Confirmation Information and Requirements
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish
2017-2018
Youth Office 836-5011 ex 241

...Confirmed by the gift of the Spirit, that they give witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love.

General Intercessions from the Rite of Confirmation

Confirmation

- Welcomes us and deepens our belonging to the faith community
- Deepens our relationship to God, as Creator, Redeemer and Spirit
- Strengthens us as disciples

A Sacrament is part of the way that God loves us and calls us.
A sacrament is God’s love expressed as a free, undeserved gift. The Gift within Confirmation is that of strengthening us for discipleship and deepening our belonging to the faith community of the Catholic Church through the Trinity.

God uses visible signs to communicate invisible love.
To communicate God’s love, God uses our senses: eyes, ears, touch, smell, and taste, and elements of our world. In Confirmation, the signs we will celebrate include being anointed with oil and the “laying on of hands” as we remember the waters of Baptism and the nourishment of Eucharist.

God calls and invites; we respond.
An attitude of openness communicates a “yes” to God’s invitation to a deeper relationship. This “yes” does not mean we know that we will always be faithful, never make mistakes or that we are worthy of the gift. “Yes” means we are open to be strengthened by God who calls and loves us. In Confirmation, we have the opportunity to say “yes” for ourselves through the renewal of our baptismal promises and the prayers of the Confirmation Rite.

The Community witnesses and celebrates the sacraments.
A sacrament is a powerful sign that God is alive and present in the world. As Church, we are called to be sacrament; that is to be God’s hand and healing touch in the world. At the same time, we celebrate the Sacraments as our most important prayer. This community that celebrates the sacraments is global, reaching to other faith communities throughout the world and joined in a common bond. The community of the Church is also local as an Archdiocese, as a parish and as a community of faith in families. In Confirmation, the community witnesses our celebration and provides a sponsor who represents the love and care of the community for us.

How do I know if I’m ready?
Preparing for Confirmation is a journey-- an experience that will challenge you to grow in your faith. You need to be ready to be open, to “look and see” how God strengthens you and continues to be present in your life. We will make every effort to prepare you to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. You can respond to our
efforts by being present and participating fully. This shows your sincerity. The community of the Church is here to help you feel prepared.

What is the Rite of Confirmation?
A ritual is a patterned way of doing something. The Rite of Confirmation is the prayer ritual of the Church that witnesses to the Sacrament. The Rite usually takes place within Mass. Most of it will feel familiar to you. Some special parts of the Rite include:

Renewal of Baptism Promises
A chance to promise again that we will be open to God’s presence in our lives and will strive to be faithful.

Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil
Like a friend putting their hand on your shoulder or a parent’s loving embrace, the laying on of hands is a gesture that reminds us of God’s love and support. It is through these visible signs that we are strengthened through the Holy Spirit.

What will I have to do to be confirmed?
If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year (2018) you are asked to fulfill the following requirements. It is possible to complete this list in one year, but you can take up to two years if needed.

- **Registration:** All youth are to register through the Religious Education department at Holy Rosary. Youth must be high school age and have proof of Baptism and First Communion (a copy of Baptismal and First Communion Certificates). There is a $25 fee that needs to be paid at time of registration each year.

- **Orientation for Confirmation:** for English and Spanish language Candidates will take place on Sunday, September 17, 2017 in the Gym at 2:30pm.

- **Interviews:** Youth are to participate in a 10-minute interview with one of the Youth Ministers/ youth peer leaders from our parish at the onset of the program. Interviews will take place during class time Sunday, September 24, 2017. The youth minister/youth peer leader will ask you questions about your desire to pursue Confirmation this year. Readiness interviews will take place on Sunday April 8 and April 15, 2017.

- **Protection of Children presentation:** this is a class mandated by the Dallas Charter and the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. All youth are required to attend; parents may attend if they wish. Protection of Children is scheduled for Sunday, October 15, 2017 beginning at 2:30pm in Rosario Hall.

- **Retreats:** All youth preparing to make their Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe are required to attend a Retreat.

OLMHR Youth are required to attend the following:
- ASF Annual Youth Conference Friday October 27 (7pm-9:30pm) and Saturday October 28 (9am-7:30pm) at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 9502 Fourth Street NW, Albuquerque 87114 (Full Cost is $40; however parish will subsidize $20, Cost to candidate is $20)
- ASF Lenten Retreat Date and Location TBD (cost to candidate is $5)
- Confirmation Retreat for Confrimandi on Saturday, April 21, 2018 (8:30am-1:00pm) at Holy Rosary in the Rosario Hall/Gym (no cost)
Confirmation Reflection & Rehearsal with Sponsors. Sunday, April 29, 2018 from 1:30pm-4pm in the Gym/Church

The Annual Youth Pilgrimage to Chimayo is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, 2018 from 8:30am-4pm (This pilgrimage is optional, but if you miss one of the above, participating in this pilgrimage will count).

