

Divine Mercy Parish

Confirmation Policies

Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Initiation along with Baptism and Eucharist.

Requirements for Candidates:

1. A minimum of one year's attendance in the regular parish religious education program immediately previous to the year in which the candidate is accepted into the program of immediate preparation.
2. Candidates write a letter to the pastor stating their reasons for requesting Confirmation at this particular time.
3. Candidates agree to participate in a follow-up program of catechesis and service while completing the high school Religious Ed program after the reception of the Sacrament. This agreement constitutes a personal commitment.

Postponement of the Sacrament

Persons involved in the preparation of candidates must exercise their rights and responsibility to withhold approval from those thought to be ill-prepared or lacking an appropriate understanding of the implications of the Sacrament.

Preparation phases

1. Remote catechesis
 - a. The remote preparation for Confirmation is a part of the systematic catechetical program in the parish.
 - b. This preparation is separated in time from the immediate programs so that there is no automatic approach to receiving the Sacrament.
 - c. The remote preparation enables the candidate to have an appropriate understanding of the sacrament in order to choose freely to enter the program of Immediate Preparation for Confirmation.
2. Immediate Catechesis
 - a. The immediate preparation is conducted as a free-standing program distinct from a particular grade level. It is a program in addition to and separate from the regular religious education program.
 - b. Individuals must continue regular participation in the Religious Education program in addition to participating in the Immediate Preparation Program.
 - c. Immediate Preparation involves: catechesis, involvement in service, a retreat experience, forms of prayer and communal sharing experiences.

- d. Candidates will participate in an interview with the pastor as a means of deepening their awareness of the implications of Confirmation and the need to continue growth in both knowledge and practice of Christian life.
3. Celebration
- a. The context for the celebration of Confirmation is within the Eucharist. The celebration is a celebration of the whole church and should affect the life of the whole parish.
4. Continuing Catechesis
- a. Following the reception of the Sacrament, the initiates are involved in follow-up programs to enable them to see the personal response they can make to the grace of the Spirit, to participate more fully in the Church's mission.

