Saint Gregory the Great Parish
Sacrament of Confirmation FAQ – 2026-2027

Introduction: In the Roman Catholic Church the Sacraments form an integral part of our worship of God. We at Saint Gregory the Great Parish and our parish schools take delight in preparing our young people for reception of the Sacraments and thus witnessing their growth in their Christian faith. We have prepared this simple FAQ to answer some of the questions that parents may have. As we can't foresee all the questions, our parish priest and secretary in conjunction with our school staff are available to address any inquiries not covered in this document.

What is a Sacrament? The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: 'The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament.' (1131) In receiving a Sacrament we are brought closer to God and God is brought closer to us by His gift of grace.

What is the Sacrament of Confirmation? Confirmation, one of three sacraments of initiation, establishes young adults as full-fledged members of the faith. This sacrament is called Confirmation because the faith given in Baptism is now confirmed and made stronger. During Baptism, parents and godparents make promises to renounce Satan and believe in God and the Church on the child's behalf. At Confirmation, the child renews those same promises, this time speaking for themselves.

What is the focus of Confirmation? During Confirmation, the focus is on the Holy Spirit, who confirmed the apostles on Pentecost and gave them courage to practice their faith. Catholics believe that the same Holy Spirit confirms Catholics during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives them the same gifts.

Who can receive Confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church? A person baptized Roman Catholic or received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church through a Declaration of Faith and having received the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Communion may present themselves to receive confirmation. In our Catholic school program, students in grade seven are prepared for reception of this sacrament.

My child was baptized in an Eastern Rite Catholic Church (Examples: Ukrainian Catholic, Chaldean) – Can they receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church? In the Eastern Rite Catholic Churches, a child usually receives First Communion and Confirmation when they are baptized. The child's baptism certificate should show that first eucharist and confirmation were also conferred. Your priest in the applicable Eastern Rite Catholic Church can provide any clarification if needed. Confirmation is never repeated.

We completed a Declaration of Faith and our child has received First Communion. Can they be confirmed? Yes, as when you made a Declaration of Faith your child became a Roman Catholic.

Our child was baptized in a denomination of Christianity other than Roman Catholic or Eastern Rite Catholic (I.E. Anglican, United, Presbyterian.) or has never been baptized. Can they receive Confirmation? To receive Confirmation, your child would have to become Roman Catholic. It is possible, but there are factors that need to be addressed. You should contact our parish priest as soon as possible to discuss this as the process can take over 1 year to complete.

Can my child still participate on Confirmation Day if not receiving the sacrament of Confirmation? Absolutely! Your child would be encouraged to come forward for a blessing by our Bishop or celebrating priest at the Confirmation Liturgy.

Who can be a Confirmation Sponsor? A Baptismal Godparent is a good choice and symbolizes the sacred connection between Baptism and Confirmation. But any sponsor chosen must be...

- An adult Catholic (at least 16 years of age) who will strive to have a strong and long-lasting influence on the person being confirmed.
- A Catholic who has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Leads a life of faith in keeping with the function of sponsor.
- Is not bound by any canonical penalty (i.e. married outside the Catholic Church);
- Is not the parent or step-parent of the Confirmation candidate.

What is the role of a Confirmation Sponsor? The role of the Confirmation Sponsor involves much more than simply standing behind the Candidate as the presider confirms. It is the beginning or the continuation of a lasting relationship of mentoring and guidance. The prayers and support of the Sponsor are an important part of preparation for Confirmation and helps the Confirmation Candidate live his or her baptismal promises both before and after Confirmation.

What is my child to wear on Confirmation day? Confirmandi should be dressed neatly as if attending Sunday Mass. Confirmation gowns will be required. Details and cost will be shared next year.

Can my child pick a "Confirmation Name? In the Hamilton Diocese, a child may use the name they were baptized as. Alternatively, a child may pick a Saint name as their Confirmation Name. Picking a Confirmation name is an opportunity to choose a name that has special meaning to your child, a name that will help them in their journey of faith.

Who Will Confirm?

Our Bishop has mandated that the sacrament of Confirmation be celebrated in a Liturgy of the Word Service as opposed to a Mass. **We welcome Bishop Wayne Lobsinger who will administer this sacrament.**

Confirmation Registration Forms will be made available at the **Confirmation Parent Meeting Wednesday, November 4th at 6:30pm** or you can download from the school and or the parish websites as well as distributed to the students to be brought home. You are asked to fully complete the form and deliver it and any required baptism certificate to the parish church either in person, by mail or electronically stgreg@rogers.com.

THE ENROLLMENT FORM MUST BE RETURNED DURING THE ENROLLMENT WEEKEND MASSES in person. Completed Registration must be returned to the church by **Friday, January 29th, 2027.**

What is The Rite of Enrollment and when/where is it held? The Rite of Enrollment is an opportunity for our confirmation candidates to appear publicly at Mass and declare their desire to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. The congregation is asked to support our young confirmandi by their prayers and support. Every student who is to receive confirmation must be "Enrolled" **by attending one of the weekend Masses here at St. Gregory. Either Saturday, Dec 5th, 2026 at the 5:00pm or Sunday, December 6th, 2026 at the 10:00am Mass.** The enrollees will be called forward after the homily to be enrolled.

When will the Sacrament of Confirmation be celebrated?

Saturday, May 29th, 2027 at 11:00am.

Rev Oct /2026