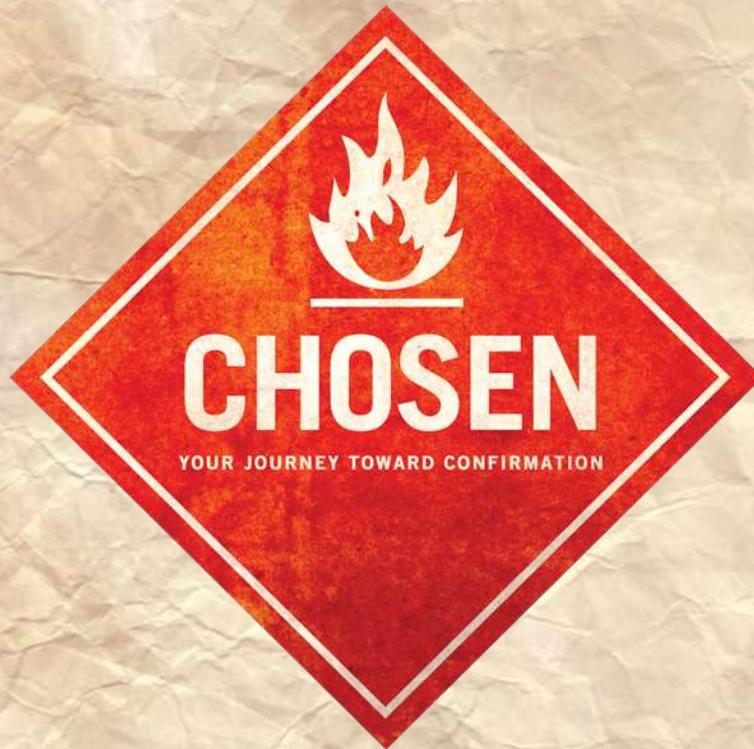


HAYgroup Confirmation Program
Sacramental Class of 2019
Holy Angels Parish



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WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their Helper and Guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence.

Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.

~ RITE OF CONFIRMATION

These words taken from the Rite of Confirmation are powerful indeed, that we should be filled with courage, right judgment, wisdom, awe, and the fruits of the spirit. This small excerpt from the Rite reminds us that to answer the call of Christ is no small commitment on our part, yet He will not leave us without the Holy Spirit as helper and guide.

Through the Sacrament of Baptism you were claimed for Christ, you were chosen. In order to root yourself more firmly in Christ and to strengthen your bond with the Church, you are offered the Sacrament of Confirmation, instituted by Christ himself. (Acts 8:14-17) [CCC1316] Through the Sacrament of Confirmation you will be enriched with special spiritual graces that will better enable you to discern and fulfill God's will in your life.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH SAY ABOUT CONFIRMATION?

Church teaching is very clear about the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is the sacrament that bestows upon us the fullness of the Holy Spirit that was given to us at Baptism. This is the same Spirit that filled the Apostles with the zeal and courage needed by all who are to be public witnesses to Christ. Confirmation celebrates God's presence in our lives as the Holy Spirit continues to guide, strengthen, and empower us to live and witness the Good News of Jesus Christ. Christians, on the day of their Confirmation, become public witnesses to Christ and his saving works. Confirmation is not our first encounter with the Holy Spirit. The first encounter takes place at Baptism. The Trinity comes to dwell in the newly baptized as they are born again in water and the Spirit. Baptism brings people into a personal union with God. Thus introduced to the ways of God and the Spirit, the sacrament of Confirmation continues the process by strengthening the Holy Spirit within us. Confirmation completes and perfects Baptism.

Sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, Christians more perfectly become the image of their Lord and are filled with the Holy Spirit. They bear witness to Him before the world and eagerly work for the building up of the body of Christ. Confirmed Christians bear witness to Christ through both their actions and their words. [CCC 1316] They get involved in community service, volunteering both their time and talent. They respond more deeply to the gift of the Spirit as an outward sign of desiring to live more aware of Christ and more committed to His mission of serving others. Confirmation is not an end to church involvement and faith development. On the contrary, Confirmation is part of the bigger picture of what it means to be Christian.

CONFIRMATION EXPECTATIONS

As of 2016 the Diocese of Cleveland requires **2 years of Confirmation preparation**, Proximate Year or Year I and the Immediate Year or Year II. At Holy Angels the Proximate Year, or first year, is typically done in 9th grade. The Immediate Year, or second year, is typically done in 10th grade. If any teens under the age of 18 have not yet received Confirmation, they should also prepare in this same two year process. Each year has its own unique requirements.

