

Saint Michael Parish

Confirmation Readiness

THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED

Can. 889 §1. Every baptized person not yet confirmed and **only such a person is capable of receiving confirmation.** *Valid Christian baptism must have occurred for any other sacrament to be celebrated.*

§2. To receive confirmation licitly outside the danger of death requires that a person who has the use of reason be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew the baptismal promises.

Can. 890 The faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the proper time. **Parents and pastors of souls, especially pastors of parishes, are to take care that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the sacrament** and come to it at the appropriate time. *The proper instruction is determined by the diocese and implemented by the pastor of each parish. The diocesan policy is that at least two years of consecutive faith formation be completed prior to reception of the sacrament. Additional work may be required for inadequate faith formation prior to those two years. The obligations placed on one at baptism cannot be waived, namely participation in Mass and Christian formation.*

Can. 891 The sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the **age of discretion unless the conference of bishops has determined another age**, or there is danger of death, or in the judgment of the minister a grave cause suggests otherwise. *In the Diocese of Youngstown, the age for Confirmation has been set as minimum age those in the 8th grade (13-14). This age may be extended if reason or sufficient preparation is determined to be lacking.*

Important Items to Keep in Mind

Sponsors: It is the expectation of Saint Michael Parish that sponsors attend the separate confirmation preparation sessions with the youth seeking to be Confirmed. One parent is welcome to sit in place of the sponsor, but every effort should be made to encourage sponsors to actively participate in the sacramental preparation process.

Youth Faith Formation: youth seeking to be Confirmed are required to participate YFF classes during the Confirmation Preparation year. Youth are expected to actively participate, be respectful of their catechists and Church property, be models of appropriate behavior to the younger children attending YFF and be attending Mass regularly.

Mass Attendance: Youth seeking to be Confirmed are required to regularly attend Mass. It is the responsibility of the parents or sponsors to ensure that youth attend Mass, as the youth are not able to drive. If you (or the sponsor) are not willing to bring your child to Mass, it is your choice not to have your child participate in Confirmation preparations nor receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at this time.

Immediate Preparations

Community Service Project

Youth preparing for Confirmation are expected to participate in a community service project. This project can be completed through school, local community or the parish. It must be done prior to March of 2026. It can be a one-time experience of service. The goal is to have the youth experience doing something for others. It is a great idea to work on the service project together.

Ideas include: helping at a food bank or soup kitchen, participating in the Turkey Connection or Green Eggs and Ham Easter project, organizing a food or clothing drive for Catholic Charities, Veteran's Outreach or Saint Vincent DePaul, helping neighbors clean up their yards or shoveling driveways when it snows for people who need help. This is not an inclusive list. There are many agencies and options for service in Mahoning County.

Youth are expected to write about their project in their letter to Father Lavelle. It is NOT about counting hours or completing a form. This project is about becoming involved in the community.

Saint Name

All candidates for Confirmation are asked to pick a Saint's name for their Confirmation name. During the February 1st session, we will discuss the reasons for choosing a Saint's name and give some resources to help the process. Please allow the youth seeking Confirmation to choose their own Confirmation name after the February 1st session. It is an important part of the Confirmation journey to discern one's own Confirmation Saint name. There will be a special sheet handed out at that session that will need to be completed and returned by March 1st.

Letter to the Pastor

All candidates for Confirmation are required to write a letter to Father Lavelle requesting to be confirmed and explaining why they wish to be confirmed. There is a separate sheet with the specific details for this letter. It is due to the Parish Office by April 19th.

Confirmation Dress Expectations

Dress expectations are the same for Candidates and Sponsors. We ask that you remember the sacredness of the Sacrament of Confirmation as you choose attire for the Celebration of Confirmation.

Young Ladies: Dresses, skirts or dress pant suit; dress shoes; please refrain from spaghetti straps, skirt/dresses more than 3 inches above the knee, "flip-flops". Please, be sure shoulders are covered, and necklines are not deep or plunging.

Young Men: Dress pants; collared shirt; appropriate tie; suit coat if possible; dress shoes; please refrain from cargo pants, sneakers, "polo" shirts, loose fitting or low hanging pants or "flip flops."