**Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church**

**Sacrament of Confirmation**

For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."90

**CCC 1285:90**

**I.**         **Confirmation Philosophy**

Young adults in Our Lady of Fatima’s Confirmation Program will be given the opportunity and privilege to publicly accept the gift of faith and grace first received in the Sacrament of Baptism while also affirm their decision to live out a commitment to Jesus and the Catholic Church founded upon the rock of Peter. The Confirmation Formation Process will seek to challenge the Confirmandi (Confirmation Candidates) to answer the questions Jesus poses to all disciples—namely, “Who do you say that I am?”

**II.**         **Prerequisites**

* Age: Candidates must be Baptized Catholics, 16 to 17 years of age, and/or a Junior in High School.
* Registration Forms and Fee Deadline: Candidates must obtain, complete, and submit all Confirmation Registration Forms to the Fatima office by the Registration Deadline.
* Baptismal Records: Candidates MUST provide a copy of their Baptismal certificate.
* Fees: Candidates will pay a registration fee to cover some of the costs of the Confirmation Program.

**III.**         **Mandatory Formation Expectations for ALL Confirmation Candidates**

* All Confirmation candidates will be required to attend or complete special Formation Experiences during the Confirmation process. The following list of those events/experiences in addition to Sunday Mass/Holy Days of Obligation and the Confirmation Ceremony itself:
  + ***Mandatory Candidate and Parent Meeting***

***Monday, September 14, 2020 6:30P.M. in Church***

* ***Mandatory Check-In/Safe Environment Training***

***Sunday, October 18, 2020***

* ***Mandatory Check-In***

***Sunday, November 15, 2020***

* + ***Patron Saint Report***

***Due Sunday, December 6, 2020 by the 5:30P.M. Mass***

* + ***Mandatory Check-In***

***Sunday, December 13, 2020***

* + ***Confirmation Retreat***

***Saturday, February 27, 2021***

* + ***Letter of Intent to Pastor***

***During Retreat***

* ***Mandatory Check-In/Book Pick-Up***

***Sunday, January 10, 2021***

* + ***Confirmation Rehearsal***

***TO BE DETERMINED***

***Month of March***

* ***Confirmation***

***TO BE DETERMINED***

***Month of March***

**IV.**         **Confirmation Name and Patron Saint Report**

* Research of Confirmation Name: Each Candidate will research and submit a ***Patron Saint Report Due December 6, 2020***. Each Candidate will be required to demonstrate a basic grasp of the Church’s tradition of either affirming the Baptismal Name or choosing a new name. Each Candidate will research their Patron Saint, reflect and report on the virtues and qualities which have caused Catholics to honor and venerate these models of holiness.
* Retain Baptismal Name and Patron Saint: In the Bible, a person who makes a new and profound commitment to the Lord is often given a new name. For example, Saul had such a big conversion he was referred to as Paul after his conversion. Today, the Catholic norm strongly encourages the use of one’s own Baptismal name to symbolize the continuity between Baptism and Confirmation. However, in order to retain your Baptismal Name for Confirmation, a Candidate must be able to find and fulfill their research and report obligations on one of their Baptismal Names and Patron Saint. If a Candidate cannot find information on their Baptismal Name and Patron Saint, they should choose a new Confirmation Name and Patron Saint for the purposes of their Confirmation.
  + For some Candidates, ritually taking on a new name marks the Candidate’s choice to live in a new way for Christ. Or, some candidates were given Baptismal Names that are not “officially” recognized with a canonized Patron Saint. Regardless, a Candidate is free to choose to take on one new Confirmation Name and Patron Saint.
  + NOTE: Candidates can only choose one Confirmation name. Unless, their Patron Saint had a two-name moniker like Mary Elizabeth or John Paul. If this is the case, the Candidate must report on a saint named Mary or Elizabeth for their Confirmation Name or demonstrate from their research how their respective Patron Saint had a two-name moniker.

**V.**         **Mass Attendance**

Attending Mass is an essential component in ensuring that your child is ready for the Holy Sacrament of First Communion. It is our responsibility to ensure we are teaching your child how to faithfully enter into this Sacrament as well as remain in God’s grace once your child has received this Sacrament.

