

# St. Michael Catholic Church

Calhan, Colorado



# 2025-2026 Sacrament of Confirmation Sponsor Guidebook

What does it mean to be a Catholic Sponsor for a Confirmation Candidate?

September 15, 2025



# St. Michael Catholic Church

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Welcome and greetings in the name of Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Thank you and congratulations on agreeing to assume and fulfill the role and responsibilities as a Sponsor for a candidate for the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

While your responsibilities are serious, and the Church and your candidate will depend strongly on you, this can and often is, a time of prayerful, faith enrichment and rediscovering of God's presence and blessings in our daily lives.

May God bless you abundantly and afford the necessary knowledge, skills, and spiritual strength so that you may be a wonderful and inspiring Catholic godparent or sponsor.

Respectfully Yours in Christ,

Fr. R.G. Newbury Jr.

**Pastor** 

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# A GUIDE FOR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

# **Preamble**

"We commonly speak of the sacrament of "chrismation," a word that signifies "anointing." And, in effect, through the oil called "sacred chrism" we are conformed, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to Jesus Christ, who is the only true "Anointed One," the "Messiah," the Holy One of God. The word "confirmation" then reminds us that this sacrament brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace: it unites us more firmly to Christ, it renders our bond with the Church more perfect, and it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith ... to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never be ashamed of His cross ... When we welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts and allow him to act, Christ makes himself present in us and takes shape in our lives; through us, it will be He —Christ Himself — who prays, forgives, gives hope and consolation, serves the brethren, draws close to the needy and to the least, creates community and sows peace. Think how important this is: by means of the Holy Spirit, Christ Himself comes to do all this among us and for us. That is why it is important that children and young people receive the sacrament of conformation."

(Pope Francis, General Audience, Wednesday, January 29, 2014)

#### General Introduction

Congratulations: You are about to embark on a rewarding journey to share and grow in your own faith, while also assisting a candidate for the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation. In accepting the invitation to be a sponsor and mentor for your candidate, you are making a commitment to help them grow in their relationship with God and His Church. This is also an opportunity for you to renew and deepen your own faith. This handout is designed to help you prepare your candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation and to guide you in fruitful conversations with the candidate entrusted to your care.

# Canonical and Diocesan Qualifications for a Confirmation Sponsor

- 1. To be admitted to the role of a sponsor, Canons 893 and 874 must be fulfilled. Canon 874.1, as applied to confirmation sponsors, states, "To be permitted to take on the function of a sponsor, a person must:
  - a. Be designated (chosen) by the one to be *confirmed*, by the parents or guardian;
  - b. Have completed the sixteenth year of age;
  - c. Be a Roman Catholic who has already received all their Sacraments of Initiation and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
  - d. Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
  - e. Not be the father or mother of the one to be *confirmed*."

- 2. If married, the person must have been validly and sacramentally married in the Catholic Church. NB: If the person seeking to be appointed and recognized as a Confirmation Sponsor:
  - a. Is currently living with another person in a romantic and intimate relationship outside the Sacrament of Matrimony;
  - b. Has previously been married and divorced, and is now in a subsequent civil marriage without an annulment of the first marriage by a Church Marriage Tribunal Court; and/or
  - c. Is currently civilly married only and has not had this marriage recognized by the Church by the conferral of the Sacrament of Matrimony upon the couple,

The person is ineligible to be appointed and/or to fulfill the role of Confirmation Sponsor. Please speak with the Pastor, if necessary, for further clarification.

- 3. The parish's Confirmation Sponsor form must be completed by all seeking to assume the role. (Please refer to Attachment 3 for an example Confirmation Sponsor form.)
  - a. If the Sponsor is a registered parishioner of this parish church, it is to be completed by the Sponsor and handed to the Pastor, who will complete the bottom section of the form.
  - b. If the Sponsor is a registered parishioner of another Catholic parish church, it is to be completed by the Sponsor, and their own Pastor will complete the bottom section of the form. NB: The other parish's Pastor must sign and apply the parish's canonical seal, before forwarding it to the Pastor of this parish church.
  - c. NB: While other family members or friends may be sought by the candidate and/or their parents, if these people are not baptized Catholics in good-standing (i.e., they are either baptized Protestants or baptized Catholics who have left the faith and Church), they are ineligible to assume the significant role and responsibilities of a Baptism Godparent or a Confirmation Sponsor. (Please refer to Attachment 5 for a definition of what constitutes a baptized Catholic in good standing.)

# **Understanding Your Role as an Appointed Confirmation Sponsor (approved by the Pastor)**

Your role as a Confirmation sponsor is multifaceted. As you accompany your candidate throughout the preparation process, your role includes affirming the strengths of your candidate and pointing out ways they can grow and become better in the practice of faith. It may involve some guidance, teaching, and explanation of points brought up in the candidates' catechetical, sacramental preparation sessions. Your candidate may look to you for examples of how to live a life of faith. The principle role of a Confirmation Sponsor is one of companionship and mentor. Good sponsorship does not demand perfection or knowing all the answers. It does, however, flow from walking with the candidate, sharing your own faith story and experience, listening to his or her story, and together finding the correct answer to a candidate question that you may not know.

NB: You do not need to be an expert in adolescent psychology or the doctrines of the faith.

Good sponsorship is based on your willingness to share your own experiences of being Catholic and growing in your own faith journey and relationship with God.

