

CONFIRMATION FAQ's...

Does my Sponsor need to be Catholic?

Yes. A Sponsor witnesses by their life how a Catholic Christian lives in today's world.

Canon Law 874-4: A Sponsor must be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on.

Can a parent sponsor a child?

Canon 874-5 Parents are not eligible to be a sponsor for their child. Your parents have given you your foundation in faith and will continue to guide you along your journey. Confirmation gives you the opportunity to get support on your faith journey from someone who inspires you by how they live out their life in faith.

Can a stepparent be a Sponsor?

Since a stepparent fills at least a partial role as parent, even if both parents are active in the child's life, another sponsor would be needed.

What if my sponsor can't be here for Confirmation/Rehearsal?

A parent or other adult who is of the Catholic faith may stand in for your sponsor on the day of rehearsal or the actual day of Confirmation in the event they are unable to attend.

What is a Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility?

The sponsor initiates this. A sponsor certificate of eligibility/letter is a document from the sponsor's home parish, written on that parish's letterhead or sealed with parish seal, and signed by the pastor stating that he/she is a practicing Catholic in good standing.

Can a person sponsor more than one child?

While it is recommended to have one sponsor per child there may be situations where a sponsor may attend to more than one confirmand. Please bring your situation to the program coordinator.

Can someone who turns 16 the day after Confirmation be a sponsor?

No. Sponsor needs to be 16 years old by the date of the Confirmation Mass.

Does my Confirmation saint name need to be of a canonized saint, or can it be a blessed?

As there aren't any Official Vatican Rules regarding Confirmation names, we take the direction of our diocese and parish priests. Here at St Joan of Arc, your saint name may be your baptized name, a canonized saint, a Blessed, or a name from the Bible.

Does the saint I choose for Confirmation need to be the same gender as myself?

No, you may choose a saint of either gender, however, you can't change the name to match your gender.

What if I am unable to attend my parish's Confirmation Retreat?

You may attend a Confirmation retreat at another parish. Contact the Confirmation Coordinator as they may have a list of retreat dates of nearby parishes. It is up to you to find a retreat and contact that parish to check on availability. Please let our middle school coordinator know of your plans. You will also need a letter of attendance from the retreat leader of where you attended and submit to our Confirmation Coordinator.

What if I am unable to attend Confirmation on the date my parish offers it?

Please contact the Confirmation Coordinator for dates and locations of Confirmation Masses within our diocese. It is up to you to contact churches for their availability and let our middle school coordinator know of your plans. Once you have met all program requirements, you will receive a letter of good standing which you will present to the Confirmation Coordinator of the parish where you wish to be confirmed.

Myself/Sponsor/Family members are gluten free, what are my options?

Indicate that by checking off the box on the Candidate and Sponsor Information form. Please: bring your pyx the day of the ceremony and give it to the Confirmation Coordinator when you arrive. You will be seated on the side of the church which distributes pyx with gluten free hosts.

My Sponsor/Family member uses a wheelchair/walker, where do we sit?

Indicate that by checking off the box on the Candidate and Sponsor Information form. We will accommodate appropriate seating.

What are the dress requirements for Confirmation?

At the Sacrament of Baptism we wear special gowns, the Sacrament of First Communion we wear white dresses or a suit, at our Marriage we wear formal gowns or tuxedos. It is fitting to dress in celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation as well.

While the church greatly respects the uniqueness and individuality in each of its members, it holds that modesty is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and that "Teaching modesty to children and adolescents means awakening in them respect for the human person." (Catechism of the Catholic Church 25234)

It is in this spirit of fostering respect for each other and for the sanctity of the Sacrament of Confirmation that we set forth a code of dress consistent with our culture's view of modesty. Semi-formal, modest attire is appropriate to the solemn beauty of this occasion. Remember to dress your "Sunday best." You are being presented to the Bishop!

Candidates do not need to wear a specific color.

For both young men and women, when fixing your hair, your forehead must be uncovered for anointing from the Bishop.

Boys & Sponsors

Dress shirt and tie with dress slacks or khakis and dress shoes.
Suits and Sports Coats are not required, but strongly recommended.
Dress shirt must be tucked into pants with a belt.

The following are not appropriate:

Tennis shoes/sneakers
Jeans, or baggy pants
Tee shirts or Polo Shirts
Novelty neckties (e.g., cartoon characters, logos, etc.)
Formal Tuxedos
No Gum

Girls & Sponsors

Modest dress, skirt and blouse, pant suit or dress pants and blouse (dress or skirt should not be shorter than four inches above the knee with shoes); dress shoes.
Sweaters will be available for anyone dressed inappropriately.

The following are not appropriate:

Low cut dresses/blouses
Strapless dresses/blouses
Spaghetti Straps
Rompers
Exposed Bra Straps
Yoga pants
Jeans skirt
Exposing the abdomen
Formal evening gowns
Athletic Shoes/Sneakers
No Gum

