

St. Bernard Catholic Community

Confirmation Formation Goals and Requirements

The Faith Formation Board of St. Bernard's Catholic Church has formulated the following goals & requirements for those entering the Confirmation Formation Program, and who are to be confirmed at St. Bernard's.

These goals and requirements have been established to help the Confirmation Candidate have a thorough grasp of the sacrament they are preparing to receive.

Goals of Confirmation Formation

- 1) To help the candidate understand the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith and how to live them as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2) To help the candidate develop a deeper prayer life as an individual to enable him/her to engage more fully in the prayer life of the parish community, especially the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist.

- 3) To help the candidate develop a deeper understanding of, and appreciation for, the sacramental life of the Church with emphasis on Eucharist and Reconciliation.

- 4) To help the candidate grow in his/her understanding of Church as community and to invite and encourage them to take an active role in the life of the parish.

- 5) To help the candidate understand that it is his/her responsibility to be actively involved in lifelong faith formation. **Confirmation is NOT the end of a process**; it is a step in the life of the Catholic Christian.

Confirmation Class Requirements

1. Each student is expected to participate in the weekly celebration of the Eucharist (Mass).

2. Each student is expected to participate in the Family Faith Nights that are scheduled during the year and attend a retreat before receiving the sacrament.

Confirmation Class Requirements Continued

3. The student must be present at all sessions. If he/she cannot be present a parent must contact the Catechist(s). If a student misses two classes without being excused, he/she will be evaluated as to whether to continue in the Confirmation Program.
4. Students are to be prepared for each session by reading the assigned material and answering the questions that are assigned. Participation in group discussions and activities is necessary in order to determine if the candidate has satisfactorily grasped the material.
5. The students will be required to do one parish project/per year with his/her group. Guidelines for these projects will be given to the Catechists to guide the group in the selection of the project.
6. Candidates are required to spend one hour in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the seasons of Advent and Lent.
7. Candidates are required to do "sermon notes" for Sunday Masses from October – April.
8. Candidates are required to choose a Saint's name for their Confirmation Name. They are required to do research and write a paper on the Saint chosen.
9. Candidates are required to write a letter to Bishop Hoepfner requesting to be confirmed.
10. An interview for candidates and their parents will be scheduled with the pastor prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Requirements of the Confirmation Sponsor

The Person who serves as the sponsor for the candidate for Confirmation has an important role to play. The sponsor is not a passive partner in this formation process but is expected to take an active role. With that in mind the following requirements for choosing a sponsor have been implemented:

1. Each Candidate is allowed one sponsor who must be a Confirmed Roman Catholic; who practices their faith by attending Mass each Sunday and participates in the life of the parish community and is living a Christian way of life.
2. The sponsor is expected to meet with their candidate to help them in the formation process.
3. Parents can be used only as a proxy in the case of an emergency; they cannot be the chosen sponsors.
4. The Sponsor must be confirmed for at least five years: any exceptions must be approved by the Pastor.