During the Confirmation Preparation Process, you should:

- Participate in service projects with your candidate;
- Spend time with your candidate doing the activities and dialogue that are found in this handout;
- Share how life in the Church has been a part of your everyday life; and
- Listen to all questions your candidate has and seek understanding together. In other words, listen at least as much as you talk. Move from lighter conversation, then gradually move to deeper topics of faith and belief systems.
- Be a Christian witness in both words and deeds; especially in the areas of morality, social justice, and demonstrating our faith in the counter-cultural worlds we live in now (putting our faith and religion into practice).
- Understand that adolescence is a time of transition. The candidate is moving beyond definitions of themselves previously placed on them by family members, teachers, and peers. This period of transition can involve new challenges and excitement. It can also be filled with many roadblocks and social/peer pressures that are many times contrary to the faith and our moral virtues.
- Gently challenge your candidate's words and actions when they contradict Christian values and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

#### What is Confirmation?

The Sacrament of Confirmation celebrates an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and increases the spiritual gifts in us. These gifts give us the opportunity to be strong in professing our faith. Confirmation also completes baptismal grace. The Holy Spirit has already been active in the Sacrament of Baptism. Confirmation strengthens our bonds with the Church and empowers us to witness. Just as the Apostles went forth fearlessly to proclaim the Good News after Pentecost, those who receive the Holy Spirit's outpouring in Confirmation, also become the bearers of glad tidings in word and deed.

Young people who are baptized as infants or later as children celebrate Confirmation in the 8th grade in our diocese. When confirmation is celebrated it more fully binds the candidate to the Church and enriches them with the special strength of the Holy Spirit to witness to Christ as a member of Christ's Body; the Church.

# **Symbolism and History**

The Sacrament of Confirmation was originally a rite of hands-laying and anointing with fragrant oil that immediately followed Baptism and "confirmed" it. This anointing was carried out by the bishop.

As the young church grew and communities of Christians spread throughout the known world, the bishop was unable to be present at every Baptism, so changes were made to the Rite.

In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the hands-laying on and anointing were delayed until a later time when the bishop could carry them out in person. This was the origin of Confirmation as a separate sacramental celebration.

In the Eastern Rite, the recipient after their baptism, immediately receives the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist also by the priest celebrant.

# Prayers for your Candidate

Come Holy Spirit, enlighten [Candidate's Name]. Open (his or her) heart to see the gift of your presence in all of life. Give [Candidate's Name] wisdom, to make good choices, courage to stand up for the right things, and perseverance and fortitude to live as a disciple. Amen.

# **Sponsor Prayer**

Spirit of Wisdom, guide me on this journey that I may be a true witness to the Gospel of Jesus and the mission of the Church. Put your thoughts in my heart and your words in my mouth, that I will fulfill this ministry with goodness, generosity, faith, and grace. Amen.

# **Sponsor Checklist**

During the Preparation Process:

	Determine with your candidate the times you both will meet/talk for faith sharing after each
	session.
	Mark the date of the celebration of Confirmation in your calendar. (To be determined)
	Discuss the candidate's saint selection with them and why they chose them as their Confirmation
	Saint.
	Help them to reflect upon their Community Service projects in terms of learning to live out their
	faith and grow in their faith. If possible, work on them together.
	Reflect on what you would like to receive from this time together.
	Periodically attend Mass with your candidate and talk about the readings and homily afterwards.
	If you are involved in a parish ministry or group, invite your candidate to join you.
	Discuss the Confirmation Retreat/Small Groups and how it has impacted them (To be
	determined.).
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Ргера	ring for the Day of Confirmation
	Within the week before the celebration of Confirmation, set aside some time to meet with your
	candidate and affirm their participation in the program. Share your own insights and lessons
	from the process.
П	Be on time and in the appointed place for the celebration.

# After the Celebration

When the formal process of sacramental preparation and the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation is over, you and your newly confirmed person may want to continue as faith companions.

Here are some suggestions:

Use email or phone to continue faith sharing and building your relationship.
Continue or begin a new service project together.
Remember and celebrate the anniversary of their Confirmation.
Go to Mass together.

# Faith Sharing Tips

The best gifts your candidate can receive from you are the sharing of your own faith journey and experiences, and affirming or calling forth of the candidate's, which in turn will also be a gift to you. Faith sharing encompasses talking about the beliefs, values, and meanings that shape your life because you are a believer and practicing Christian Catholic. You probably already do a lot of it in everyday conversation.

# Principles of Faith Sharing

- Faith is a gift of God already present in you and your candidate.
- Faith grows as life experiences happen.
- Listening and sharing the events and experiences of our lives in a faith community helps us clarify and articulate our faith and discipleship practices.
- Faith sharing happens in both formal and informal settings, and benefits both the listener and the speaker. Create the ideal, undistracted, and peaceful environment for Faith Sharing.

Think of yourself and your candidate as companions on the faith journey. Companions actively listen to and trust each other. They are going in the same direction and assist each other with experience, skill, and sharing. They enjoy each other and the spiritual journey; open to the Spirit's prompting.

**Reflect.** Think about your own positive experiences of being companioned on a journey.

What lessons from those experiences can you bring to your role as a Sponsor that will create a meaningful environment for faith sharing with your candidate?

**Make the Time**. Set aside specific times to talk and take advantage of informal and spontaneous times together.

**Listen to the Small Stuff.** Your candidate will share if they know you are going to listen no matter what they want to talk about, whether it is what is in the Confirmation session or everyday life's happenings and issues. Young people trust adults when they sense an adult is genuinely interested in them. If they come to trust you with the small stuff, they are more likely to trust you enough to talk about more serious matters.

**Listen Between the Lines.** Sometimes it is hard to talk about the things that really matter. Your candidate may want to but cannot find the words. Pay special attention to what your candidate may be trying to say or ask. When possible, utilize open ended statements or questions versus closed ended statements or questions that elicit only a yes or no answer from the candidate.

**Listen and Learn**. Ask for your candidate's opinions. Few things please young people more than being asked their opinion.

**Do not Interrupt.** Give your candidate extra time to explain their opinions or desires, even if you think you know what they are going to say.

**Please Do not Deliver a Sermon.** Ask your candidate if they have heard opinions from friends or family members on a topic. When the candidate feels that you are exploring the topic together, they will be more open to sharing thoughts and listening to yours.

