

St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church
Parish Handbook

Sacrament of Confirmation



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2009–2010

History

“The sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion, unless the Bishops’ Conference has decided on a different age, or there is danger of death, or in the judgment of the minister, a grave cause suggests otherwise.”

Cannon 891

Understanding Confirmation & Eucharist as Sacraments of Initiation

“Christian Initiation is accomplished by three sacraments together: Baptism which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation which is its strengthening; and the Eucharist which nourishes the disciple with Christ’s Body and Blood for his transformation in Christ.”

- Catechism of the Catholic Church 1275

For the first five centuries of the Church’s history, the three Sacraments of Initiation were celebrated together as part of the one initiation rite. This was true for adults and children. For the fifth to thirteenth centuries, Infant Baptism became the norm. At that time, Church leaders separated Confirmation and Eucharist from Baptism. Usually, Confirmation was celebrated at seven years of age– the age of discretion, while First Eucharist took place in pre-adolescence. Although separated from baptism, the order of the Sacraments remained the same. It was not until the twentieth century, in 1910, that the age for Eucharist was lowered to the age of discretion. At that point, the norm became celebrating the reception of Eucharist around the age of seven or eight, and Confirmation sometime between eight and eighteen years of age.

The Sacrament of Confirmation makes present the same grace that was showered upon the Apostles fifty days after the Resurrection of Christ. Through the celebration of Confirmation, The Father and The Son pour out the Spirit, who brings seven special gifts: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe in the presence of the Lord. Each of these special gifts of the Spirit gives grace that helps us to face the challenges of living in full accord with the Gospel today.

The reception of this sacrament is an indispensable moment in the life of all Catholics, and its celebration is of importance for the Church. Since over sixty percent of our teens are not being confirmed and we have thousands of adults attempting to face the challenges of the modern world without the grace of Confirmation to help them, the policy of the Diocese of Phoenix is now changed to the restored order. In the renewal of the sacraments, mandated by the Second Vatican Council, the Church was invited to restore the celebrations of the sacraments of Christian Initiation to their original order –Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. The restored order helps us to recognize that sharing in the Eucharist completed our initiation into the Church. As the norm, Confirmation preparation is to be integrated into the preparation for Eucharist. The close connection between Baptism and Confirmation is also emphasized. The Sacrament of Confirmation, prepared for and celebrated together with First Eucharist in Third Grade, initiates the baptized ever more deeply in to the Christian mystery of Trinitarian life.

In keeping with the Restored Order of the Sacraments, children who are preparing for their First Eucharist will also be prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year.

CANDIDATES

1. Candidates must display an openness of heart through:
 - a. Mass attendance
 - b. Consistent attendance at grade level formation sessions
 - c. Participation in the Confirmation Retreat
 - d. Willingness to participate in community service
 - e. Candidate completes and returns all required paperwork.
2. Candidates must provide a copy of their baptismal certificate. The full address of the parish of Baptism must be attached to this certificate. **Baptism certificates are to be turned in to the Goretti Education Center no later than February 28, 2010.**
3. Select a sponsor who is a confirmed practicing Catholic; living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church. **The deadline for choosing a sponsor is no later than February 28, 2010.**

PARENTS/ADULT/FAMILY MEMBER

1. Parents are the primary Catechists (teachers) of their children in faith.
2. Parents assume the responsibility to model a commitment to personal prayer, community worship and ministry expected of a mature Christian. It is the role of an adult family member to assist their child to meet the attendance and service requirements. It is vital that they pray for and with the candidate and show willingness to share their faith story.
3. Parents are encouraged to participate in Sunday Eucharist with their children.
4. Parents are encouraged to participate fully in the Generations of Faith Gatherings along with their children.



Choosing a Sponsor

Parent, Child, and Sponsor workshop
April 18th 10:30am - 12:00pm

Policy 1.4 SPONSORS

Every candidate should have a Confirmation sponsor. Candidates may have more than one sponsor, however only one should be designated as the liturgical sponsor who presents the candidate for confirmation. It is desirable that baptismal godparents, as extensions of the spiritual family, continue this role at Confirmation. Sponsors should be actively involved in the child's life of faith-before, during and after Confirmation.

QUALIFICATIONS OF A SPONSOR

Must be at least sixteen years old; May not be natural or adoptive parents of the confirmand; must be fully initiated in the Catholic faith (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); must be leading a life in harmony with the faith; must be free of any canonical impediment.

RC 5-6; Cannon 874, 892-893; CCC 1311; RCIA 10.2

Sponsor: One who assumes responsibility for a person during a period of instruction and vouches for the suitability of the candidate for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Sponsor is an invaluable assistant to parents in transmitting faith. The sponsor needs to be able to fulfill several requirements.