- **Permission slips:** Permission slips signed by a parent or guardian are required for your youth to attend any event scheduled off of the Church grounds or outside regular class time hours: these include the ASF Annual Youth Conference, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Mass (at St. Joseph’s on the Rio Grande), the ASF Lenten Retreat event and the Chimayo Pilgrimage. Extra permission slips are always available in the clear boxes outside of the youth director’s office in the Family Center.

- **Mass and Class Attendance:** Youth are asked to attend Sunday Liturgy (the Mass) regularly and the scheduled Sunday gatherings in Rosario Hall from 2:30pm-4:30pm, unless otherwise noted on the calendar. If there are excessive absences from class/activities the recommendation will be to take an additional year of confirmation preparation.

- **Saint’s Project:** All youth will need to research the life of a saint whose name they will take at Confirmation. You will be given a reflection sheet to research your chosen Confirmation name. A special project will need to be completed on the life of the saint that should also include why this saint is important to you and why you look to them as an example of Christian life. Projects are due by Sunday, December 17, 2017.

- **Parent Meetings:** There are two Parent afternoons, when parents of our Candidates are especially invited to attend, scheduled this year: Sunday, December 17, 2017 and Sunday, February 11, 2018. The presentations will be on special topics for all Catholics. Parents will also receive information regarding requirements. Meeting starts at 2:30pm.

- **Sponsors:** Information on how to choose a sponsor will be given to each candidate during the interview process conducted in October. Please consider and choose a sponsor as soon as possible. Youth may have only one sponsor, unless you are asking your baptismal Godparents. Youth will be given a form to fill out with their sponsor’s information in November 2017 and will need to return the form by Sunday, December 17, 2017.

Confirmation Sponsor Guidebooks and a sponsor’s journal will be mailed to each sponsor once we receive their information. Affidavits that testify to the eligibility of the person to Stand as Sponsor are required of all sponsors. The sponsor must obtain the signed written affidavit with the church seal from the parish where they are currently registered. This is due to the Youth Office no later than Sunday, January 22, 2018.

Your sponsor should be available for the Reflection and Rehearsal that will take place on Sunday evening, April 29, 2018 at 1:30pm.

**Parents are reminded: Canon Law prohibits parents from acting as Sponsors for their children for the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

- **Participation in Triduum Celebration:** All youth are required to attend Holy Thursday–Mass of the Lord’s Supper (Thursday, March 29) and Easter Vigil (Saturday, March 31). There will be no youth meeting Easter Sunday afternoon. More details will be given during Lent 2018.
Service Projects: Youth are to **present a service project** for consideration. This project should be for the benefit of their families, the parish or the community. Youth only have to choose one area to serve. Candidates may work on their project by themselves or with up to two other youth/individuals. (There are lots of creative ways to be a “force for good”—think and pray about it and let us know what you have in mind as soon as possible.) **All Confirmation Candidates are asked to start their projects in January 2017. Completed forms and a theological reflection paper must be turned into the youth office by Sunday, March 18, 2018.**

Letters to the Archbishop: Draft letters to the Archbishop will be written in class Sunday, March 18, 2018. You will receive a form that will help you structure your letter. **Final letters to the Archbishop will be due Sunday, April 8, 2018.**

Reconciliation: All youth will attend the Confirmation Candidate’s Retreat that will include **reconciliation** scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 8:30am-1:00pm in Rosario Hall/Gym. During this retreat, Candidates will be asked to prayerfully choose and commit to serve a ministry in the parish for one year following their Confirmation.

Reflection and Rehearsal: will take place on Sunday evening, April 29, 2018 beginning at 1:30pm. Sponsors and Candidates **must** be present. We will gather in the Gym and move to the main church for rehearsal.

Confirmation Ceremony: Confirmation will take place on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 7pm in the Church with Monsignor Lambert Luna, presiding. Candidates are asked to meet in Rosario Hall with their sponsors by 5:30pm to receive final instructions. There will be a simple reception (cake and punch) in Rosario Hall following the Confirmation Mass and pictures can be taken at that time.

**Youth Ministers Contact info:**

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In the event of inclement weather call 836-5011 ext. 241 to check for cancellation announcements

Please download the Parish App to your cell phone or tablet. 
Push notifications (reminders and/or changes) will be offered through the myParish App.