# **Suggested Sponsor/Candidate Conversations**

The following suggested sponsor/candidate conversations include brief summaries, conversation starters, faith sharing topics, and discussion questions. Sponsors and candidates may conduct their conversations in person, online, or by telephone. What matters most is connecting with one another and growing together in faith.

**Session 1:** The Church is called by God to gather together as the Body of Christ to share in Jesus' mission. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we come together in Jesus' name to praise and worship God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Conversation: Invite your candidate to complete the following statement: When I gather with my parish community to celebrate the Mass, I feel....

Sharing: In your Bible, read Saint Paul's observations about the ways in which the early Christian community in Corinth was gathering to celebrate the Eucharist in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. Think about the ways in which you and your parish community gather as you prepare to celebrate Mass. Share with one another what Saint Paul might observe about your community. What specific advice might Saint Paul offer to the members of your parish to help you gather together as the People of God?

Discussion: What are two specific things you can do to better prepare yourself for Mass?

**Session 2:** God's Divine Revelation is recorded in Sacred Scripture. The importance of listening attentively and responding to God's Word in the Mass Liturgy of the Word and making it part of our daily lives is particularly important.

*Conversation:* Share with your candidate your favorite Scripture story from the Old or New Testament. Explain why the story has special meaning for you.

*Sharing:* Discuss with your candidate the importance of God's Word in your life. Share an experience of how the Scriptures have influenced the way you live.

Discussion: Ask the candidate what their favorite Scripture is.

How will listening more attentively to God's Word at Mass help you to be a better witness for Christ?

**Session 3:** There is a significance of the Renewal of Baptismal Promises during the Rite of Confirmation. Through this ritual we are invited to make deliberate choices to be modern day disciples of Jesus Christ. We speak on your own behalf, what our Godparent(s) spoke for us at our Baptism.

*Conversation:* Talk with your candidate about a promise you have made at some point in your life. Discuss with one another what it meant to keep the promise you made.

*Sharing:* In your Bible, read John 3:1-5, 17-19, the story of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus. Think about (what you have been told about) your own Baptism and the Baptisms you have witnessed. Share with one another the questions you might ask of Jesus about what it means to be born of water and the Spirit. Imagine how Jesus might respond to your questions.

*Discussion:* Think about one specific decision you faced today. How did your decision show that you are a disciple of Jesus, the Christ?

**Session 4:** The Church practice of the laying-on of hands in the Scriptures, in Church Tradition, and in the Rite of Confirmation is significant. Through this action we are called to share in Jesus' mission by the works of the Spirit in and around us.

Conversation: Ask you candidate, I feel that we are growing in our spiritual bond with one another because....

Sharing: Think about the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe) the bishop prays for as he lays hands on candidates during Confirmation. Share with your candidate the gift you most desire to grow in. Explain the reason for your choice.

*Discussion:* When are you most aware of the Holy Spirit's presence as a Helper and Guide in your life? What gift of the Spirit do you think you most desire?

**Session 5:** The meaning of the anointing with the oil of Sacred Chrism during the Rite of Confirmation, when the seven-fold gift of the Holy Spirit is sealed within the candidates.

Conversation: What saint's name has the candidate chosen for Confirmation? What was the sponsor's saint confirmation name? Share with one another the reason these names were chosen.

*Sharing:* In your Bible, read 1 Peter 2:9. Share with one another how this passage is lived out in your parish community.

*Discussion:* What does it mean to you to be a Christian—someone who shares in Christ's mission? What do you think your mission is?

**Session 6:** The significance of the exchange of Peace in the Mass in which the Rite of Confirmation occurs and our call to be peacemakers. Peace is both the restoration of our friendship with God and one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives.

Conversation: Do you find it easier to forgive or to ask for forgiveness? Explain your response.

Sharing: Read Luke 1:67-79, the prophecy of Zechariah about the coming of Jesus. Share with one another how Jesus guides your "feet into the path of peace" in your daily lives.

Discussion: What specific things can you do to bring peace to others?

**Session 7:** How the seven-fold gift of the Holy Spirit empowers us to participate in the Eucharist more fully, consciously, and actively. Through our sharing in the Eucharist, we are called to solidarity with the poor, powerless and voiceless in the world.

Conversation: Discuss why the Eucharist is important in your life.

*Sharing:* In your Bible, read Luke 24:13-32, the story of Jesus's appearance on the road to Emmaus. Discuss how meeting Jesus in the Eucharist helps you to see him in other people in your life.

*Discussion:* Describe an experience from your life when you have felt solidarity with the poor or powerless in the world. What action did you take? How did this experience make you feel? Do you both feel like the Eucharist helps you see Jesus in others?

**Session 8:** The last part of the Mass, including the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation, is the sending forth at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Liturgy. Each week we are sent forth from the Mass to evangelize by sharing the Good News of the Gospel—of God's love.

Conversation: Name someone who is or was a witness of faith for you and explain why that person is an example for you in living the Catholic faith.

Sharing: Consider the first goal of Catholic evangelization discussed in the document Go and Make Disciples: "To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others" (46). Share with one another what makes you enthusiastic about your Catholic faith and why you want to share that joy of the Gospels with others.

*Discussion:* How can you publicly witness your faith in Jesus Christ in your daily life? Does this sound scary to do? How can you both encourage one another to be witnesses of the faith?

Questions for Sacramental Preparation: (to help verify the candidate's understanding of the topics)

Candidates for Confirmation should be able to answer all of these questions by the scheduled Mass for their reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of 2026. It would be extremely helpful to go through them with your candidate. They may also have the opportunity to be interviewed by one of our parish priests to discuss the answers as well.

Bishops are 'beyond all others the ones primarily responsible for catechesis, the catechist par excellence.' As chief catechist in the diocese, the bishop is responsible for the total catechetical mission of the local church. Catechesis is one of the fundamental tasks of the bishop's ministry" (National Directory for Catechesis #54).

#### 1. What is a Sacrament?

A sacrament is a sacred and visible sign of God's invisible grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church to dispense divine life. The Confirmation candidate receives efficacious grace; it delivers God's grace to those who participate and receive the sacrament.

