

Mary Our Queen Church
Confirmation Preparation Program
2023-2024

“By the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the Faith by word and deed.” -

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1285

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!
Come down upon us now, as you came down upon the apostles.
Fill the hearts of your faithful gathered here.
Kindle in us the fire of your love.
Shower upon us the seven gifts of your grace.
Send forth your glory upon your church.
Renew our faith, remove our doubts and fears.
Strengthen us, that we may defend all that is holy.
Heal our wounds and purify our hearts.
Dwell in us, as you prepare a dwelling for the Father and the Son.
Call us to be your disciples and to live a life of prayer, love and service.
Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Important Dates

September 19, 2023	Confirmation Informational meeting for parents and candidates	7:00 PM	St. John Vianney Social Hall
October 4, 2023	<u>DUE:</u> - Confirmation Covenant - Confirmation Information Form - Sponsor Form - Prep Fee (\$75)		
November 7, 2023	Sponsor Workshop (sponsors only)	7:00 PM	St. John Vianney
November 15, 2023	<u>DUE:</u> - Saint Report		
January 28, 2024	Confirmation Retreat	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	St. John Vianney
January 31, 2024	<u>DUE:</u> - Letter to the Archbishop - Service Log		
February 1, 2024	Confirmation Practice and dinner to follow with sponsor and candidate	6:00 PM	Mary Our Queen Church and Cafeteria
February 7, 2024	Confirmation	7:00 PM (Arrival at 6:00)	St. Cecilia's Cathedral

Confirmation Preparation Cost

\$75 per student due 10.4.2023

Checks can be made payable to Mary Our Queen Church with a note for Confirmation Prep or you can pay online at: <https://www.wesharegiving.org/App/Form/dc20ba67-3253-486f-9322-323b439b8cae>

Confirmation Information Form
Please Print

Candidate's Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ (home) _____ (parent's cell)

Parent's email: _____

*Candidate's Baptismal Date: _____

Church of Baptism: _____

Address of Church where Baptized: _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's Name (including maiden name) _____

Sponsor's Name _____

Sponsor's Address: _____

Sponsor's Phone: _____

Sponsor's Email Address: _____

Signatures:

Candidate's signature: _____

Parent's signature: _____

***ALL CANDIDATES MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF THEIR BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE IF NOT BAPTIZED AT MARY OUR QUEEN**

Mary Our Queen Parish Confirmation Covenant

I: WE AS YOUR PARISH PROMISE TO:

- Provide weekly/daily mass to allow child and parent to worship with the entire community of Mary Our Queen Parish
- Provide timely and competent teaching suitable to prepare candidates for reception of Confirmation
- Provide appropriate ceremonies and rites for the candidates, as well as Reconciliation, retreats, and communal celebrations
- Pray for the candidates
- Share in spiritual development of the candidate
- Witness the preparation and attest to the readiness of the candidates for Confirmation

II: PARENT

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), 2223, 2226)

I (WE) AS THE PARENT(S) PROMISE TO:

- Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. This responsibility calls you, as parents to:
 - Participate in weekly Mass
 - Pray together as a family.
 - Be a living example of your Catholic faith
 - Participate in family and parent activities in the parish
 - Prepare your children for the Sacraments at home.

III: CANDIDATE

In order to prepare myself for the reception of the sacrament, I will promise to do the following, to the best of my ability:

- Attend confirmation class; realizing that my faith is more important than sports or other activities.
- to enter prayer services and retreats with reverence and openness
- To complete all paperwork and projects in a timely fashion
- to work willingly with my sponsor throughout the preparation process
- to give witness to living the Christian life by participating in service activities
- to cooperate with my catechist, sponsor, and parents as they help me prepare for Confirmation.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will be with me as I dedicate myself to living the commitment, I make through this covenant.