- The Church requires that the sponsor be an active, practicing Catholic who has already celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation. The Church recognizes that a person cannot transmit what the person does not have.
- It is important that the sponsor be more mature, more informed, and more experienced in the ways of out faith and culture than the candidate is.
- It is recommended that the sponsor be an older person who has some experience with his or her faith and, hence a clearer perspective from which to speak.
- The Sponsor needs to be willing to meet with the candidate on a regular basis prior to the celebration of Confirmation and to make a commitment to continue the faith journey after the celebration.
- The sponsor needs to be willing to come to the Confirmation Retreat at 2pm on May 2, 2008.
- The sponsor is one who is willing to share his or her faith with the candidate.
- The sponsor is an assistant to the parents as the prime transmitters of the faith.
- The sponsor is to be a person of strong and committed personal faith.
- The sponsor needs to be open, honest, caring, committed, and encouraging person who will help the candidate grow in his/her understanding of the faith as the young person comes to a deeper appreciation of God in his/her life.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

A confirmand is strongly encouraged to be confirmed under his/her baptism name, or in accordance to the past custom of the Church, select the name of a biblical, beatified, or canonized person as recognized by the Church. If candidates decide to select a name, they should be familiar with the life of the patron of their choice and the ways in which this person was a witness to Christ and demonstrated discipleship.

Formation Guidelines
Diocesan Policy

Candidates for the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation have two options concerning the choice of Confirmation name.

1. Stay with your present baptismal name (your regular first name). This shows the sacramental connection with the first and second part of your initiation into the Catholic Church—Baptism and First Eucharist. To stay with your baptismal name would demonstrate that you feel there has been a continual growth in your faith and you now wish to make this formal through Confirmation.
2. Pick a saint's name that would symbolize a new beginning in your faith life and a connection with that particular saint. This would be especially true if you felt that you had not been particularly strong in your faith and are now are making a renewed commitment to your faith. The particular saint's name chosen would represent a strength or attribute you feel you need. It is important and necessary to learn something about the saint you choose before you decide on that name. This option of taking on a new name is *not* to be used because you like the sound of the name, how it fits with your other names, or because it is a name of a friend or relative.

Requirement for Confirmation:

Whether you are choosing to keep your present name or take a new name, write two paragraphs about your choice. This short reflection paper on your choice of name is be turned in to the Goretti Education Office no later than March 21, 2010.

If you choose to keep your baptismal name, the first paragraph is to be about why you are choosing to keep your baptismal name. The second paragraph is to be about the saint for which you are named and, if applicable, who you were named after and why.

If you choose to take a new name, the first paragraph is to be about the particular saint whose name you are choosing. The second paragraph is to be about why you are choosing this particular saint. What symbolism or meaning does this saint hold for you? What do you hope to gain by modeling yourself after this saint?

SACRAMENTAL FORMATION



POLICY 2.2 RETREAT COMPONENT

A day or weekend retreat should be planned for parents and their children to be a time to reflect upon the Church's teachings on Confirmation and the Eucharist in language suited to the children's age level. A time of prayer and practice for the liturgy could be included in this retreat.

Attendance for the retreat is required for all candidates.
Please set aside this date from all other activities for children in advance.

Confirmation-Eucharist Retreat

April 30, 8am-3pm for child

May 1, 8:30am-12:30pm parents and child

Sponsors join at 12:00pm



POLICY 2.3 SERVICE COMPONENT

Parents are to guide and nurture their candidate into a vision of lifelong service following the example of Christ. Service is encouraged to be part of the preparation experience as it is a visible sign of lifelong faith. Candidates should serve in ways meaningful to them that enable them to use their talents and abilities.

Each candidate is required to complete a series of service opportunities in three specific areas. At least one service is to be performed in each of the following areas: the church community; the community in which you live; and at home for your family.

All service is to be completed and service sheets turned in to the Goretta Education Office no later than April 18, 2010.

Service Opportunities

Listed below are just a few of the possible service opportunities that are available to you. These are only suggestions.

- For your Family:** Babysitting without getting paid or rewarded
Do chores without being asked or without being paid
Making a gift for a family member for no reason
Visiting a sick relative, sending flowers, writing letters
Writing a letter or sending a care package to a relative in the armed forces.
Preparing and serving special a meal for your family
Helping Grandparents with jobs they may have a hard time doing

- For your Church:** Altar Server
Choir member (Children's Choir) or (Youth Choir)
Greeter at Mass (Help hand out song booklets and bulletins at Mass)
Help set up, serve, or clean up after parish function
Help with a clean up project on the grounds of SMG
Help stuff the bulletins

- For your Community:** Habitat for Humanity
Santa's Workshop
Shoebox Ministry
St Vincent de Paul Society
Welcome to America
Guadalupe Outreach
Andre House
Crisis Nursery
Visiting a nursing home

St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church

Mission Statement

We, the faithful family of St. Maria Goretti, nourished by Word and Eucharist, respond to our Baptismal call by praying serving and giving.



Pastor: Fr. Doug Lorig.

Director of Parish Faith Formation: Mary Fogelson

Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation: Mary Arnold

Coordinator of Jr. & High School Formation: Dan Minton

Faith Formation Administrative Assistant: Bridgette Barcelo

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