# 2. What is grace?

Grace is a supernatural gift from God to make us holy and to unite us with Him now and forever. Each sacrament gives and strengthens the active presence, life, and love of the Holy Trinity in us. Each sacrament gives its own special graces.

#### 3. When did Jesus institute the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Jesus promised to the Apostles that he would ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to enlighten, strengthen, and guide them. At Pentecost (fifty days after Easter), the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. Tongues of fire rested upon their heads and the fire of God's love filled their souls.

# 4. What are the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

- a. **Wisdom**: helps us to know God's will for our lives;
- b. **Understanding**: enables us to make the faith our own;
- c. **Knowledge**: allows us to come to know and be in relationship with God;
- d. **Fortitude**: helps us to be courageous in the defense of our faith;
- e. **Counsel**: aids us in making right judgments;
- f. **Piety**: assists us in being prayerful, reverent, and holy; and
- g. **Fear of the Lord**: is a holy awe and reverence for God.

# 5. What did the Apostles do after Pentecost?

Filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles went forth to fulfill what Jesus commanded them: "Go forth to all nations. Preach the Gospel. Baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach everything I have commanded you." To this day, the Church continues to fulfill what Jesus commanded.

# 6. What is special about the Church? What are the Four Marks of the Church?

The Church was and continues to be founded by Jesus Christ. It has four marks:

- The Church is *one* because of her source, foundation, and bonds of unity in Christ.
- The Church is *holy* because she is united with Christ, who through the Church sanctifies all people and makes holiness in life.
- The Church is *catholic* because the Church is universal across all times and all places, and
- The Church is *apostolic* because she traces her teaching and authority to the Apostles.
- 7. **How is the Sacrament of Confirmation celebrated?** Confirmation is celebrated by the community gathered around the Bishop, and it is always celebrated within a Liturgy of the Word.

After the Gospel, the candidates are called to stand and present themselves to the Bishop. The Bishop them instructs them in his homily. The Bishop then asks the candidates to stand and renew their baptismal promises.

Next, the Bishop expresses the Church's prayer that the Father send the Holy Spirit upon every Confirmation candidate.

The Bishop places his hand on the head on the candidates, and then he anoints the candidates with the holy oil of Sacred Chrism by making the Sign of the Cross on the candidate's forehead. After the anointing, he offers the sign of peace to each candidate.

Finally, the community prays for the newly Confirmed members of Christ's Church.

#### 8. What is Sacred Chrism?

Sacred Chrism is a perfumed oil consecrated (not blessed) by the Bishop. Anointing with Sacred Chrism signifies the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and our being made more like Christ to continue his work in the world.

Throughout the Old Testament texts, such oil was used by the Jewish people to anoint priests, prophets, and kings. These anointings showed that God called them to a special role of leadership and would empower them with the graces needed to fulfill the responsibilities.

In Confirmation, Christians are anointed with Chrism. By receiving the Holy Spirit, we are made more like Christ and are strengthened to continue and do Christ's work in the world. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit empower us to fulfill these serious responsibilities.

Chrism reminds us also of the sacred character indelibly sealed on our soul (as oil on a garment leaves a permanent mark, so Confirmation leaves a permanent invisible mark on the soul—identifying the person as belonging to God). The fragrance of Chrism (i.e., balsam oil) reminds us, as St. Paul said, to "put on the aroma of Christ." (cf: 2 Corinthians 2:14-16)

# 9. How will the Confirmation candidate live the Sacrament of Confirmation?

They must be able to tell the Bishop how they will live the Sacrament of Confirmation.

#### For example:

- o attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Day;
- o pray each day;
- o read Sacred Scripture;
- o go to confession regularly;
- o continue to learn about the faith;
- o help in the mission of the Church (for example, by participating in the life of my parish);
- o faithfully fulfill my vocation (for example, be married in the Church raise children in the faith; for example, say "yes" to the call to be a Priest, Sister, or Brother).

# 10. Why are Confirmation candidates asked to chose a saint? Why does the candidate then receive their Confirmation anointing while the bishop calls out the saint's name?

Candidates in the Sacrament of Confirmation do not receive the anointing by a saint's name but rather take a saint's name for the ceremony. The bishop anoints them with the oil of sacred chrism but refers to them by their chosen confirmation name. This custom symbolizes the candidate's new identity in Christ and their adoption of a saint as their personal patron.

In the Bible, God or Jesus often gave a new name to people who were taking on a special role or mission. Examples include Abram becoming Abraham and Simon becoming Peter. In the same way, a new name for confirmation represents a new phase of spiritual life.

By taking a saint's name, the candidate forges a special spiritual bond with that saint. They can ask their patron saint to pray for them and guide them throughout their life. Imagine choosing the saint as their lifelong spiritual companion. Choosing a Confirmation saint honors that saint which the candidate seeks to emulate.

# 11. Who was your Confirmation Saint?

Be able to tell the Bishop about your Confirmation Saint, what that Saint did to inspire you, and why you chose the saint.

12. **Is the candidate's participation in a Confirmation retreat required?** Full participation in the parish's Confirmation sacramental preparation catechetical classes, retreat, and any other related events are *mandatory* for all Confirmation Candidates from the St. Michael Catholic Church. NB: The sacramental preparation registration fee covers everything needed, except for candidates' personal items. If cost becomes an obstacle or barrier to attending the retreat or other confirmation-related activities, please direct inquiries about available financial assistance to your catechists(s) or the Pastor. Information (including diocesan permission/release forms) will be sent home to parents/guardians regarding the retreat or event and must be returned to the parish office at least 3 days before the scheduled retreat or event date.

