



Confirmation Preparation Booklet

St. Oscar Romero

2021 - 2023



Welcome and Introduction:

We are so excited that you will be joining us for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If we look up word “confirmation” we get a number of interesting definitions, but if we look at the origins of the word, we get a better sense of what we are pursuing - “con” means “with” and “firm” means “strong.” So in a very real sense, Confirmation means “strengthening.”

What is being “strengthened” are the promises made at Baptism. This is our entire effort. Confirmation is a freely given gift that no one can earn, buy, or even deserve. It is not a graduation or a completion of religious education. In fact, what we experience in our faith after Confirmation is often more important than what we experience before.

What we can do is participate in the process of strengthening. An athlete prepares for a big game by drills and lifting weights. A pianist prepares for a big concert by exercising his/her fingers. So just as these individuals exercise to strengthen their muscles, enhance their dexterity, and increase their skill, we will engage in a number of exercises to strengthen our relationship with God and commitment as disciples of Jesus Christ.

If at anytime during this preparation process you have questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me at david@standrew.org

In Christ,

David Heimann, M.Div.

Expectations of the Program:

Here are some of the expectations a candidate must do to prepare for Confirmation. These exercises must be completed by the assigned dates:

- Baptismal Certificate: Confirm the parish/school has a copy of a Catholic Baptismal Certificate on file. (due March 1, 2022)

- Participation in Religious Education: Regular participation in the RE program at Saint Andrew or religion classes at Saint Andrew are expected. These continue before one prepares for a sacrament and continue afterwards. Religious Education is an ongoing process that is life-long.

- Attendance:
 - o Attend 13 of the 15 preparation classes that take place over two years.
 - o Candidates must also complete the written reflection questions presented at the end of each class in their Confirmation Journal.
 - o Participants must also attend two retreats for Confirmation Retreat.

- "Faith In Action" Projects: See the description in the sheet below.

- Confirmation Sponsor: Identify a practicing Catholic, above the age of 16, who is not a parent, and can serve as a Confirmation Sponsor. If appropriate, it is ideal for the sponsor to have been the Godmother or Godfather of the candidate, but this is not necessary. (Due March 1, 2021)

- Reflection Journal: Complete the reflection exercises for Confirmation which are provided during classes.

Faith in Action For Sacrament of Confirmation

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation regularly has some sort of practicum, a chance for students to put their faith in action. This has often taken the form of “service hours.” This is to instill the value of helping others which is a necessary part of being a follower of Jesus Christ.

For Saint Andrew Parish Confirmation, this practicum is structured into three separate learning areas.

- 1) Service to help those in need of food and clothing
- 2) Environmental service
- 3) Church service

For each of these learning areas, a student must complete one block of service which can either be done through the projects organized by Saint Andrew Parish or independently. This means one project to help those in need, one project to help the environment, and one project to serve in the church.

These opportunities will be scheduled in the Spring of 2022 and Fall of 2022. After each experience, a short reflection is due which asks the student to reflect on what they have done in light of the Gospel.

The learning objective includes the recognition that serving others involves sacrifice. Therefore, service done during compulsory activities such as service projects during the school day will not qualify to fulfill the exercise.

Examples of service in each area include:

- 1) Service to help those in need of food and clothing
 - Organized Projects** – Feed My Starving Children, Mobile Food Pantry – Mission of Our Lady of the Angels
 - Independent Project Ideas** – Greater Chicago Food Depository, Lakeview Pantry
- 2) Environmental service
 - Organized Projects** – Stewardship Days at Forest Preserve, Beach Clean Up
 - Independent Project Ideas** – Volunteer at Animal Shelter, Tree Planting in Forest
- 3) Church service
 - Organized Projects** – Volunteer at 5k, Wearing the Green, Garage Sale, other..
 - Independent Project Ideas** – Serve at Mass, Greet / Usher

Confirmation Sponsor Guidelines



At Baptism everyone was given a sponsor or godparent. If possible, it may be preferable to choose that person again, as a reaffirmation of the gifts received at Baptism. But there may be many good reasons to choose another person to fulfil the roll. Sometimes a Godparent is no longer alive or is not qualified to serve. Perhaps another mentor of faith has emerged in a person's life. In any regard, a sponsor must fulfill the following requirements:

- he/she has been close enough to have been supportive in your life of faith so far;
- he/she is a baptized practicing Catholic who has received Eucharist and has been Confirmed;
- he/she is a practicing Catholic who participates in the Eucharistic celebration every Sunday;
- he/she lives a good Catholic life
- he/she is at least 16 years of age;
- he/she cannot be your mother or father;
- he/she fills out the sheet enclosed and has it signed by the pastor or parish priest.

Your sponsor should be someone who is willing to testify that you are prepared and willing to fully believe in and practice our Catholic faith. He or she should testify that you take your faith life seriously and that you faithfully attend Mass, serve others and are mature enough to fulfill what you are promising. Sponsors should also be able to confirm that you have completed the various things asked of you in preparation for Confirmation.

Some questions to ask yourself in choosing your sponsor:

Is this person someone with whom I feel comfortable and to whom I will listen when suggestions about my life are made?

Does this person live near enough to me to be able to be a guide and support?

Will this person be willing and able to be my sponsor and to take an active role in my faith life?

Ask the person, and if he or she says yes, then provide the time, date and place of any activities (including practice and the night of Confirmation itself) or meetings that sponsors should be a part of.

SPONSOR FORM

Saint Andrew Parish
3546 N. Paulina
Chicago, IL 60657



I, *(sponsor name)* _____ will be a sponsor
for

(candidate's name)

_____.

I am a practicing Catholic, and a Member of
_____ Parish.
(Name of the Church)

Pastor or Associate Pastor Signature

(We ask for the parish priest to sign and seal this form to verify that the sponsor is a practicing Catholic.)

Parish Seal



Schedule for Confirmation Preparation St. Oscar Romero Candidates

Sunday, October 4, 2021	4:00- 5:15pm	<i>Parent Meeting</i>
Sunday, October 24, 2021	4:00- 5:15pm	RE Students only Saint Andrew School students in class during the week.
Friday, November 5 / (School Students)	9:00am – 12:30	Holy Fire – Confirmation Retreat
Saturday, November 6 (RE Students)	9:00am – 12:30	Holy Fire – Confirmation Retreat
Sunday, December 5, 2021	4:00- 5:15pm	All Candidates
Sunday, December 19, 2021	4:00- 5:15pm	RE Students only Saint Andrew School students in class during the week.
Sunday, January 9, 2022	4:00- 5:15pm	All Candidates
Sunday, January 30, 2021	4:00- 5:15pm	RE Students Saint Andrew School students in class during the week.
Sunday, February 27, 2021	4:00- 5:15pm	All Candidates
Sunday, March 13, 2021	4:00- 5:15pm	RE Students only Saint Andrew School students in class during the week.
Sunday, April 3, 2021	4:00- 5:15pm	All Candidates. --- with Sponsors
Sunday, May 1, 2020	4:00- 5:15pm	RE Students only Saint Andrew School students in class during the week.