



## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Parish & School

# CONFIRMATION Q&A

### **DOES MY SPONSOR HAVE TO BE A PRACTICING CATHOLIC?**

Yes! The purpose of the sponsor is to encourage you to grow in your faith -- so they must actively share that same faith.

### **WHAT DOES "PRACTICING" MEAN?**

To be considered a "practicing" Catholic, one must attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, and confession at least once a year. If married, the marriage must also be blessed by the Catholic Church.

### **IF MY SPONSOR IS A PARISHIONER AT ST. XAVIER, DO THEY STILL HAVE TO FILL OUT A FORM & HAVE IT SIGNED BY FATHER?**

Yes. All sponsors, regardless of their parish, must fill out the form and have it signed by Fr. Kyle. No exceptions!

### **IF I'M IN 9TH GRADE BUT I DIDN'T ATTEND CCD HERE LAST YEAR, CAN I STILL BE CONFIRMED THIS YEAR?**

Unfortunately, the answer is generally no. An exception can be made if you just moved here and have your previous DRE or pastor send a letter acknowledging your proficiency in knowledge of the faith. Please contact the Director of Evangelization with questions.

### **IF I DON'T WANT TO BE CONFIRMED, DO I HAVE TO BE?**

No, you do not! While the Sacraments are extraordinary aids in our journey to Heaven, we will never force anyone to receive any sacrament against their will.

### **MASS ATTENDANCE IS NOW REQUIRED. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN EXACTLY?**

For students in Sacramental prep years (1st, 2nd, 8th, and 9th), attendance of Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is now required. It is necessary to fulfill this requirement in order to receive the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. If this requirement is not fulfilled, the reception of these Sacraments will be delayed.

### **CAN I ONLY OCCASIONALLY ATTEND SUNDAY MASS & STILL RECEIVE CONFIRMATION?**

Weekly Sunday Mass attendance is now *required* for reception of Confirmation. It is understandable to miss very occasionally due to sickness or severe weather, but a pattern of missed Masses will not be excused, and will delay the reception of the Sacrament.

### **WHAT IF WE ATTEND A DIFFERENT CHURCH FOR MASS?**

If you attend a different parish for Mass, the card must still be filled out with your child's name and the date, and be signed by the priest who celebrated the Mass at that parish. The card can then be brought to CCD class the next Wednesday. OR a bulletin from that parish can also be brought back as well, as long as the child's name and grade is written on the bulletin, and it is signed by the priest there.

### **WHEN WILL MASS ATTENDANCE BEGIN BEING RECORDED?**

In order to allow time to adjust to this new system, we will begin keeping track of the Mass cards on September 9th.

### **DOES SATURDAY NIGHT MASS COUNT? OR DOES IT HAVE TO BE SUNDAY?**

Yes - Saturday evening vigil Masses fulfill the Sunday Mass requirement.

### **WHY SUNDAY MASS?**

The observance of "keeping holy the Lord's Day" goes all the way back to Genesis, when God created the world and then rested on the 7th day. The Sabbath -- Sunday -- is a gift from God to us; it is an invitation to rest and be rejuvenated, to look forward to Heaven and to rejoice in the Resurrection. The Catechism states, "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice" (CCC 2181). As such, all Catholics are required to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation: this is the First Precept of the Catholic Church, and one of the "indispensable minimum" requirements for practicing Catholics (2041). Furthermore, "Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin" (2181).

### **DOES THE FRIDAY SCHOOL MASS COUNT IF WE CAN'T MAKE IT ON SUNDAYS?**

No, although we encourage Mass attendance throughout the week, the only one that will fulfill this requirement is the Sunday (or Saturday evening vigil) Mass.

### **DO WE HAVE TO ATTEND CCD IF WE EDUCATE AT HOME OR GO TO THE SCHOOL?**

CCD is typically required for everyone wishing to receive Confirmation. If the child is educated at home, please contact the Director of Evangelization with questions.