# The Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

# The Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

At Baptism, we receive seven special gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are freely given to us to help us live as followers of Jesus and to build up the Body of Christ, the Church. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed and strengthened within us at Confirmation. These seven gifts help us to respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to make good choices, and to serve God and others. These seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

- **Wisdom:** is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead us away from God.
- Understanding: is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of God and those of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic towards others. It helps us sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.
- **Right Judgment, or Counsel**: is the gift of prudence. The gift of right judgment helps us make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.
- Courage, or Fortitude: is the gift that helps us stand up for our faith in Christ as a Christian Catholic today. The gift of courage helps us overcome any obstacles that would keep us from practicing our faith.
- **Knowledge:** is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables us to choose the right path that will lead us to God. It encourages us to avoid obstacles that will keep us from Him.
- **Reverence or Piety:** is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence inspires us to joyfully *want* to serve God and others.
- Wonder and Awe or Fear of the Lord: is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages us to be in awe of God. The gift of wonder and awe moves us to so love God that we do not want to offend Him by our words or actions.

# The Fruits of the Holy Spirit:

When we cooperate with the graces and gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit, we grow as followers of Jesus. We see the effect of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives in special qualities and attitudes (as Jesus tells us in Sacred Scripture, the be-attitudes (cf: Matthew 5:1-12)) that we develop as we grow in faith. The Church identifies these qualities and attitudes as the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are signs that the Holy Spirit is alive within us and helping us live the Catholic faith in our daily lives.

- **Love**: we exhibit the virtue of charity or love, by our unselfish devotion and care for God and our neighbor.
- **Joy**: we live with joy when we recognize that true happiness comes, not from money or possessions, but from knowing and following Christ.
- **Peace**: we are freed from worrying about trivial things because of the inner peace we experience with God in our hearts. We work and pray for peace throughout our nation and the whole world.

- **Patience**: we demonstrate patience by treating others with thoughtfulness and tolerance. We know that we can overcome the temptations and sufferings of life because God is always with us.
- **Kindness**: we live the virtue of kindness by treating others as we want to be treated.
- **Goodness**: we exhibit goodness when we honor God by avoiding sin and always trying to do what we know is right.
- **Generosity**: we demonstrate the fruit of generosity when we share (i.e., steward well) our gifts and possessions with others.
- Gentleness: gentle people act calmly and avoid actions that might lead others to anger or resentment.
- **Faithfulness**: we are faithful when we live out our commitment to the teachings of Jesus, the Sacred Scriptures, and the Holy Catholic Church.
- **Modesty**: we exhibit modesty by being pure in our thoughts, words, and dress.
- **Self-control**: we exercise self-control by working to overcome the temptations we face and by trying always to do God's will.
- Chastity: we live the virtue of chastity when we use the gift of sexuality wisely, according to God's plan.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS/PROJECT

Each Candidate is required to complete fifteen (15) hours of Community Service (which incorporate God's works of mercy within us) during their sacramental preparation period for Confirmation. These service projects are meant to help them understand the importance of serving those in need around us. Review the guidelines below (as explained in their Confirmation Candidate's handbook (page 9)) with your candidate and engage in some conversation with them about the projects they have chosen. The following section is an excerpt from the Confirmation Candidate's handbook page 9:

"Following in the footsteps of Christ, we are each called to love God and neighbor and to serve one another by acts of charity. Therefore, before the Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred upon candidates from the St. Michael Catholic Church, a *minimum of 15 hours* of Community Service must be completed and the necessary forms submitted to your catechist(s) and Pastor. Please refer to Attachments 7 and 8 [in their handbook] for more information and details.

In living a righteous and Christian life of service to others, one key is finding something that we love to do and share our time and talents with others. Candidates are asked to think about the following possibilities:

- What are your likes and dislikes, your talents, and things you struggle with?
- What ways you can use your talents to help others in your community?
- Do you know others that could help you to serve your community?

The Community Service Project should be fun, not just a mandated task or chore. If you need help finding something, do not hesitate to ask your sponsor or your catechist(s) for ideas. I assure you the opportunities are bountiful in our community, so be creative and make some phone calls to the food pantries, clothing donation stores, nursing homes, homebound senior citizens, or the coordinator of a parish English as a Second Language (ESL) Program. I am sure the doors of opportunity and the need for your talents, skills, and abilities will be open for you to explore!

# A minimum of 15 Community Service Hours MUST be completed PRIOR to April 1, 2026.

# WORKS OF MERCY (COMMUNITY SERVICE) PROJECT GUIDELINES

"It is you young people that the task first falls of bearing witness to the Faith and bringing into the third millennium the Gospel of Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life"-- St. John Paul II.

As the candidate prepares for Confirmation, it is vital that you understand that need for serving your fellow man and woman as well as your brothers and sisters in faith. The Works of Mercy are powerful ways to serve others.

"The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned and burying the dead" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2447).

The Works of Mercy Projects are designed to provide those seeking Confirmation with opportunities to better understand the role that serving the needs of others plays in leading a Christ-like life and living out the Faith as Catholic adults. The Church calls on each of us to fulfill its mission of spreading the Gospel message and sharing the love God has shared with us through the teachings of Jesus.

By completing Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy—not only in the 15-hours of Community Service—but in their daily lives, candidates will experience a taste of the many ways the Catholic Church inspires us to love others, especially those most in need.

#### **The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:**

- o Feed the hungry.
- o Give drink to the thirsty.
- Clothe the naked.
- Shelter the homeless.
- o Visit the sick.
- O Visit the imprisoned, and
- o Bury the dead.

# **Works of Mercy Examples Section**

The activities listed here are general examples and suggestions. You and the candidate are not limited to these activities alone for your Community Service Project, incorporating Works of Mercy. Be creative! If you have a question about what might be acceptable, please contact our Pastor.

# Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Feed the Hungry/Give Drink to the Thirsty: participate in organizing a food donation drive, and work in a soup kitchen or food/clothing donation location.
- Clothe the Naked: do a winter coat drive, do a clothing drive, knit scarves for those in need, distribute winter clothing items to those in need or give your donations received to a local distribution location.
- Visit the Sick: visit a nursing home (in a safe manner), volunteer with an organization that connects you to have conversations with seniors, deliver groceries and/or needed items to the homebound.
- Shelter the Homeless: participate and promote in an awareness event for the homeless, volunteer at a homeless shelter or host a drive for toiletries for a homeless shelter, create a meal, or serve a meal at a homeless shelter.
- Visit the Imprisoned: collect paperback books to donate to a jail library, help work with restorative justice programs, write letters to politicians to end the death penalty.
- **Bury the Dead:** attend a funeral, visit a cemetery, and pray for departed souls, assist with an after-funeral Mass or service bereavement luncheon.

# **The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy**:

- o Instruct the ignorant.
- o Counsel the doubtful.
- o Admonish the sinner.
- o Comfort the afflicted.
- o Bear wrongs patiently.
- o Forgive offenses willingly.
- o Pray for the living, and
- o Pray for the dead.

#### Spiritual Works:

Admonish the Sinner: gently correct someone who is misguided (this does not meet walk around and yelling at a sibling).

- Instruct the Ignorant: assist in a Religious Education or Faith Formation class for the school year, help a younger sibling with homework, help a younger sibling learn prayers, tutor someone younger than you whose in need.
- **Counsel the Doubtful:** lend encouragement to someone who is feeling down, create cards for those who are hospitalized for mental health issues.
- Comfort the Sorrowing: make a card for someone who is ill or who has recently lost a loved one, work with organizations who help comfort those who lost their pregnancies.
- **Bear Wrongs Patiently:** discuss an occasion where you turned the other cheek.
- Forgive all Injuries: offer forgiveness and make peace with those that you struggle with.
- Pray for the Living and the Dead: attend the March for Life, ooffer prayers for the souls in purgatory, attend a holy hour or a recitation of the holy rosary.

# ATTACHMENT #1 ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

574 Eighth Street, Calhan, CO 80808 - Office: (719) 347-2290

# Baptism Godparent and Confirmation / RCIA - Sponsor Certificate of Eligibility

The Catholic Church requires that all those who assume the role, responsibilities and obligations of Godparent or Sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation, practice their faith and exemplify it in their conduct as members of the Roman Catholic Church. Consequently, verifying the eligibility of Baptism Godparent(s) and/or Confirmation Sponsor(s) is serious (including those individuals who reside and practice their faith outside of this parish church).

(Please read and complete this form carefully, check any applicable boxes below, sign and then present this form to your Pastor to complete the bottom portion and return this form to us.)

	I am a baptized, Roman Catholic, registered at and a participating member of (parish):
	I have been asked to be a Baptism Sponsor (Godparent) or a Sponsor of a candidate for RCIA or the Sacrament of Confirmation and am not the father or mother of the person, who is to receive the Sacrament(s) (Canon 874 §1, 1 and 5 and Canons 892, 893).
· /	I have received all three of the Sacraments of Initiation (i.e., Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist) (Canon 874 §1, 3 and Canon 893 §1).
	I have attained the minimum age of 16 years of age (Canon 874 §1, 2 and Canon 893 §1).
	If I was married, it was the Sacrament of Matrimony in a Catholic Church. (Canon 1108, 1118ff) Church Name/ Location:
	I worship regularly at Mass (on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation) (Canon 1247), give witness to my faith by frequently receiving the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation, and participate in the life of my Catholic parish church.
· V	*I am <u>not</u> a party in an invalid marriage (i.e., outside the Catholic Church) or cohabitating (living together outside the Sacrament of Matrimony). (* <u>Ineligible otherwise</u> )
0	I actively strive to live out my commitment to Jesus Christ and His Church, by stewarding my time, talents, and treasure, and by my loving response(s) to my neighbor.
	I realize that I will assume a great responsibility before God and His Church in becoming a Godparent or Sponsor. I promise to provide support and guide the person I am sponsoring with my prayers and by providing a good, Catholic example in my daily life.
SPON	SOR/GODPARENT FOR:
T 1	(Print Name of Person to be Baptized or Confirmed)
	by declare, by my signature, I am attesting to the truth of all of my responses above.  arent/Sponsor's Printed Name:
	arent/Sponsor's Signature:  Date:
I certi	ify that the above person is: (1) A registered and participating member of this parish; practicing, baptized Catholic in good standing; (3) Has received all Sacraments of tion, and (4) Eligible to serve as a Baptism Godparent or Confirmation Sponsor.
	cure of Godparent's/Sponsor's Pastor:  /City of Parish:



# ATTACHMENT #2 CONFIRMATION SPONSOR INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Role of a Sponsor can be traced to the early Church. Though the function of a Sponsor has changed over the years, it has always related to Christian Initiation and the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

At the time of the Second Vatican Council, the rite of the Sacrament of Confirmation was revised and the intimate connection with the other sacraments (e.g., Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist) of initiation was set forth.

As the Sacrament of Confirmation has often delayed until the teen years, the Church recognized that this is an *excellent* opportunity for an adult sponsor to have more of a positive effect on the life of the teen candidate. To emphasize the connection between Baptism and Confirmation, it is appropriate for the Confirmation Sponsor to be one of the teen's baptismal godparents. This recommendation is not always doable, especially with the rotation of many military service members and their families. If not, teens are asked, with their parents' help to choose another sponsor for Confirmation.

Sponsors must follow the qualifications and requirements listed below:

# 1. Qualifications for a Confirmation Sponsor:

The qualifications for a sponsor, according to Canon Law, are the same as for a baptismal sponsor. A sponsor must:

- be chosen by the person who will be confirmed;
- be at least 16 years old;
- be a Catholic, who has already received all the Sacraments of Initiation (e.g., baptism; has been confirmed; and who has received the Sacrament of Eucharist);
- lead a faith-filled life, participates in the sacramental life of the Church (e.g., weekly Mass attendance; frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, etc.) and be a Catholic in good standing; and
- not be the mother or father of the one to be confirmed.