As Parent(s) for the Candidate

_____ *Printed* _____ *Signed* **Date:** _____

_____ *Printed* _____ *Signed* **Date:** _____

As the Candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation

_____ *Printed* _____ *Signed* **Date:** _____

Parents' Guide

1. An awesome way for you to learn alongside your child as they are preparing to receive this sacrament.
2. Parents, please read pages: 1-25 within the next week.
3. You should have three conversations with your child before Confirmation to discuss their Confirmation Journey and one in the weeks after Confirmation. The Parent's Guide will have Conversations Starters that you can use to walk along with your child in their Confirmation Journey
 - a. After they have completed **Lesson 6** (pg. 26-29)
 - b. After **Lesson 14** (pg. 30-33)
 - c. After **Lesson 21** (pg. 34-37)
 - d. After Confirmation (pg. 38-41)

Choosing Your Sponsor

What is a Sponsor?

A sponsor is a person who encourages and assists a candidate to embrace and actively practice the Catholic faith both before and after Confirmation. The sponsor also presents the candidate to the bishop (or his delegate) at the celebration of Confirmation.

Who Can be a Sponsor?

Being a sponsor is not just an honor. The sponsor must be an active, practicing Catholic who can be a role model for the candidate. Ask someone whom you see as an example of a committed, practicing Catholic. This could be a grandparent, aunt, or uncle, other relative, family friend, parent of one of your friends, a teacher.

According to Canon Law (Law of the Church)

- A sponsor must be 16 years of age or older
- A sponsor must be fully initiated into the Church (has received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation).
- A sponsor must lead a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken
- **A sponsor must not be a parent of the candidate**

Prayer to Help Choose a Sponsor

Holy Spirit, helper and guide,
give me wisdom as I choose my Confirmation sponsor.

Help me to choose a person of prayer
who will teach me also to be a person of prayer
who will support me in difficult times,
who will guide me to make good choices,
and who will challenge me when I do not.

Help me to choose someone who will love me and teach me to love Jesus.

Thank you for giving me a community of people around me
to support and guide me as I take this important step
in becoming more fully a member of your Church.

Amen

**Mary Our Queen
3535 South 119 Street
Omaha, NE 68144**

SPONSOR DOCUMENTATION FOR CONFIRMATION

*Name of person to be Confirmed*_____

*Name of Sponsor*_____

*Name of Sponsor's Parish*_____

Statement of the Sponsor

As a registered and participating member of the Catholic community identified above, I affirm that:

I have received the three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

I regularly participate in the Sunday Liturgy and give witness to my faith in Jesus Christ by regularly receiving Him in the Eucharist.

I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to His Church, and endeavor to grow in the knowledge and understanding of my Catholic faith.

I promise that I will give support to the Confirmation Candidate named above by my prayers and by the Christian example of my daily life.

_____ *(Signature of Catholic Sponsor)*

Statement of a Priest

This will verify that the above-named is a registered member of _____ Parish, has to the best of my knowledge completed the sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist), is in good standing with the Church, is faithful in attending Mass and in the practice of the Catholic faith, and is worthy to accept the responsibility of being a Sponsor.

_____ *(Pastor-Associate)*
Church Seal

Sponsor's Guide

1. Have your child give the sponsor's guide to their sponsor
2. Ask the sponsor to read pages 1-19 of the Sponsor's Guide so that they understand what agreement they are making.
3. Your child should have three meetings with their sponsors to discuss their formation before Confirmation and one in the weeks after Confirmation. The Sponsor's Guide will have discussion questions for them to discuss with their candidate: (Note* you do not have to discuss every question; these are only suggestions)
 - a. After they have completed **Lesson 6** (pg. 20-22)
 - b. After **Lesson 14** (pg. 23-25)
 - c. After **Lesson 21** (pg. 26-28)
 - d. After Confirmation (pg. 29-31)

Confirmation Saint Report

Each Confirmation candidate chooses a Saint's name. This name is not only something that has meaning to you but also represents a Saint who you identify with and who will walk with you in spirit throughout your entire life as you continue your journey of faith. To this end, each candidate is asked to complete a saint report. The focus of this report is to bring some thought into this part of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

There are several wonderful websites where you can read about all the holy men and women who have given us a great example with their lives of how to live as Christians. Some of these websites include catholic.org/saints or lifeteen.com (search "saints").