PROXIMATE (YEAR I)

This first year focuses mainly on instilling the basic doctrines and dogmas of the Catholic faith. For that reason great emphasis is placed on entering into the life of a young Catholic. It is for this reason the teens are expected to attend HAYgroup Life Nights, in order to form essential faith community. The 1st Year candidates also expected to complete service hours and parish ministry hours. The purpose of community and parish ministry service is to teach our youth the goodness of helping others in our community, and to provide concrete examples of how to live as Jesus taught us. The precise expectations are as follows:

Proximate Year (Year 1)

- Attend Sunday Mass regularly
- Attend at least 6 HAYgroup Life Nights
(2 predetermined dates in the fall, 2 in the spring, and any 2 Life Nights of the teen's choice)
- Partake in 2 community service opportunities/ events or one HAYgroup summer work-camp
- Partake in 2 parish ministry service opportunities / events
- Attend 6 Chosen Sessions (3 in the fall & 3 in the spring)
- Experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Begin thinking about who to choose as a sponsor

THE IMMEDIATE YEAR (YEAR II)

This second year focuses primarily on the Sacrament of Confirmation, its history, theology, and how it impacts our lives. Confirmation is a Sacrament of initiation; for that reason great emphasis is placed on community building, and teaching about what it means to be initiated into our Catholic faith. In the 2nd Year candidates continue with community and parish ministry service hours as well as a HAYgroup retreat. The bulk of sacramental preparation is done in the Immediate Year because of the immediacy of the sacrament. The expectations are as follows:

Immediate Year (Year II)

- Attend Sunday Mass
- Attend at least 6 HAYgroup Life Nights
(2 predetermined dates in the fall, 2 in the spring, and any 2 Life Nights of the teen's choice)
- Partake in 2 community service opportunities/ events or one HAYgroup summer work-camp
- Partake in 2 parish ministry service opportunities/ events
- Attend 6 Chosen Sessions (3 in the fall & 3 in the spring)
- Experience the Sacrament Reconciliation
- Attend at minimum one HAYgroup Retreat
- Immediate Year candidates are expected to attend a pre-Confirmation Interview with a staff member
- Write a short essay about the saint name they have adopted
- Attend the Confirmation Rehearsal Day
- Choose a sponsor to help with spiritual growth

MINISTRY OF SERVICE - PART OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CATHOLIC

Jesus said, "Here I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22:27)

"True power is Service", Pope Francis

Why do service?

As Catholic Christians, a ministry of service is one of the most important things we do. Throughout Scripture we are called to love our neighbor and to stand up for justice and peace. Micah 6:8 reminds us that the Lord only asks that we "act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God". Since justice and service are so important to who we are as Catholics, we ask that each Confirmation candidate do community service and parish ministry. Each candidate is expected to be present at two events of community service and two events of parish ministry service per year.

How long should my service last?

Serving others is not just something we do to "get it over with" it is a part of what it means for us to be Catholic. Therefore, it is recommended that Confirmation candidates become involved in a new service project that is ongoing, and that becomes a regular commitment. Doing "service" at home, where you are already expected to help out, does not count for a Confirmation service expectation. The same principle applies for parish ministry hours. Most service projects can also be used for school graduation requirements.

What is the difference between a parish ministry and community service?

A Parish Ministry: is a service specifically helping the Holy Angels community. Our teens will never really know what it means to belong to a community unless they become involved in a concrete way. Confirmation is about getting off the side-lines and getting involved. There are many ways for our youth to serve, whether it is helping with the Edge middle school program, the Gardening Angels group, or at the Parish Picnic. Parish ministry helps our youth make a connection to their parish family and it helps them to witness the dynamic life of the parish. They will meet people from all different walks of life and they will come away enriched by this experience of the Church and parish life. The parish ministry service should be something that our youth enjoy doing, so that they will continue to be involved in it after their Confirmation.

Community Service: is a service specifically helping members of the Body of Christ outside of our Holy Angels community. Working with special needs children in your school district, volunteering at a soup kitchen, even the Holy Angels fish fry (because of the many visitors). These are all examples of community service.

Jesus challenges us to love our neighbor in a radical new way. By serving the "least of these" among us, we become the hands and feet of Christ. In fact, this is how we will mostly be judged - by what we did to help our brothers and sisters, or more importantly, what we didn't do. Our youth can only fulfill our service expectations by serving those in need directly. Service done through the school is acceptable so long as it is helping the disadvantaged, the elderly, or those most in need. Service opportunities will be advertised and encouraged at youth group sessions so that everyone can be informed of the opportunities available.

