

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM - ST. BERNARD PARISH

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded.

It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace... (CCC 1285)

As the Catechism teaches, those who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation must be properly instructed and prepared. Therefore, the following criteria must be met. These requirements are simply putting into action that which was solemnly promised at the Candidate's Baptismal ceremony by the parents and the godparents.

Active Participation of St. Bernard's 2-year Formation Program.

This usually covers the period of 7th and 8th grades. There are 28 sessions in each of the two years. Candidates will be present and in attendance for at least 75% (21) of the sessions for each year. Attendance will be closely monitored by the catechists and the Director of Religious Education.

Active Participation in Diocesan Confirmation Rally.

This is a Diocesan-wide requirement of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Candidates will be present and in attendance.

Active Participation in Diocesan Confirmation Retreat.

This is a Diocesan-wide requirement of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Candidates will be present and in attendance.

Service Hours: 8 service hours are required each year of the program. Activities will be determined by the catechists and Candidates in advance.

Active Participation in Parish Services and Devotions.

Each Candidate will actively participate in weekend Mass, regular Penance, and a communal Rosary and Holy Hour in each of the formation years. Communal Rosary and Holy Hour can be regarded as completion of a service hour.

Choosing a Sponsor: The sponsor must "be a catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith..." (*Canon Law 874*) The Church encourages one of the baptismal godparent who is still a practicing Catholic to be the sponsor. Parents or anyone less than 16 years of age are ineligible.

For the completion of the program, an interview with the Pastor must be made as to the eligibility of the student for the reception of this sacrament.

Director of Religious Education