

St. John Nepomucene Faith Development – Confirmation Parent Info

Dear Parents,

As your child continues to grow—physically, intellectually, and emotionally—they also grow in their faith. As parents, you play a vital role in nurturing this spiritual growth through the environment you create at home, the example you set, and your participation in the sacraments. Your child began their faith journey with Baptism and the Eucharist, and now they are preparing to deepen their commitment through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our Confirmation program is designed to help the candidates become more open to the Holy Spirit, recognize the Spirit's presence and gifts, and be strengthened to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Choosing a Sponsor

Each Confirmation candidate, with the help of their parents, is responsible for choosing a sponsor. The church encourages candidates to choose a godparent as their sponsor because the Confirmation sponsor continues the godparents' role of helping them fulfill their baptismal promises. A candidate can choose someone else as a sponsor if they fulfill the following requirements:

1. Church law states that the sponsor cannot be a parent and must be at least 16 years old, must be a confirmed Catholic and be living according to the Catholic faith.
2. Sponsors must be available to attend classes with the candidate as specified in the class calendar and must be able to attend rehearsal and the Confirmation mass.
3. Sponsors are encouraged to take an active role in the Confirmation preparation program and should be able to meet with the candidate on a regular basis for faith sharing.
4. Sponsors are required to participate in meaningful Christian service with the candidate during the preparation year.

Please carefully consider the calendar and program expectations when helping to choose a sponsor.

Service Hours

As part of their Confirmation preparation, candidates are asked to live out their faith through service—both in our parish and in the wider community. Each student is required to complete **10 hours of parish service** and **5 hours of community service by April 11, 2026**. In addition, students are encouraged to complete a **community service project with their sponsor**. One great opportunity is our annual **Fall Clean-Up Day**, where students and sponsors serve neighbors in need. If that date doesn't work, a pamphlet in your folder includes other ideas and contact info for local service opportunities.

To help students engage in parish life, each candidate is expected to serve in a ministry at Mass or Faith Formation night during the school year. Please have your child complete the "Parish Service Hour Opportunities" sheet and return it at orientation.

A service hour log sheet is included in your child's folder, and extra copies are available at class or from the parish office. If you or your child need help coming up with a plan to complete the required hours, don't

hesitate to reach out—we're happy to work with your schedule. Talking with your child about how they plan to serve is a great way to support them on this journey of becoming a disciple in action.

Attendance

Attendance at **all** scheduled classes is **required**. If, due to extraordinary circumstances, the student cannot attend a class, the absence must be called in ahead of time to Sarah at 920-540-1419. The student will be required to review the missed material and write the required reflection for that week or meet with Sarah. The lesson plan will be emailed to the parent email address on file after the missed class, and the student is required to review the lesson and discuss with a parent. Classes start at 8 am. If your student has not arrived by 8:05 am, doors will be closed, the student will not be able to attend class that day, and he/she will be marked as an unexcused absence. Due to the small number of classes, excessive absences may require a conference with the Faith Development Coordinator to determine readiness to receive the sacrament.

Parent Engagement

Your support and example are key to your child's Confirmation journey. Attending Mass together, praying as a family, and making space at home for faith—through simple things like mealtime conversations, shared prayer, or even a small prayer corner—can have a powerful impact. Prioritizing class attendance is also important, as each session helps your child grow in understanding and openness to the Holy Spirit. Take time to talk with your child about what they're learning and experiencing. Most of all, pray for them and with them during this special time of preparation.