

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC PARISH**



**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION**

*You are invited to join us on a journey with Jesus and listen to what He has to say to us.*

## The Sacrament of Confirmation

1285 Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the “sacraments of Christian initiation,” whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For “by the sacrament of Confirmation, (the baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses, of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” Catechism of the Catholic Church”

### GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

Based upon the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Holy Cross Parish has established a program to prepare students of our parish for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**\*Note:** Preparation for and celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation takes place in the parish in which the family is registered. The pastor on an individual basis addresses exceptions to this.

#### 1. Prerequisites:

- A. A baptized Catholic.
- B. To be confirmed the student must be 16 years of age or in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- C. Enrollment of candidate is to be based upon:
  1. **Entry interview** to be conducted by Director of Youth Ministry
  2. **Registration and Commitment forms** to be completed.
  3. A **history of formal and continuous faith formation** to include one year immediately prior to enrollment in Confirmation preparation.
- D. An **appreciation for the Sacraments** already celebrated including Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation and an awareness of the meaning of those Sacraments. (Regular participation in the Sacraments is essential for the young person’s preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. It is expected that they will participate in weekly Mass and monthly Reconciliation throughout this process. If possible, the whole family should commit to this together.)
- E. An assurance that **parents/guardians are cooperating** and participating in the Catholic upbringing of their children, evidenced, for example, by regular participation at a weekend Mass and Holy Days of Obligation.

God’s law requires the faithful to participate in Mass on a regular basis. Catechism of the Catholic Church: 2180 The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: “On Sundays and other Holy Days of Obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.” 2181 The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.

## Guidelines and Procedures for the Sacrament of Confirmation

1. All candidates and sponsors must meet on a regular basis to plan, organize and complete the requirements for the **service project**. Please see attached packet for guidelines and description of project outline. First year Candidate may do projects with the assistance of the parish. Second Year candidate's service projects must be done outside the parish, with the sponsors' supervision and participation, and the due dates for outline and project final report are fixed. Please remember you are the continuing presence of Jesus outside the walls of the church.
2. Each year of the program, candidates must attend a weekend retreat. This academic year we will be conducting our **Confirmation Retreat on September 1-3 of 2018**. The location is to be at St. Therese Camp in Wasilla.
3. **No more than 2 absences** allowed on Wednesday Religious Education classes.
4. **Candidates, Parents and Sponsors** entering into their beginning year of the Confirmation preparation are **required** to attend the **Rite of Welcome** to be held on Saturday, **September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the 5:30pm Mass** at Holy Cross.
5. All Students in the Confirmation Program are required to be **trained AND participate** on a regular schedule for a liturgical ministry: Musicians, Servers, Readers, or Ushers.
6. All candidates must **attend Mass weekly** and try to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation once a month, in addition the candidates will be expected to **attend at least one youth night a month** and one community service project a year (*Three will be available throughout the year*).
7. **Commitment and involvement** are necessary for this program just as is expected for any school activity and sport. In other words, all requirements must be fulfilled before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.
8. The ultimate choice as to **the readiness of each candidate** lies with the Parish Life Director and Parochial Vicar and is evaluated by a final interview conducted by the Director of Youth Ministry.
9. Please remember that the Sacrament of Confirmation is a **sacrament of choice**. As such, the decisions of the candidate will be respected and honored. It is a Sacrament of Initiation – in this case, initiation into a fully conscious and active Catholic Christian life. This deepened presence of the Spirit is meant to sustain us in a lifetime of witness to Christ and service to others.
10. In the Fall of the candidate's **Sophomore year the candidates will be enrolled into a 9 session Sacramental Prep Course** to be held on Wednesday evenings with their sponsor. No absences will be allowed for these 9 classes. Following completion of the Sacramental Prep Course and all students must have final Interview with the Director of Youth Ministry and attend the Rite of Covenant Mass TBA. Before Christmas of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Confirmation Preparation, all candidates, Sponsors and parents must attend the Confirmation practice and the Rite of Confirmation Mass.

**HOLY CROSS PARISH – REGISTRATION FORM**

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

CITY AND STATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: If baptism was not at Holy Cross Parish, a photocopy of the baptismal certificate, must be provided upon registration. (No Copy! No Sacrament!)**

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE PROVIDED? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Month/Day/Year of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Month/Day/Year of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

Month/Day/Year of 1<sup>st</sup> Communion \_\_\_\_\_ Parish \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hm Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Wk Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Emergency Contact Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Father's Religion** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Maiden Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mother's Religion** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hm Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Wk Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Emergency Contact Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother's Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Cell Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOLY CROSS CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT FORM**

**I recognize the special significance and importance of the preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Therefore, I agree to make every effort to attend weekly Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, to attend all religious education classes, and all sacramental preparation classes, to meet the guidelines and expectations of the Confirmation program. I promise to pray each day for guidance from the Holy Spirit in preparation for this Sacrament. I will strive to develop my personal morality based on the will of God expressed through the teachings of the Catholic church, the Scriptures and the Commandments and to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I promise to use my talents in the service of others, especially as outlined by the service requirements of the program. I promise to participate in the Confirmation Retreat and to meet regularly with my Confirmation Sponsor. I understand the readiness of each candidate to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is evaluated by the Director of Youth Ministry with final approval by the Parish Life Director and Parochial Vicar.**

**Should emergencies arise which would prevent the candidate, the candidate's sponsor or the candidate's parents from attending any meetings or classes, notification should be given at the earliest convenience to Theresa Austin at 349-8388.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Candidate Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**