conferences, retreats, Christian Service, Interview with the Pastor, Letter to the Bishop.
- Working knowledge of the following will be evaluated in the Interview at the end of the course.
 - traditional prayers,
 - sacramental theology,
 - Moral and Social Justice teaching
 - the prayers of the Mass.

Candidates experiencing problems with these points will have a meeting with the Instructor and the Pastor to evaluate whether or not they should defer their preparation to another year. Once the

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