

Confirmation Handbook 2016-2018



WEST FORK CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

419 Jones Street, PO Box 802

Moville IA

51039-0802

712-873-3644

icmoville@wiatel.net

www.westforkcatholiccommunity.org

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CONFIRMATION PRAYER

God, our Father, we ask you to bless all candidates preparing to receive the gift of your Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. May your love add the gifts of the Holy Spirit become blessings for our Parish Family. Bless, too, our parents, our sponsors, our teachers and Catechists, and all those in need of your love. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



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PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and make the fire of your love burn within them. Send forth your Spirit, and there shall be another creation. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O God, you have instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit: Grant that through the same Holy Spirit we may always be truly wise and rejoice in His consolation, Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

CONFIRMATION PROCESS

CONFIRMATION OVERVIEW

1. A well-disposed baptized Catholic, who is appropriately prepared, has the opportunity and privilege to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
2. The right of the candidate to postpone Confirmation is to be respected. The candidate is expected to participate in their catechetical preparation in order to be able to make an informed decision as to whether they wish to receive the sacrament.
3. Preparation involves the entire parish community.
4. The Confirmation process will include catechesis, formation, and parish involvement.
5. Each candidate needs a personal sponsor.
6. Confirmation is celebrated within the Mass.
7. Preparation includes interviews, retreats, service projects, etc.
8. There will be a follow up activities after the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation

READINESS FOR CONFIRMATION

Readiness for Confirmation as defined by the Diocese of Sioux City includes:

1. An expression on the part of the candidate, in writing, of a desire to receive the sacrament. (Candidates must have decided for themselves, not because of outside pressure.)
2. An understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation as a commitment on their part to begin to assume fuller responsibilities to their parish and community.
3. Evidence that they are presently living good, holy, Catholic lives of service, practice and love; that they participate in the sacraments of the Church and are aware of what they are doing.
4. An ability to display a spiritual dimension to their lives.
5. Demonstration of moral integrity and responsibility.
6. Readiness to bear witness to Christ through their faith, even if it is difficult.
7. An ability to explain their own faith in their own words and why they live Catholic lives.
8. A willingness to support the church by sharing their time, treasures, and talents.

Determination of readiness is the responsibility of the candidate, pastor, and/or DFF

EXPECTATIONS

OVERVIEW

1. Participate in all class sessions and mandatory events.
2. Participate in interviews.
3. Be able to explain their faith in their own words and why they wish to live as Catholic Christians.
4. Participate in service to others in areas of family, church, and community.
5. Be open to learning, growing, and living the faith of the Church.
6. Participate in parish life and the Eucharist.

ATTENDANCE AT CLASS SESSIONS

1. **Parents are expected to notify the parish office in the event of any absence or planned tardiness.**
2. If a candidate is not attending sessions, falling behind in some area of preparation, or exhibits negative behavior and/or attitudes, the parents will be notified and a determination will be made regarding his/her readiness to continue in the process.
3. Candidates will be notified of all scheduled changes and cancellations. If the public schools are dismissed early due to bad weather, those sessions will be cancelled.

RETREATS

Candidates are strongly encouraged to participate in retreats or other diocesan events. Candidates may attend Diocesan and parish approved retreats such as: TOTUS TUUS, YOUTH RALLY, CAYOCA, YOUTH ANOD OTHER CATHOLIC PARYAER SERVICES, STATIONS OF THE CROSS, AND ADORATION AND BENEDICTION, etc.

SERVICE IS FAITH IN ACTION!

What are service hours?

Service hours are 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. The service hours are to help you grow in your faith. Each Confirmation student is required to acquire **12** service hours that focus around evangelizing your Faith.

Why must we participate in service hours?

Because Jesus told us to in *Matthew 25:40- And the king will say to them in reply, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."* The service is an answer to the Gospel challenge to love our neighbor as Jesus loves us. Jesus gave us many examples of loving service.

Like Jesus, we must love our neighbor and trust that God will always be there for us. To have the promise of salvation fulfilled in us, we must choose to live our faith in both words and actions. *James 2:14-17- What good is it, my brothers, if one says he has faith but does not have works. Can the faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them*

the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Why do we do service for Confirmation?

It is not enough that you know about your faith; you must also live your faith. Jesus intended for us to serve and help others willingly and freely during our lifetime. How do you put your faith into practice? How often do you go out of your way to help others?

What can we do for service hours?

Think about your God-given talents and how they can help you serve others. Your service hours need to be special and not something already being done as part of your daily routine. Service is based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Christ who came to serve.