Please note that the name must be that of a real, verifiable Catholic Saint, Blessed, or Venerable. Take your time with it; give it some serious consideration.

IMPORTANT:

You are required to do a report on your Confirmation name. This report must be typed, and it is to include:

1. Introduction paragraph
2. At least one paragraph of the saint's birth, life, and death.
3. At least one paragraph about the virtues the saint exhibited in his or her life and any vices that this Saint had to overcome.
4. At least one paragraph explaining why you chose this saint. Explain how the virtues that this Saint exemplified may be applied in our modern world and how you will incorporate these values in your daily life.
5. Conclusion paragraph

Ensure that your name and date are typed at the top of the document!

A LETTER TO THE BISHOP

REQUESTING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Each candidate is required to write a letter to Archbishop Lucas, stating your desire to be confirmed. The letter is your own description of your personal faith journey, so far. They are also a reflection on both you and on Mary Our Queen Parish, so please write what is in your heart and take this endeavor seriously.

Salutation:

Begin your letter with the greeting:

Dear Archbishop

Body of the Letter:

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Tell something about your family, your background.

Paragraph 2: Request the sacrament. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3: Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you talk about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service for others exercised at home and within the parish etc.

Paragraph 4: Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.

Closing:

End the letter with a salutation such as “In Christ,” or “In Christ through Mary,” or “Sincerely,” Then leave a few lines of space where you will sign your name by hand once your letter is printed. Lastly, type your full name

Example:

In Christ through Mary,

Jacob Cortright (Signature is handwritten)

Jacob Cortright

Your letter must be turned in by 1/31/2023.

Mr. Cortright will present your letters to Archbishop Lucas.

SERVICE

WHAT ARE SERVICE PROJECTS?

They are projects spent sharing your love of Jesus Christ with others who may or may not be as fortunate as you are. It is your opportunity to show that you believe in Jesus and what He taught us by your actions and deeds.

It is important you perform service in a variety of ways. Service to others does not need to be elaborate or complicated and...it can be FUN! Baking a plate of cookies for an elderly friend, mowing grass for someone whose health is failing, and helping with a project at a nursing facility serves others as Christ commanded. Service allows the student to follow Jesus' life (*"I have come to serve not to be served."*)

We recommend 3 different projects and encourage the candidates to reach beyond this goal!

Service Project Ideas

Food drive for local food pantry

Yard cleaning for elderly neighbors of church

Serve at parish Lenten fish fry

Care packages for college students before finals

Volunteer at local homeless shelter

Making rosaries

Write to service men and women who are serving our country

Help with parish Fall Festival

Letters to seminarians

1. Describe your activity.
2. How did this activity help you to grow in your relationship with Jesus and how did it help others?
3. Was there anything that occurred that you want to remember? (An event, feeling, desire, etc.)?

Service Log

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description of Work</u>	<u>What did you learn about your Faith</u>	<u>Adult Signature</u>

Communication

FlockNote Sign-up

Sign up by texting MOQ to 84576. You will receive a text with instructions for registering (or signing in if you already have an account).

- Under “CCD 2023-2024” sign up for the group called “Confirmation 23-24”
- This is for **BOTH** 5-day school families and RE families

Confirmation Fee QR Code:



Retreat, Confirmation Day and Rehearsal

Sponsor Workshop: St. John Vianney Church - Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 7:00 PM - Sponsors Only

Confirmation Retreat: St. John Vianney Church – Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM – Confirmation Candidates are required to attend.

Confirmation Practice: Mary Our Queen Church – Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 6:00 PM – Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors are to attend.

Confirmation: St. Cecilia’s Cathedral; 701 N 40th St, Omaha, NE 68131
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Candidates and their Sponsors must arrive by 6:00 PM.

Dress Code: Dress standards should be high, as is befitting a Sacrament of the Church. This Sacrament can only be received once.

Men: Button down shirt, slacks, dress shoes, tie, and belt.

Women: Modest dress, skirt and blouse, pantsuit or dress pants and blouse (dress or skirt must be knee length or longer; chest, back and shoulders must be covered); dress shoes.