If you have been chosen by a teenager or parent to be a Confirmation sponsor, you should feel both humbled and proud. To your candidate you are a significant Catholic adult. They feel comfortable with you, and it is promising to share their faith life with you whenever possible. You should be willing to do the same. Also, as a Confirmation Sponsor you should:

- be a Christian witness in both words and deeds;
- offer support to your candidate as they move through the often-perilous teen years, including experiencing doubts about their own faith;
- challenge your candidate's words and actions when they contradict Christian values;
- be formally introduced to the candidate's parents; and
- be willing to participate with the candidate at liturgy and in Christian service.

# 2. The actual things you must do as a Confirmation sponsor are as follows:

- One-on-One Meetings: You and the candidate arrange for a time and place where you can meet at least once a month for approximately an hour. This time and place should be one in which you both feel comfortable and relaxed and where you will not be distracted or disturbed. It is important to establish the right mix of informality and seriousness for these meetings. These meetings are used to discuss faith issues being addressed in the candidate's formal classroom preparation for the sacrament. Some of these topics are: God, Scripture, the Church, morality, social justice, liturgy and sacraments, vocation, and the elements of the Rite of Confirmation.
  - Share a brief prayer with your candidate. This prayer can be spontaneous, or you can use more pertinent, traditional prayers.
  - ➤ If/when possible, attend a Sunday Mass with the candidate. Consider going out for a simple meal or beverage at a local coffee shop after the Mass or finding a quiet spot on the parish grounds to conduct your meeting.
  - Participate together in an activity to benefit others. Your candidate's Confirmation process may involve working on several service projects, please plan to join in, when possible.
  - Does something fun together. Combine your meeting with a trip to the movies; a walk in a park or along a lake; an afternoon at a ballgame; a bike ride; or any other activity you and your candidate decide would be enjoyable.
- Group Meetings: These may be occasions when you will be asked to participate with your candidate in regularly scheduled parts of the Confirmation preparation process. For these "group meetings," other candidates and their sponsors may take part with you. For example:
  - Meetings: A parish catechist leads a meeting that includes icebreaking activities, presentations on a faith topic, discussion, media, and prayer. Your role would be to attend and participate along with your candidate if you are invited to attend these weekly meetings.
  - Liturgies: An essential element of the candidate's preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is regular and consistent participation in Sunday Eucharist. Sometimes, the candidates attend scheduled, special liturgies. You will be asked to participate with your candidate at these liturgies.

- Retreats: Participation in a retreat is a mandatory part of the Confirmation preparation process at the St. Michael Catholic Church. On the retreat, the candidate's entire experience of preparing for Confirmation is concentrated. You may consider signing up to attend the Confirmation retreat as a chaperone, group leader, or presenter in an area of faith. If so, contact the parish's Confirmation Coordinator and they will provide you with the necessary material(s), as appropriate.
- ➤ <u>Service Projects</u>: Becoming integrated into the Church as a fully initiated Catholic means participating in activities and projects that are of service to others. You should want to be involved with the service-oriented activities with your candidate.

# **USE OF A PROXY DURING THE CONFIRMATION MASS:**

If the sponsor cannot attend the Confirmation Mass in person due to a legitimate and verifiable conflict (e.g., hospitalization, travel delay, etc.), a proxy, explicitly designated by the Sponsor and Confirmation candidate, who meets <u>all</u> the qualifications of a Sponsor, may stand-in for the Sponsor during the liturgy. If the Sponsor is unable to participate in the Confirmation Mass and desires to utilize a proxy, he or she must notify the Pastor in writing, <u>a minimum of one week</u> in advance for his approval. A parent <u>may not</u> be a sponsor or a proxy.

If you have any questions please contact the Parish Priest or the Confirmation Coordinator, at (719) 347-2290.

# ATTACHMENT #3 FORM FOR CATHOLIC CONFIRMATION SPONSOR Due by February 1, 2026

You have been asked to be a sponsor for a Confirmation Candidate at your St. Michael Catholic Church. We ask you (the Sponsor) to reflect on the Sponsor responsibilities and for you to complete this commitment form. Please return it promptly to our parish office.

I,	have been asked to serve as a
sponsor	
	for the Confirmation of
	Name of Child Name of Parents
l am a red	gistered and participating member of
	Name of the Catholic Church
in the city/sta	ate of
iii tiio oity/ote	City and State of Church
By my <i>initials</i> His Church, tha	below, I affirm (to give testimony as true and factual information) before God and at:
	I am at least 16 years old and am not the mother or father of the Confirmation candidate.
	I have received all the Catholic Church's Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- 191	If married, I received the Sacrament of Matrimony within the Catholic Church. *
	If single, I must strive to live a chaste life and therefore I am not living (i.e., cohabitating) with a person outside of the valid Sacrament of Matrimony. *
i	I regularly participate (weekly) in Sunday Mass and give witness to my faith in Christ Jesus by frequently receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist and participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If/when possible, I agree to attend Sunday Masses with my candidate.
	I am registered in a Catholic parish and do contribute/participate in my parish community through stewardship of my time, talents, and/or treasure.
	I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to the parish life of the Church by my interest, support and loving response to those I meet in daily life.

