



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON

Are you ready To receive the Sacrament of **Confirmation?**

Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church.

In Confirmation, God confirms our faith. We are not confirming our own faith. The grace of the Holy Spirit is given to us, along with his gifts that empower us along the path of holiness.

The Holy Spirit brings the gifts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Are you ready to receive these gifts?

You will be ready to consider being confirmed when you...

- ...approach the journey of preparation with an open mind and heart,
- ...regularly participate in the Parish Youth Group and its activities,
- ...attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation,
- ...receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before being confirmed,
- ...accept more responsibility in your family, parish, and community,
- ...commit to daily prayer, especially for growth in faith, hope and love,
- ...select a sponsor who is a confirmed Catholic, who has been confirmed for at least 2 years and is aged 18 or older.

Confirmation is a Beginning

Confirmation marks the beginning of a journey toward a deeper knowledge of God. The candidate reaffirms his or her baptism and thus it should be seen as a continuation of your Christian life - an opportunity to deepen the grace you received at baptism.

Through Confirmation, Christ is calling you to be like the Apostles: his witnesses before the community and before the world. The Sacrament of Confirmation is the completion of the Sacrament of Baptism; this time, you will be confirming the vows made by your parents and godparents at your Baptism.



Infusion of the Holy Spirit

In Confirmation, we receive an infusion of the Holy Spirit, just as the Apostles did on the day of Pentecost. Through this infusion of the Holy Spirit we receive the gifts of the Spirit, are made more perfect, and are strengthened so we can give witness to Jesus Christ.

A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the Church and in the world. A candidate should receive the Sacrament of Penance to prepare oneself to receive the strength and grace of the Holy Spirit (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1310, 1318 and 1319).

Free-will Decision of the Candidate

Christ wants you to be confirmed. Do you hear Christ calling you? Are you ready to open your heart? Are you ready for the gifts that will be bestowed upon you by the Holy Spirit?

It's not unusual to be hesitant about Confirmation. To gain a deeper love and appreciation for what it means to be Catholic requires a commitment and self-reflection. Sometimes candidates feel that they are not ready to be confirmed. We are here to help you prepare so that you can say 'yes' to the invitation God is giving you.

Confirmation is the beginning of a lifelong journey of growth, learning, and discovery. However, no candidate should be coerced into the formation process, as this not only defeats the purpose of preparation, but also creates an atmosphere that could negatively affect others.

It is expected that candidates who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation accept what it means to be confirmed, participate fully in the process of preparation, and take seriously what it means to be a member of the Catholic Church.

We look forward to journeying with you on this exciting journey!

