

## Confirmation

1. Must a baptized Catholic be confirmed before receiving the sacrament of marriage?

*Neither canon law of the Catholic Church nor the Archdiocese of Santa Fe requires that the parties for marriage be confirmed. The reception of the sacrament of confirmation is strongly encouraged if it can be done without serious inconvenience and if the conditions for a fruitful reception of confirmation can be satisfied. However, individual parishes may not make this a requirement for marriage.*

2. May a parent serve as confirmation sponsor for his/her child?

*Canon Law and the Archdiocesan policies state that neither father nor mother may serve as confirmation sponsor to his/her child.*

3. May a spouse serve as confirmation sponsor for his/her spouse?

*There is no regulation prohibiting a spouse from serving as confirmation sponsor as long as that person meets the other requirements for a sponsor.*

4. I was baptized Catholic as an infant but did not receive my first Holy Communion and was not confirmed. I would like to complete my initiation before I am married. How is that possible?

*A person who was baptized as an infant but had no further formation or participation in the sacraments of the Catholic Church is considered a baptized, uncatechized Catholic. Baptized, uncatechized Catholics complete their Initiation through the reception of confirmation and Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil after participation in the RCIA process. Outside of the Easter Vigil, baptized uncatechized Catholics in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe may receive their First Holy Communion at any Sunday liturgy once they are prepared but may only receive confirmation at a celebration of the sacrament with the Archbishop.*

5. What are the pre-requisites for a person to serve as a confirmation sponsor?

*The person serving as godparent (sponsor) must meet the following requirements:*

- a. be designated as sponsor by the one to be confirmed, by the parents or the one who takes their place*
- b. be at least 16 years of age*
- c. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and received the Most Holy Eucharist and who leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role of godparent (sponsor)*
- d. not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.*

6. Why are students in Catholic high school also required to attend confirmation preparation in their parishes?

*Catholic high school students are required to participate in confirmation preparation in their respective parishes because the confirmation preparation program is only one of many opportunities of on-going spiritual formation and growth. The high school provides the pre-requisite of "at least one year of catechesis or religious formation at the parish or be enrolled in a Catholic high school where they participate in daily theology classes". The immediate preparation takes place after this in the parish.*

7. What does the ASF require for confirmation preparation?
- Prior to entrance into the final preparation period for confirmation, young people should have recently completed at least one year of catechesis or religious formation at the parish or be enrolled in a Catholic high school where they participate in daily theology classes.*
  - A final period of four to six months of confirmation preparation is held at the local parish for all candidates, including those attending Catholic high schools. This period of preparation is required and is to include orientation, catechesis on the sacrament of confirmation, spiritual and community outreach activities, retreats, and the practical and liturgical arrangements for the celebration.*
  - The four to six month period of proximate preparation for confirmation will include a number of sessions for parents and sponsors to aid them in their mentoring roles.*

8. Why does my parish insist that those who have been confirmed return the next year(s) for more catechesis?

*Faith formation is a lifelong process. The goal of catechesis in the high school years is to help young people grow as disciples of Christ which happens best within a community of disciples (the parish), so that they will live the rest of their lives as active and faithful members of Christ's church. When we encourage our young people to continue faith formation after confirmation, we let them know that it is important to keep growing in their knowledge of Christ and their participation in the life of the church for the rest of their lives.*

9. My child has been told he/she must complete service hours in order to be confirmed. What does this have to do with confirmation?

*Service hours are not technically required for confirmation. Preparation for confirmation includes, among other things, developing a basic knowledge of the Scriptures and how to use them; an understanding of the sacramental life of the Church; principles of making decisions based on Christian morality; prayer; spiritual enrichment; service to the community. Parishes differ in how a sense of service to community is developed. In many parishes the confirmation candidates provide accountability of their service to the community through "service hours".*