Parish Ministry Service Ideas

- Cross bearer at Sunday 5pm Mass (Contact Alex Yates)
- Servers at Sunday 5pm Mass (Contact Alex Yates)
- Ushers at Sunday 5pm Mass (Contact Alex Yates)
- Greeters at Sunday 5pm Mass (Contact Alex Yates)
- Teen Band at Sunday 5pm Mass (Contact Alex Yates)
- Breathe Ministry (Contact Donna Angelotti)
- Sunday mornings Nursery from 9:45am to 11:15am email jshumaker@rmscorporations.com
- Volunteer with PSR as catechist aid/ other (Contact Jeannie Daunch)
- Volunteer with Edge as aid (Sophomores Only. Contact Raleigh Corto)
- Volunteer in Office for small projects (Contact Julie Karpowicz)

Community Service Ideas

- School Service Activities
- HAYgroup Work Camps/ Service Days
- Parish Service Day
- Holy Angels Fish Fry's
- Boy/ Girl Scout service work
- 4H Service work

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Chosen Session?

Chosen sessions are meetings that are specifically engineered to imparting the faith on our teens. These nights will use materials from the Chosen Confirmation preparation program. Attendance at these nights is expected, teens that miss a Chosen Session will need to attend a makeup session. A full calendar of these sessions is made available each fall on the Holy Angels website.

How should I choose a Sponsor?

Remember, this sacrament should be the teen's choice, and should be an opportunity for them to exercise some responsibility for their Catholic faith. The teen's sponsor should not be chosen by the parents, but in fact by the teen. This will give the teen a sense of ownership, and let them see for themselves other adults that take their faith seriously.

Can a proxy for the sponsors stand in for the candidates for the Confirmation rehearsal and the Confirmation liturgy?

A proxy can stand in for both the rehearsal and liturgy so long as they meet the same canonical requirements as the actual sponsor.

Does my teen choose a Confirmation Name?

Because of the intrinsic relationship between Baptism and Confirmation, candidates usually retain their baptismal name for the celebration of the sacrament. If the candidate's name is of Christian origin, the candidate is asked to become familiar with the life and witness of this saint. If the candidate's name is not of Christian origin, the candidate may desire to choose a saint's name for Confirmation and be confirmed by that name.

Can my teen choose and additional name for Confirmation?

A custom exists wherein a candidate with a Christian baptismal name chooses an additional name for Confirmation. The Bishop allows for this custom. Candidates desiring to practice this custom are asked to become familiar with the life and witness of this saint.

What if my teen really doesn't want to go through the preparation process?

Confirmation can be a frustrating process for some parents and teens. Our staff and core team offer up their valuable time and gifts to help our teens prepare for Confirmation and we want to respect that. However, some of our candidates make it really apparent that they don't want to be there. All candidates will have a three strike policy when it comes to classroom discipline. On the third strike, they will have to postpone their Confirmation and begin the program again the following year. We encourage our teens to commit for a year and if they do not want to proceed to the final stage of preparation, then they can make a decision to delay their confirmation. Confirmation will also take a big commitment from parents, friends and family. We know that dealing with teenagers is tough, especially when it comes to faith. If it remains a major battle in your household, step back for a bit and re-evaluate. If your teen isn't ready, then they aren't ready. Ultimately it should be their decision. There are other opportunities to be confirmed in the future but your involvement in this process will make a big difference.

How much does the program cost?

\$135.00 for both years. If your family is in need of financial assistance for this program please contact Alex Yates

- Student Materials Pack \$30.00
Includes, Student Workbook, Parent Guide, Sponsor Guide
- Retreat registration \$90.00
- Program Fee \$15.00

EXPECTATIONS FOR HOME CATECHESIS (Home Schooling option)

As parents, you are called to be the primary educators of your children. Therefore, the Church allows and encourages the family to go through catechesis in the home, if desired. Home Catechesis is offered at Holy Angels, and any Confirmation preparation will be monitored by the Director of Youth Ministry. Each parent that is providing Home Catechesis will be considered a catechist for the purposes of HAYgroup and each youth will be held to the same expectations as the youth within the Sunday HAYgroup program. The exact requirements for home schooling are as follows:

Youth Requirements Home Schooling:

