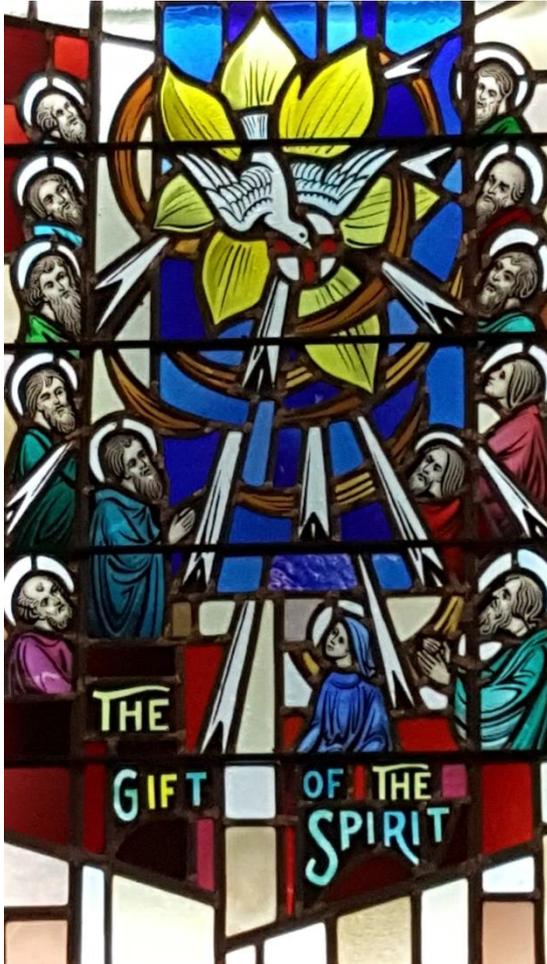


St. Pius X Parish

CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK 2026



Confirmation Mass, Dec. 6, 2026
Mass at 11:30 PM

Practice & Group photo at 11:00 in the Church

Congratulations on embarking on the journey to Confirmation! As a parish, we support and celebrate your decision to prepare for and receive the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. To help you prepare, we are giving you a Bible and a small book with an explanation of the sacrament, an introduction to Catholicism and a full set of responses, prayers and commentary on the Confirmation Mass itself. Please read the book with your parents and keep it for reference until after receiving the sacrament.

This handbook outlines St. Pius X's sacramental preparation process.

EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES ---

Candidates: To be a fully contributing member of a community demands *presence and participation*. You are preparing for life-long discipleship as a follower of Jesus Christ in the parish and the world.

- **Pray.** Prayer will deepen your relationship with God.
- **Read scripture.** To encourage your love of reading scripture, the parish will give you a Bible.
- **Participate fully in the parish Masses in whatever capacity you can.** Many serve in the ministries of hospitality, music, altar service, lectors, etc., but most of us participate in the role of the assembly. Whatever you do, do it with your whole heart!
- **Participation in Confirmation retreats is expected.** One formal retreat is with all Candidates and one informal retreat is with just the Candidate and sponsor (to be scheduled at a mutually convenient time with the sponsor).
- **Participation in Discipleship Group service projects is expected.** Groups of Candidates will work together in 3 or 4 service projects in the parish and community. This is a valuable opportunity to serve others and reflect on service through the lens of faith.

Parents: The next several months will offer many opportunities for you to become involved and support your daughters and sons as they prepare for Confirmation. If you treat participation in the liturgy and in formal projects seriously, that tells your child that these things are important enough to prepare for, plan for, and participate in fully themselves.

- **Attend Mass weekly with your child.** This is a fundamental and non-negotiable expectation.
- **Share your faith and participate** with your daughters and sons as they practice discipleship, learn about the saints, and pray.
- **Review the materials** in the red Confirmation packet, the small book, and monthly emails for ideas on how you can help your child live as a disciple.
- **Encourage full participation in the Mass** by previewing the gospel and readings before mass or by discussing the readings and homily and other parts of the mass on your way home and throughout the week.
- **Transport your Candidate** to and from service projects with their Discipleship Groups.

Coordinator: The parish Sacrament Coordinator will create opportunities to prepare Candidates to live out their faith fully and intentionally as disciples of Christ and will share resources to help families and sponsors grow in their own faith during this year of formal sacramental preparation.

- **Encourage the practice of intentional acts of discipleship** through regular emails to Candidates, parents and sponsors.
- **Encourage a love of the saints** by sharing stories of their lives with Candidates and their families.
- **Conduct the retreat for Candidates.**

- **Equip sponsors to serve as spiritual companions** for the Candidates.

Sponsors: The sponsor is a representative of the Church who not only stands with the Candidate at the time of Confirmation but also serves as an example and guide through the journey. Sponsors should witness to what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit. We expect sponsors to:

- **Pray for the Candidate.** Lift up the Candidate in daily prayer and share your own faith life and practices with the youth. Encourage the Candidate to live as Jesus would by practicing mercy.
- **Plan a “retreat” with the Candidate.** This informal “retreat” gives sponsors and Candidates the opportunity to discuss issues of faith freely and without interruption. It is arranged by the sponsor.
- **Attend a sponsor session.** This session conducted over Zoom gives sponsors an understanding of their role and ideas on how to grow in their own faith while supporting their Candidate’s spiritual development.

