Guidelines for Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation Overview

The beautiful Sacrament of Confirmation is the continuation of a process begun at Baptism and sustained by the Eucharist through which the spiritual gifts of the candidate (aka “confirmand”) are strengthened and enriched. The confirmand is therefore called to actively use those gifts and witness to the life of Christ within the Church community upon celebrating the sacrament. The Sacrament of Confirmation is about discipleship and mission, and is meant to draw the newly confirmed into the life, work, and mission of the Church. The Sacrament of Confirmation is NOT an end to involvement within the faith community, nor a “completion” of the process of becoming Catholic.
Confirmation Eligibility

In order to be eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation through St. Columba Parish, the following criteria must be met:

1. In the Diocese of Pueblo, candidates must be 16 years old to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
2. Ongoing prayer about this important decision.
3. Belief in the Catholic faith.
4. The parent(s) and confirmand are expected to attend Sunday (weekend) Mass weekly.
5. The candidate must be present at the LifeTeen Community gatherings for 3 years (typically freshman, sophomore and junior year).
6. Beginning their sophomore year, the candidate must watch and respond to all “Decision Point” videos before being confirmed following the prescribed outline.
7. The candidate must attend EITHER the overnight retreat OR a summer mission trip offered through St. Columba at least once during their high school years prior to celebrating Confirmation. Check with Pete or Sally about when these events will occur.
8. The candidate must complete 20 hours of service within the St. Columba Community using the appropriate documentation.
9. The parent(s) must attend ONE of the “Affirming Our Faith” sessions to renew and deepen their own understanding of our faith and their Baptismal responsibilities as the primary educator of their child.

Note: If the eligibility requirements are not fulfilled in time to celebrate the sacrament next spring, your child is welcome to continue the preparation process and be considered for Confirmation the following year.
Prayer throughout the Confirmation Preparation Process

The candidate, in dialogue with their parents, should be doing the following:

- Prayerfully considering a sponsor (see qualifications below)
- Prayerfully considering a confirmation name, likely that of a saint, to remind you of your celebration of this sacrament and the type of Catholic Christian you aspire to become.
- Prayerfully considering how you plan to be involved in the life of the St. Columba Parish Community (through service and the active use of the gifts God has given you) after you are confirmed.

Responsibilities and Qualifications of a Sponsor

The role and responsibility of the sponsor is threefold: first, to assist the confirmand in living the Catholic Christian lifestyle; second, to support the parents in the faith growth of the confirmand; and third, to model faithful witness to Christ and discipleship within His community by assisting the confirmand in fulfilling their Baptismal promises. As a result, the role of the sponsor does not end with the celebration of the sacrament. Therefore, it is vital that the sponsor...

- Understands the qualifications and intentions of being a sponsor;
- Is a fully initiated and active (practicing) member of the Catholic Church;
- Has celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist;
- Is neither the father nor mother of the confirmation candidate;
- Is at least 16 years old.
- Must be present to celebrate the sacrament.
Decision Point Overview

“Decision Point”, produced by Matthew Kelly and The Dynamic Catholic Institute, is widely regarded among Catholic pastors, directors of religious education, youth ministers, catechists, parents and Confirmation sponsors as the preeminent Catholic Confirmation Preparation Program because of how it engages candidates in meaningful reflection and conversation about cooperating with God’s grace in all the circumstances of their daily lives.

The Decision Point curriculum is delivered through 12 sessions, each containing 6 videos ranging in length from 3-12 minutes. The sessions are: Life is Choices, What’s Holding You Back, The Jesus Question, Prayer, The Bible, Relationships, The Eucharist, The Holy Spirit, The Church, Confirmation, Made for Mission, and Holiness is Possible.

- All of the videos are available for free via phone/tablet app (search “Decision Point Catholic app”), online at www.dynamiccatholic.com/confirmation/ and on DVD (ask Pete or Sally to borrow the DVD’s).

- Most St. Columba Confirmation candidates will work through the Decision Point curriculum independently over the course of 2 years, beginning their sophomore year.

- The candidates will be asked to respond to each video, either through written reflection or through discussion. A detailed plan will be provided to the candidates describing their specific options and responsibilities for each video. We prudently estimate that the candidates’ total time commitment working with Decision Point over the course of 2 years will not exceed 24 hours.

- To provide a venue for meaningful conversations for the candidates, willing confirmed parishioners from St. Columba will be available in the parish center to watch videos and facilitate discussions with the candidates on a regular basis during Confirmation “Faith Time” Sessions.

- Candidates will be required to attend a brief one-time meeting, likely a week or two prior to the celebration of the sacrament, to rehearse the logistics of the ceremony. Other than that, there are no formal, required Confirmation “meetings”.

- Although not required, Decision Point workbooks are available to the candidates for $5.

- Pete and Sally will be checking in with the confirmands periodically to discuss and assess their progress.