I will give my support to the person I am sponsoring and to his/her parents by my prayers and by the example of my Catholic faith as practiced in my daily life.
I will have one-on-one meetings and/or discussions with the Confirmation Candidate, at least once a month, to discuss faith-related issues and/or questions arising from this candidate's formal studies and preparation for this sacrament.
I understand that various Confirmation preparation activities occur (e.g., spiritual retreats; special group meetings; teen liturgies; etc.) involving this candidate. Additionally, I understand I may be invited to any of the activities and will attend/participate, when/if possible (e.g., this enables you as the sponsor to "walk" with the candidate during their time of sacramental preparation).
* (the following is from the Roman Catholic Church's governing Code of Canon Law:
874 § 1 to be admitted to the role of sponsor, a person must:
(4) not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared:
[This means that if [you] the intended sponsor is married, this marriage must be a recognized and valid Sacrament of Matrimony within the Catholic Church. Catholics who are either civilly married; married by common law; or living together are not in a valid Church matrimony, and thus, by law, have a canonical penalty imposed upon them. The penalty is that such person(s) (by such decision(s) and action(s)) has willfully chosen to break his/her communion with the Church and thus, may not participate in the full sacramental life of the Church. Specifically, because they are not in communion with God and His Church, they may not receive Holy Communion [Eucharist], nor may they assume the role and responsibilities as a Baptism Godparent or as a Confirmation Sponsor. Therefore, if you were married outside of the Catholic Church, you do not meet the Church's prescribed eligibility requirements to be admitted to the role of Confirmation Sponsor.])
(Signature of Sponsor)
(Date)

# ATTACHMENT #4 2025-2026 SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

# **SYLLABUS**

(Sacramental Preparation Textbook: "Send Out Your Spirit," by Michael Amodei)

Chapter / Subject – Topic Dates: September 28, 2025, 11:15 a.m. Parent/Candidate General Info Meeting (St. Michael Church's Worship Space) December 14, 2025, 11:15 a.m. Chapter 1: Belonging (Sunday) December 21, 2025, 11:15 a.m. Chapter 2: God (Sunday) January 18, 2026, 11:15 a.m. Chapter 3: Jesus Christ (Sunday) February 8, 2026, 11:15 a.m. Chapter 4: Scripture (Sunday) February 15, 2026, 11:15 a.m. Chapter 5: Church (Sunday) March 1, 2026, 11:15 a.m. Chapter 6: Morality (Sunday) March 8, 2026, 11:15 a.m. Chapter 7: Social Justice (Sunday) March 15, 2026, 11:15 a.m. Chapter 8: Liturgy and Sacraments (Sunday) March 22, 2025, 11:15 a.m. **Chapter 9:** Holy Spirit and Confirmation (Sunday) March 29, 2026, 11:15 a.m. Chapter 10: Your Christian Vocation (Sunday)

# **STUDENT/CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Read the Chapter material before the class date.
- Answer the questions at the end of the individual Chapters.
- There will be unannounced quizzes throughout the 10 weeks to gauge your retention.

#### ATTACHMENT #5

# To be a Confirmation Sponsor, one must be a 'Catholic in Good Standing.' What does that mean?

The Universal Church in its Catechism of the Catholic Church specifies precepts or norms of life (CCC 2041-2043) for all of its faithful. They are to:

- Honor the Lord, Our God on Sundays by Mass attendance and rest from servile work;
- Participate in sacramental confession at least once a year (more often when necessary);
- Participate in worthy reception of the Eucharist <u>at least</u> during the Easter season (more often when possible);
- Observe the Church's Days of Holy Obligation;
- Observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence; and
- Support the Church in her needs (e.g., our Stewardship: Time, Talents, and Treasures).

So, what does it mean for us to live out our Catholic faith? Quite simply, we do not pick what we want or like to do and do not like to do in practicing our faith — if we want to be faithful Catholics. In other words, we are called not to live or be categorized as a "Cafeteria Style Catholic." To be in the good graces or communion of God and His Church, one cannot:

- Support abortion;
- Support contraception;
- Support re-defining marriage;
- Support the erroneous belief that attendance at Christmas and Easter Masses alone are enough or sufficient. (Honor the Sabbath means we need to be at Mass on every Sunday);
- Be just "living" with someone else or only civilly married; while engaging in intimate sexual relations (outside the Sacrament of Matrimony), and/or;
- Support the gravely erroneous belief that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is unimportant and therefore, need not be celebrated with any degree of frequency or at all;

and then publicly or privately purport to be a Catholic in good standing. Sadly, they are not!

A baptized Catholic, who is **not** currently in **good standing** with the Church (e.g., consequentially unable to receive Holy Communion), may **not** exercise the ministry of Baptism godparent or Confirmation sponsor or participate in any Mass ministry (i.e., reader, EMHC, etc.).

Being a faithful Catholic in good standing means we have a moral and spiritual obligation to follow and give our <u>full</u> assent to the teachings and norms of Almighty God and His Church.

As Christian Catholics, we believe that our faith and works save us; because of the salvific work promised us by Jesus Christ. Founded in and intertwined with God's Ten Commandments, this is why we fully and actively participate in the Liturgy of the Mass on Sundays; celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation as often as needed; develop and maintain a <u>personal relationship</u> with God through daily prayer; and participate in the catechetical, sacramental, and communal life of our parish church.

If we do not understand the faith, we are called to take the time to be informed; participate in the faith formation opportunities of our parish; and/or meet with a parish priest. Learn **why** it is we believe, **what** we believe and **do**, what we **do**. Pray for the courage and perseverance, not only to live out the faith – but to proclaim it to a world – that so needs to hear the truth of God's message – now more than ever! May God continue to bless you in your faith journey and good works, as we collectively evangelize the Good News of Jesus Christ!



#### LIST OF REFERENCES

- Bishop Golka, Diocese of Colorado Springs, Promulgated Norms for Sacramental Preparation and Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, August 2023.
- Catechism of the Catholic Church, Saint Pope John Paul II, October 11, 1992.
- Revised New Standard Edition Bible, National Council of Churches, 1989.
- Roman Catholic Church, Code of Canon Law, January 25, 1983.
- Send Out Your Spirit, Sponsor Handbook, by Michael Amodei, 2010, published by Ave Maria Press.
- Speech, General Audience, Pope Francis, Wednesday, January 29, 2014.
- Speech, Saint Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day in Denver, Colorado, on August 15, 1993.
- USCCB, National Directory for Catechesis, 2020.
- USCCB, Sacramental Preparation Protocol III, Confirmation, June 9, 2013.