Requirements of the Church for sponsors:

- At least 16 years of age and confirmed in the Church.
- A practicing Catholic who attends Mass regularly and is in good standing with the Church.
- If married, the sponsor must be in a *sacramental marriage* recognized as valid by the Church. (Again, sacramental marriage supports the sponsor’s commitment to living the Catholic faith.)
- **PARENTS CANNOT SERVE as SPONSORS.**
- **Non-Catholics may NOT be sponsors.**

DISCIPLESHIP

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SERVICE & WORKS OF MERCY (JAN. – DEC.)

All Confirmation Candidates and families are encouraged to think in terms of deliberately living as disciples, looking at your everyday lives as precisely where Jesus calls you to serve.

The Discipleship Journey booklet is designed to help Candidates practice works of mercy in their family, parish, neighborhood and city (though the principles extend into other groups, such as school, teams, carpool, clubs, etc.).

Candidates reflect and report on intentional discipleship in everyday life throughout the year and in the Discipleship Group service projects. The booklet is due the week October 19 and will be used in the Confirmation interview.

Monthly emails will offer suggestions and nudges, but here are some easy ways to make regular discipleship a part of the family's relationship with the groups outside of the family:

Parish

- Commit to one hour every 8 weeks to join a team that cleans the church on Saturday mornings. This is a good family activity. (dustingdisciples@stpiusxomaha.org)
- Commit to serve, usher or greet at Mass on a regular schedule (liturgy@stpiusxomaha.org)

During Lent, help the Knights of Columbus and Men's Club with fundraising events that are fun, such as:

- Soda bread wrapping – sign up on the St. Leo's website.
- Pasta Friday serving – see the parish website for the link.

Watch the weekly parish bulletin, website or Facebook site for additional opportunities.

Neighborhood

- Work together to clear a neighbor's snowy sidewalks.
- Cook/bake something and deliver it together to take to a homebound neighbor.
- Invite a single neighbor for dinner or a game night with your family.
- Work together to clean up a neighbor's yard in the spring.

City

- Pick up trash when you walk the trails or use the parks. (See who can pick up the most trash, then let the winner choose the family's next movie or game night event.)
- Participate in or organize a trash flash mob:
<https://www.bluebucketprojectomaha.com/>

GROUP SERVICE PROJECTS (SPRING-FALL)

Doing service as a faith community builds the sense of us being the face, hands and feet of Christ on earth. Discipleship Groups are facilitated by pairs of parents who volunteer to plan the events and lead the reflections. These projects are scheduled between May-November. Discipleship Group service projects often take the Candidates out of their comfort zone and help them to encounter Christ in places where they've never looked before!

On May 4, 2026, at 6 PM in the Parish Center, Candidates will get information about the Discipleship Group to which they have been assigned and the service projects that group will perform. Watch for more information in April.

Eight to ten adults are needed to serve as facilitators for four Discipleship Groups! Sponsors are welcome to serve as facilitators.

CONFIRMATION NAME _____

The sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are so closely related that in the first centuries of the Church, Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist were celebrated in one ceremony known as the Rite of Initiation. We will spend a great deal of time emphasizing the link between Baptism and Confirmation.

In Confirmation, we proclaim publicly that we have chosen to live in such a way that our whole life will be a reflection of the love that God first gave at Baptism. For these reasons it is appropriate for you to keep your Baptismal name if it is a saint's name.

If you wish to take another name, you should choose a saint's name. **PRAY!** Just as you should pray about any decision you have to make, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you choose a saint as your patron.

Check out books on the lives of the saints to find a saint whose name and charism you would like to have as your own.

If you use the internet, be sure to go to a Catholic site, such as <https://www.catholic.org/saints/>

Or Franciscan Media's Saint of the Day at <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/>

OR, for a more modern look, go to <https://www.themodernsaints.com/>

DETAILS THAT EVERYONE WANTS AT THE LAST MINUTE _____

- Receive the sacrament of Reconciliation in the days before, so that your heart is fully open to receiving the gifts of the Spirit.
- Confirmation date – Sunday, December 6, 2026
- Mass Time – at 11:30 Mass
- Location – in the Church, 6905 Blondo, Omaha, Nebraska
- Practice with sponsors – 30 minutes prior to Mass in the Church
- Dress - respectful and modest as befitting a reverent sacramental celebration. For such a significant spiritual milestone, Candidates and sponsors should dress in their Sunday best, including footwear. This demonstrates respect and recognizes the importance of the occasion itself.
- Suits are not required, but a shirt and tie with a sweater or sport jacket are recommended for the young men.
- The young women may wear dress slacks, or a skirt or dress of a length appropriate for the occasion. A sweater or jacket must be worn over any tops with bare shoulders.
- Reserved Seating is only for Candidates and sponsors— Candidates and sponsors will sit in the front pews.
- Additional Seating - All other seating is open seating for families and guests on a first-come, first-served basis. If you expect more than 9 people to attend, please let me know so I can plan for additional seating in the narthex.
- EMHCs & Lectors, Musicians and Choir - If family members who will be attending the Mass would like to assist in a specific ministry, please let me know.
- Servers – Confirmation Mass requires 5 altar servers, including 2 who carry the archbishop’s mitre and crozier.
- Pictures – Please do not take pictures or videos during the Confirmation liturgy. Parents are welcome to take pictures of Candidates with the Archbishop after the liturgy.
- Group photo – taken before the Confirmation Mass.