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

In addition to attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, here are several things you can do to help prepare yourself spiritually for Confirmation. It is not necessary for you to keep track or report, but it is important for you to be faithful to at least one of the following:

1. Read ten minutes each day from Scripture, and keep a journal of your reflections on what you have read.
2. Pray the Rosary, asking the Blessed Mother to help you prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit.
3. Talk with someone about how you see God's story in your everyday life.
4. Make a visit to the church to pray.

STUDENT/SPONSOR DRESS CODE

1. This is an important religious ceremony and appropriate clothing is required.
 - a. No jeans, tennis shoes, or flip-flops allowed.
 - b. **Gentlemen** are to wear dress pants, dress shirt, a tie (if possible), dress socks, and shoes. Shirts are to be tucked in. Sweaters or jackets are optional. Please wear a belt if you need one.
 - c. **Ladies** are to dress modestly in a dress or in a skirt or dress pants or slacks with blouse or top. Hemlines of dresses and skirts must be knee length or longer. Dress or blouse should have sleeves and must cover chest. A jacket or sweater should be worn if need to cover sleeveless dresses or blouses, or to cover chest, back, or shoulders. No undergarments, midriff, or cleavage shall be visible.

If you have a question about something you want to wear, please call DFF at Immaculate Conception at (712) 873-3644 or email icmovilledff@wiatel.net or contact Bishop Nickless.

Please share these with your sponsor as the Bishop's dress code applies to them too.

PRAAYER

The following are prayers and components of our faith that each candidate should know and understand:

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory Be To The Father
Act of Sorrow/Contrition
Act of Faith
Act of Hope
Act of Love
The Nicene Creed
The Apostles' Creed
The Holy Days of Obligation
The Ten Commandments
The Seven Sacraments
The Spiritual and Corporal works of Mercy
The Mysteries of the Rosary
The Stations of the Cross
The Beatitudes
Hail Holy Queen

Copies of the prayers are available on the Westforkcatholiccommunity.org

INTERVIEWS

Each candidate will be expected to participate in an interview during their Confirmation preparation process. Other interviews may take place as deemed necessary.

The interview will enable the Pastor:

1. Get to know the youth better.
2. Discern his/her present faith, knowledge, and commitment.
3. Determine the candidate's readiness for Confirmation.
4. Determine desire and willingness to continue in parish life after the celebration of Confirmation.

CONFIRMATION NAME

Prior to the celebration of Confirmation each candidate is required to choose a Confirmation Name that will be used on the day of Confirmation. It is this name that will be given to them by the Bishop or Bishop's designated Minister as the candidate is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. This name must be a recognized saint of the church.

Candidates will be asked to report on the saint they chose. (The report form can be found on the Church website Westforkcatholiccommunity.org).

SPONSOR

Within the first year of the Confirmation program each candidate is required to choose a Sponsor. Candidates will be asked to report on the sponsor they have chosen. (The report form can be found on the Church website Westforkcatholiccommunity.org).

The sponsor may be either male or female, regardless of the sex of the candidate. (Parents **MAY NOT** be sponsors for their own teenager.)

Sponsors must:

1. Be at least 16 years old.
2. Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and leads a life in harmony with the Catholic faith.
3. And not bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.

PROOF OF BAPTISM

Before anyone can be confirmed, the pastor must have proof of Baptism. If the candidate was baptized in this parish the record should be here. The Pastor or Director of Faith Formation will check the parish records to verify the baptism. If the candidate was baptized in a parish other than this parish, the DFF will contact that parish six months prior to Confirmation to request that a copy of the record be sent to this parish's Director of Faith Formation.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

The Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated in the spring of the second year of preparation.

ROLE/EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

The primary teachers of the Catholic faith are the parents.

Parents/guardians are expected to continue being a positive influence by:

1. **MODELING** the faith to your son/daughter.
2. **ENCOURAGING** questions, growth, and participation of candidates.
3. **PRAYING** for the candidates.
4. **WORKING WITH** your son/daughter in choosing a sponsor.
5. **GUIDING** your son/daughter in their service projects and parish activities.
6. **PARTICIPATING** in parent/guardian meetings, service projects (if desired), and the Eucharist.

ROLE/EXPECTATIONS OF PERSONAL SPONSOR

Sponsors are expected to be a positive influence by:

1. Praying for, encouraging, and supporting the candidate and their parents.
2. Helping the candidate reflect, pray, and grow in his/her faith.
3. Participating in scheduled sponsor/candidate sessions.
4. Standing as a witness at the celebration of Confirmation with the candidate.

PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

(Sign and return to the Director of Faith Formation)

This is to acknowledge that we have received the Immaculate Conception Confirmation Handbook. We understand and agree to cooperate with the parish policies set forth in the handbook.

Print Child's Name Grade

Print Child's Name Grade

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Student Cell Phone _____

Confirmation Student Signature

Print Confirmation Student Name

Parent / Guardian Signature

Print Parent / Guardian Name