

St. Pius X Parish Confirmation Handbook 2026

Forms #1-#7, along with the handbook are available on the St. Pius X website:
<https://www.stpiusxomaha.org/sacramental-prep-for-children>

Checklist Item	Due	Scan or go to Website
Attend Mass on Weekends and Holy Days Saturday or the day before the Holy Day at or after 4pm until the end of the day of/Sunday	Every Week	Check Web or Bulletin for times
#1 Registration form (online only).	1/29	
#2 Candidate-Only Retreat Consent Form and Liability Wavier Saturday, October 17, 2026, 10 AM – 3 PM; Retreat at Columban Retreat Center 1902 N. Calhoun St., Bellevue	1/30	
#3 Saint, Sponsor name form. Research and choose a Confirmation saint and sponsor before.	3/30	
#4 Sponsor Eligibility form.	4/10	
#5 Discipleship Group permission form. Attend Discipleship Group kickoff meeting on 5/4 @ 6PM in the PC	5/5	
#6 Discipleship Journal. On going completion includes Jan. – Nov. Deliberate discipleship efforts incl. Discipleship Group service projects TBA – record service and reflections in this journal.	10/19	
#7 Candidate Interview questions	Week of 10/19	
Confirmation Interviews	TBD	
Receive Absolution Before Confirmation	12/6 11AM	
Dress well; Practice 11 Mass 11:30	12/6 11AM	

Congratulations on your decision to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. As a parish, we are grateful to accompany you as you grow in faith and openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Each candidate will receive a Bible and a Confirmation guide containing an explanation of the sacrament, an introduction to the Catholic faith, and the prayers and responses for the Confirmation Mass. Candidates and parents are encouraged to read these materials together and keep them for future reference.

This handbook outlines the parish's Confirmation preparation process and expectations.

Expectations & Responsibilities

Candidates

Confirmation is not the end of your faith journey but a deeper commitment to lifelong discipleship. Candidates are expected to:

- Pray regularly and develop a personal relationship with God.
 - Read Sacred Scripture using the Bible provided by the parish.
 - Participate faithfully in Sunday Mass.
 - Attend the required Confirmation retreat.
 - Complete the sponsor retreat at a mutually agreed time.
 - Participate in Discipleship Group service projects and reflections.
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Parents

Parents remain the primary educators of their children's faith. During this preparation year, parents are expected to:

- Attend Mass weekly with their child.
 - Encourage prayer, discipleship, and conversations about the faith.
 - Review the Confirmation materials and monthly emails.
 - Help their child prepare for Mass by discussing the readings and homily.
 - Provide transportation for service projects and Confirmation activities.
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Parish Coordinator

The Director of Faith Formation will:

- Provide formation and spiritual resources.
- Encourage intentional discipleship through regular communication.

- Foster devotion to the saints.
 - Lead the Confirmation retreat.
 - Equip sponsors to serve as spiritual companions.
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Sponsors

Sponsors represent the Church and accompany candidates through preparation and beyond.

Sponsors are expected to:

- Pray regularly for their candidate.
- Share their own faith and encourage Christian discipleship.
- Plan an informal retreat or faith conversation with the candidate.
- Attend the sponsor formation session (held via Zoom).

Church Requirements for Sponsors

Sponsors must:

- Be at least 16 years old.
 - Be fully initiated Catholics (Baptized, Confirmed, and receiving the Eucharist).
 - Practice the Catholic faith and regularly attend Mass.
 - If married, be in a valid sacramental marriage recognized by the Church.
 - Not be the candidate's parent.
 - Be Catholic; non-Catholics may not serve as sponsors.
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Discipleship

Confirmation preparation is centered on becoming a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ.

Individual & Family Works of Mercy

Throughout the year (January–December), candidates are encouraged to intentionally practice works of mercy at home, in the parish, neighborhood, school, and community.

The **Discipleship Journey** booklet provides opportunities for reflection and records these experiences. It is due during the week of **October 19** and will be discussed during the Confirmation interview.

Monthly emails will include practical suggestions for living the faith each day.

Examples include:

Parish

- Help clean the church.
- Serve at Mass.
- Volunteer during Lenten parish events.

Neighborhood

- Help a neighbor with yard work or snow removal.
- Visit or assist someone who is homebound.
- Invite someone who may be lonely to share a meal.

Community

- Pick up litter in parks or trails.
- Participate in community service projects.

Discipleship Group Service Projects

Candidates will participate in several group service projects between spring and fall. These projects help candidates encounter Christ through service while building friendships rooted in faith.

Discipleship Groups are led by parent volunteers.

Group assignments and project information will be distributed on **May 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Center.

Additional parent and sponsor volunteers are always welcome.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

Because Baptism and Confirmation are closely connected, candidates are encouraged to retain their baptismal name if it is the name of a saint.

Candidates who choose a different Confirmation name should prayerfully select the name of a canonized saint whose life they admire and hope to imitate.

Helpful resources include:

- Catholic Online – Saints
 - Franciscan Media – Saint of the Day
 - The Modern Saints
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Confirmation Day Information

Schedule

- To prepare spiritually, candidates are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the days before Confirmation.
- **Mass:** Sunday, December 6, 2026 11:30 a.m.
- **Practice:** Sunday, December 6, 2026 11:00 a.m.
- **Location:** St. Pius X Church, 6905 Blondo Street

Dress

Candidates and sponsors should wear modest, respectful Sunday attire appropriate for a sacred celebration.

- Young men are encouraged to wear a shirt and tie with a sweater or sport coat.
- Young women should wear dress slacks, a skirt, or a dress of appropriate length. Tops with bare shoulders should be covered by a sweater or jacket.

Seating

Reserved seating is provided for candidates and sponsors in the front pews.

Family and guests may use all other seating on a first-come, first-served basis. Families expecting more than nine guests should notify the parish in advance.

Liturgical Ministries

Family members who serve as lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, musicians, choir members, or altar servers are welcome to assist if arranged beforehand.

Photography

Please do not take photographs or videos during the liturgy. A group photograph will be taken before Mass, and families are welcome to take pictures with the Archbishop after the liturgy.