

**CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
WITH
BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS**

Archbishop Charles Thompson extends an invitation to any baptized Catholic adult who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to the annual Adult Confirmation taking place on **Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 2:00 pm** at Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral.

The Mass will be celebrated with both English and Spanish speaking candidates. We are encouraging parishes to invite any baptized adult Catholic needing confirmation to attend this liturgy.

Here are the practical guidelines for those parishes that choose to accept this invitation:

- The attached form must be completed by the pastor or the catechetical director of the candidate(s) and sent to the attention of Christina Tuley, Office Manager in the Office of Worship. The purpose of the form is to verify that a candidate is prepared and is acknowledged as such by a competent authority in his/her parish. **The Office of Worship must receive the forms by May 30, 2024.**

**Christina Tuley
Office of Worship
1400 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202**

**E-mail: ctuley@archindy.org
Phone: 317-236-1483 or 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1483**

Guests of the candidates:

- Please determine the number of persons the candidate will have as guests for the Mass on June 9th and **include that number on the reservation form.**
 - Guests are welcome but space will be limited due to the number of candidates expected at this Mass

Arrival Time:

- Candidates for confirmation and their sponsors attending Mass **must be at the Cathedral by 1:00 pm** on June 9th for a brief welcome, rehearsal, and opportunity for answers to any questions they may have.
- Family and Guests may arrive at any time prior to the start of Mass at 2:00 pm.
- Candidates and Sponsors will have reserved seats.
- Family and guests may sit anywhere in the open seating areas.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

Prior to their arrival at the Mass, please ask the candidate to choose a Confirmation name or retain a recognized saint's name given at Baptism. In either case it is important to have a saint's name as part of the Confirmation rite. A Confirmation name is a permanent reminder which links the candidate with the way in which the mission of Jesus lives on in those special persons recognized by the Church as saints in its history. The process of researching the life of a saint can be an enriching part of the preparation program and can serve as the basis for reflection on the qualities of a present-day witness for Christ. Family members and sponsors can assist the candidate in choosing a Confirmation name.

Sponsors:

- If a sponsor is unable to attend the Confirmation Mass, a proxy (including a parent) may stand in for the sponsor.
- The name of the sponsor should be recorded in the sacramental records.
- Please note that a candidate may NOT choose their own parent as a sponsor.

Sacramental Records

- **The recording of the confirmation for those who are confirmed on June 9th should be done in the book at each person's home parish.**
- Each parish is responsible for notifying the confirmand's parish of baptism that the individual has been confirmed. The site of the confirmation - SS Peter & Paul Cathedral - should be noted in the confirmation register of the home parish.
- Archbishop Charles Thompson should be listed as the Minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the sacramental records.

First Holy Communion

If you have candidates that will also receive First Holy Communion, please check this column on the reservation form.

GUIDELINES FOR BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS SEEKING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Baptized Catholic adults are invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, on Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 2:00 pm at Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis. Archbishop Charles Thompson will be the celebrant at the Mass and confer the Sacrament.

Here are several points to keep in mind:

- Those to be confirmed should be baptized Catholics.
- It is preferred that a candidate be 18 or older.
- If a parish has a candidate younger than 18, please contact the Office of Worship to discuss the circumstance and ask for an exception.
- They should be suitably instructed, properly disposed and able to renew their baptismal promises (canon 889).

Note: "Properly disposed" means that the candidate be in the state of grace and have a genuine desire to complete their Christian initiation. An irregular marriage situation may prevent the reception of the Sacrament. If such cases cannot be resolved prior to Confirmation, then pastoral ministers are urged to give extra encouragement and prayerful support to those individuals for whom Confirmation may be delayed, and to assist them in accessing the support of the Metropolitan Tribunal, if needed..

- In general, the candidates will come from two groups of baptized Catholics.

Some may be active, practicing, catechized members of the parish community who have simply not been confirmed. They may have moved from one parish to another and missed parts of a preparation program or perhaps, as teenagers, they did not feel "ready" for the Sacrament. Some people simply "fell through the cracks". Now, these individuals are active in parish life, often in leadership roles and possibly even in liturgical ministry roles. They will need little more than an invitation, some planning details, and the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Others may be practicing Catholics who will need some catechesis. Full catechesis includes an understanding of Church teachings (Scripture and Tradition), worship and sacramental life, personal and social morality (justice and service) and participation in a community of faith. To help these persons to "brush up" on one or more of these areas, please see the process notes.

Note: Un-catechized Catholic adults should normally be prepared for Confirmation and Eucharist through the process described in Part II of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

A SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR INVITING, WELCOMING AND PREPARING BAPTIZED CATHOLIC ADULTS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This process could be delegated to the parish adult catechetical team, an ad hoc committee of the Faith Formation Commission or another parish group.

Make the invitation widespread and inclusive.

- Use a variety of means - parish bulletin, announcement at Mass, part of a homily (when appropriate) at parent, young adult and other meetings.
- Let it be known that all adults are invited to celebrate the Sacrament.
- Prepare a special invitation for young adults and college students.
- Look for candidates among those adults preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony.
- Invite non-confirmed parents of youth candidates to celebrate with their children.
- Be creative with posters, web pages, bulletin inserts, referral cards, etc.

Hold an open informational meeting at one or more times (day/evening/Sunday morning) at which you will explain the plans for this opportunity.

- Be sure that those who cannot attend a meeting know how to reach you later.
- Distribute an information form to each person to keep in touch and begin to gather information for sacramental records. Allow plenty of time for the candidates to obtain proof of their Baptism.
- Talk about the role and requirements for a Confirmation sponsor.
- Provide a general review of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Provide time for questions and answers.
- Consider using the “10 Things We Want You to Know about the Catholic Faith” resource available through the Office of Catechesis (email: catechesis@archindy.org)

Once you have identified the adult candidates, you can plan your next steps around their needs.

- Some persons may need a parish companion to answer questions and offer encouragement.
- Some persons may want to talk to a priest.
- Many persons will not need formal catechesis.
- Some will need formal or more structured preparation. Here are some ideas.

Catechesis should:

- **Be focused on Creed and Discipleship.**
- **Foster conversion in an atmosphere of prayer and faith sharing.**
- **Include sacramental Penance and Reconciliation (for all candidates).**
- **Draw candidates into service and deeper involvement in parish life.**
- **Assist candidates to live their faith more fully in family life, workplace and society.**

You can use the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, to plan a short program of formation for adults. When practical, pair up with another parish or hold a deanery wide program of preparation.

OTHER RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The Archdiocese recommends that catechetical leaders consider using *Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium*, the reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops on the Thirtieth Anniversary of the *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity* and the Fifteenth Anniversary of *Called and Gifted*. This resource contains excellent content, Scriptural references, and discussion questions on the four calls of lay Catholics:

- The Call to Holiness
- The Call to Community
- The Call to Mission and Ministry
- The Call to Christian Maturity

Other excellent resources may be found at <http://www.archindy.org/worship/index.html> under “Site Features: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults-Resources.” Although this list was assembled for RCIA, several resources on it are helpful in preparing adults in general for Confirmation.
