

# What You Need To Know For Confirmation Preparation At Church Of The Nativity

## STEPS TO THE ENTIRE PROCESS

### **STEP #1: Fill Out Application**

- Fill out the necessary information.
- Complete essay for teen and parent. When completed, email essay to [youth@churchnativity.tv](mailto:youth@churchnativity.tv) with subject line *Confirmation Essay*.
- Pick a Sponsor and Confirmation Name

### **STEP #2: Beginning Of Preparation**

- Attend Confirmation Retreat June 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> in Steubenville, Ohio. For more info on retreat contents visit <http://franciscanyouth.com>
- Join a small group or ministry.
- Begin one on one sessions with mentor.

### **STEP #3 Wrapping Up Preparation**

- Student writes essay to Bishop and Youth Minister reflecting on Confirmation prep.
- Attends rehearsal for Confirmation Mass (*typically morning of Confirmation Mass*)
- Confirmation Mass – Date TBD

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***Why an essay?***

The essay's purpose is to help the Confirmation Mentor get a better sense of where the candidate and parents are in their faith journey.

### ***What are the requirements for the essay?***

*Student's Essay (500 words)*

The essay's purpose is to help the Confirmation Mentor get a better sense of where the candidate is starting this part of the faith journey. Please be honest; there is no perfect answer.

- 1. What type of Christian man/woman do you envision for your future?**
- 2. What steps do you need to take to get closer to God?**

*Parent's Essay (500 words)*

The purpose of this essay is to help the Confirmation Mentor get a better sense as to where your intentions for this sacrament meet those of your child's. Please be honest; there is no perfect answer.

- 1. How have you shared with your teen the importance of this Sacrament?**
- 2. What is the hope/vision you have for your child after they receive this sacrament?**

### ***What are the requirements for a Sponsor?***

#### *Sponsor*

The Confirmation Sponsor must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic. It cannot be a parent; however, the sponsor can be a grandparent or God parent. This should be someone the candidate trusts in seeking out faith advice and direction. While the popular choice is a family member or family friend, we also recommend small group leaders and ministry leaders. But, this is a choice up to the candidate.

#### *What does a Sponsor do during preparation?*

A sponsor's role is very limited during the preparation. We ask that they do two things:

1. Pray for the candidate
2. Check-in on their preparation

A sponsor's main duties will pick up where a mentor leaves off.

### ***What are the requirements for a confirmation name?***

#### *Name*

In order to manifest the close relationship of Confirmation to Baptism, the candidates, according to the longstanding custom of the Church, may retain their baptismal name. However, a special name may be chosen if desired, in which case it should be that of a recognized saint of the Church, or a person from scripture (CF Canon #855)

***For more information on Saints and biblical characters you can visit the Catholic Encyclopedia*** <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/index.html>

### ***What are small groups?***

#### *Small Groups*

Every Thursday night from 6:30 – 8:30pm high school students worship together through music, a message that points them to Christ, activities

that help them go deeper and small groups that build life long relationships. These groups are free, there is no sign up, just show. Our vision is that teens receive the accountability and relationships they need to stay on the path God has designed for them.

### ***How do I get plugged into ministry?***

#### *Student Impact*

Student Impact is the name of our program that plugs teens into ministry. At Church of the Nativity we encourage teens to share their gifts, abilities, heart, personality and experiences through ministry. They might be young; however, the impact they can have on the church family is amazing.

To get involved, just go to <http://churchnativity.tv>, click Ministry, then First Serve to give ministry a try.

### ***What is a Confirmation Mentor***

A Confirmation Mentor is meant to introduce, coach and encourage the student in developing spiritual habits that will help them grow in their faith. We do this so that when they graduate high school they aren't graduating their faith. Confirmation Mentors aren't teachers, they aren't paid, they are loving, caring adults who will meet with your teens 6 times one on one from August up until the date of their Confirmation.

### ***Why do we go to Ohio for the Confirmation retreat?***

This opportunity focuses on large-scale worship such as adoration, music, reconciliation and faith filled messages given by priests and staff of Franciscan University.

Even though this retreat challenges the teens to step out of their comfort zone, it enables them to form deeper community with the other candidates through prayer and worship. For more information on the retreats (i.e. dates, themes, etc.) visit [www.franciscanyouth.com](http://www.franciscanyouth.com)

### ***What if I have a conflict with the retreat?***

This retreat is a requirement and the only thing we offer; however, we understand that there are certain situations that prevent a teen from attending this specific weekend. If there are known conflicts with the summer retreat please contact Chris Wesley at [youth@churchnativity.tv](mailto:youth@churchnativity.tv) before you fill out the application.