



## 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 single, they cannot be co-habiting.

### **DO SPONSORS NEED TO VERIFY THEY ARE IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?**

Yes, sponsors must complete the Confirmation Sponsor Eligibility Form and have it signed by the Priest in their own Parish.

### **IF MY SPONSOR IS A PARISH-IONER 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 Confirmation Sponsor Eligibility Form and have it signed by their Priest. No exceptions!

### **IF I'M IN 8TH 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 Evangelization Coordinator 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 REQUIRED. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN EXACTLY?**

For students in Sacramental prep years (1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th), attendance of Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is required. It is necessary to fulfill this requirement to receive the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. If this requirement is not fulfilled, the reception of these Sacraments may be delayed.

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

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

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

If you attend a different parish for Mass, a bulletin with the date, your child's name and a signature from the priest who celebrated Mass at that parish can then be brought to school the next Monday, or CCD class the next Wednesday.

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

We will begin keeping track of the Mass cards on September 11th.

### **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?**

Catechesis is a requirement for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation,

regardless of where the child attends school. It is also required by the Diocese that individuals preparing for First Communion must be in formation for two years prior to the reception of that sacrament - thus, typically through 7th and 8th grade. If the child attends St. Francis Xavier school, this requirement is fulfilled. However, if the child is educated at home, the fulfillment of this requirement will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the Evangelization Coordinator for more details if you educate your children at home. For non-sacramental prep years, CCD is never required for anyone, but highly suggested.

#### **WHEN WILL THE CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION TAKE PLACE?**

The Confirmation Celebration will take place on April 10, 2024 for those that attend Mass regularly and Religious Education classes. Religious Education classes will continue for two months after the Confirmation Celebration. Those being confirmed will still be expected to attend the remaining classes.

#### **WHAT GRADES WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION THIS YEAR?**

The reception of Confirmation takes place during eighth grade at St. Francis Xavier School and Parish. Seventh grade students are considered Pre-Confirmation and eighth grade students in Confirmation. Students in seventh and eighth grades will be learning and doing projects appropriate for each stage.

#### **MUST I ATTEND THE PARISH CONFIRMATION RETREAT?**

Students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, whether enrolled at St. Francis Xavier School or Religious Education are asked to attend the Confirmation Retreat as part of their Sacramental Preparations.