- Attend Sunday Mass
- Partake in 2 community service opportunities or one HAYgroup summer work-camp
- Partake in 2 parish ministry service opportunities
- Immediate Year candidates are expected to attend a HAYgroup Retreat
- Immediate Year candidates are expected to attend a pre-Confirmation Interview
- Attend Designated HAYgroup Life Night's
- Experience the Sacrament Reconciliation
- Write a short essay about the saint name they have adopted
- Choose a Sponsor to help with spiritual growth
- Attend the Confirmation Rehearsal



Holy Angels Confirmation Service Form Year 1 & 2

Name: _____ Year to be Confirmed: _____

Use one sheet for multiple service activities

Parish Ministry Service (2 Instances Expected per year)

Parish Ministry: is a service specifically helping the Holy Angels community. Parish ministry helps our youth make a connection to their parish family and it helps them to witness the dynamic life of the parish.

Date	Activity	Supervisor Name	Initials

Community Service (2 Instances Expected per year)

Community Service: is a service specifically helping members of the Body of Christ outside of our Holy Angels community. Working with special needs children in your school district, volunteering at a soup kitchen, even the Holy Angels fish fry (because of the many visitors). These are all examples of community service.

Date	Activity	Supervisor Name	Initials

Return to Julie Karpowicz in the Holy Angels Office

Confirmation Check Off List

(Keep at home for your records)

Year 1 Confirmation

- Attend Sunday Mass regularly
- Attend at least 6 HAYgroup Life Nights
 - 2 predetermined dates in the fall
 - 2 predetermined in the spring
 - 2 life nights of the teens choice 1 in the fall, 1 in the spring
- Partake in 2 community service opportunities/ events or one HAYgroup summer work-camp
- Partake in 2 parish ministry service opportunities / events
- Attend 6 Chosen sessions (3 in the fall & 3 in the spring)
- Attend at least 1 HAYgroup Retreat throughout the 2 year program
- Receive Reconciliation
- Begin considering who to choose as a sponsor

Year 2 Confirmation

- Attend Sunday Mass regularly
- Attend at least 6 HAYgroup Life Nights
 - 2 predetermined dates in the fall
 - 2 predetermined in the spring
 - 2 life nights of the teens choice 1 in the fall, 1 in the spring
- Partake in 2 community service opportunities/ events or one HAYgroup summer work-camp
- Partake in 2 parish ministry service opportunities/ events
- Attend 6 Chosen sessions (3 in the fall & 3 in the spring)
- Receive Reconciliation
- Attend at least 1 HAYgroup Retreat throughout the 2 year program
- Immediate Year candidates attend a pre-Confirmation Interview with staff member
- Write a paragraph about the saint name they have adopted
- Attend the Confirmation Rehearsal Day
- Choose a Sponsor to help with spiritual growth

Calendar 2017–2018

Sunday Mass 5-6:00pm (Parish Mass directed towards youth and families)

(5pm Sun. Mass: Every Sunday no Easter or Christmas or New Year's)

Chosen Sessions

Fall

Sept 21st, 6:30-8:00pm 9th Grade in Community Room 10th Grade in Worship Space

Oct. 19th, 6:30-8:00pm 9th Grade in Community Room 10th Grade in Worship Space

Nov. 9th, 6:30-8:00pm 9th Grade in Community Room 10th Grade in Worship Space

Spring

Jan. 4th, 6:30-8:00pm 9th Grade in Community Room 10th Grade in Worship Space

Feb. 8th, 6:30-8:00pm 9th Grade in Community Room 10th Grade in Worship Space

March. 8th, 6:30-8:00pm 9th Grade in Community Room 10th Grade in Worship Space

Celebration of the Sacrament

April 7th 10:00am- 12:00pm Confirmation Rehearsal (Sophomores and Sponsors)

April 21st Celebration of Confirmation 5:00pm & 7:30pm

HAYgroup Life Nights

Fall

Sept. 17th Sun. Fall Kick Off 6:00-7:30pm (Centerville Mills)

Dec. 10th Sun. Ugly Sweater Christmas Party 6:00-7:30pm (Community Room)

One other Life Night of the teens choosing

Spring

Jan. 28th Sun. Life Night 6:00-7:30pm (Community Room)

April 29th Life Night 6:00-7:30pm (Community Room)

One other Life Night of the teens choosing

Retreat Opportunities

Nov. 17th-19th Fall Retreat (Camp Burton)

Spring Retreat Date: TBD