* Due to the unforeseen circumstances of COVID-19, ***Mass dispensation remains in effect*.** However, Bishop Deshotel has granted permission to Pastors in the Diocese of Lafayette to celebrate indoor Masses and outdoor Masses, while maintaining a maximum of 50% seating capacity in each church.
* Masses will continue to be live streamed during this time. You can find Mass on Our Lady of Fatima’s Facebook page. If you do not have access to the Internet, Masses are streamed every day on EWTN.
* We encourage the faithful to actively participate in Mass how each are able to do so.

**VI.**         **Confirmation Sponsor—See Separate Sponsor Form**

* Sponsor form will be due by **October 4, 2020 at 5:00P.M. Mass!**!

**VII.**         **Mandatory Confirmation Retreat for ALL Candidates**

* Active participation and cooperation in all sessions of the Confirmation Retreat. Candidates are expected to arrive ten (10) minutes before the listed starting times.
  + Candidates should expect to work and participate in small groups.
  + Candidates should expect quiet time and one-on-one time with leaders.
* Electronic Devices:
  + Electronic devices will be collected and securely stored for duration of Retreat.
* Refusal to Cooperate/Participate at Retreat:
  + Candidates have a Free Will and can choose not to cooperate by failing to check in all electronic devices. Such a refusal or belligerence will be viewed as a lack of desire/immaturity of the Confirmation Candidate to be confirmed and will result in expulsion from the program.
* Excused Absences for the Confirmation Retreat:
  + If, due to a serious illness, injury, unexpected family emergency or a legitimate conflict outside the control of the Candidate, a Candidate is forced to miss the Confirmation Retreat, it is expected that a ***written explanation*** from the Candidate’s parents or guardian will be delivered as soon as possible to the Director of Religious Education, so that alternative arrangements can be made in a timely manner.
    - Approval to proceed on an Alternative Confirmation Retreat: Only after receiving a written explanation of a given legitimate conflict, will the Confirmation Team explore an appropriate alternative Confirmation Retreat plan.
    - Alternative Confirmation Retreats: If the Confirmation Coordinator and the Pastor grant permission, a Candidate can pursue participating in a Confirmation Retreat at another parish.
    - Letter of Permission: One the permission of Fatima’s Pastor has been given for a candidate to attend another parish Confirmation Retreat, the candidate presents a letter from the alternative Retreat Team ***confirming participation*** in their retreat.
    - Candidates must follow the Rules at another Confirmation Retreat: A Confirmation Candidate from Fatima must follow the rules and directions set forth by another parish’s retreat.
* Attire at Retreat:
  + Casual but modest clothes are worn at our Retreat.
* ***Bring your Personal Bible to the Retreat***
* Letter of Intent:
  + At the Retreat, each Candidate will work on a Letter of Intent to be Confirmed.

**VIII.**         **Catechesis**

* Each Confirmation Candidate will be issued a formation book on the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Candidate will be responsible for completing the book with periodical check-ins throughout the year. This is to ensure that each Candidate is gaining the necessary formation in order to properly enter into the Sacrament of Confirmation.
  + **Mandatory Check-Ins:**
    - ***Sunday, October 18, 2020***
    - ***Sunday, November 15, 2020***
    - ***Sunday, December 13, 2020***
    - ***Sunday, January 10, 2021***

Book Completed/Book Pick-Up

**IX.**         **Confirmation Liturgy Dress Code**

* Female Confirmation Candidates: Female Candidates will wear a white garment provided by Our Lady of Fatima over a modest dress or skirt and blouse that dignifies the occasion of the Confirmation Liturgy. Candidates should wear dressy shoes, but wear no pants, no strapless tops, and no décolleté.
* Male Confirmation Candidates: Male Candidates must wear a white, long sleeved, collared shirt, with navy blue pants, and dark dress shoes. Male Candidates will wear a red tie provided by our Lady of Fatima.
* Sponsors: Sponsors should dress in keeping with the dignity of the Sacrament. Same as that of Confirmation Candidate with the allowance of wearing a pantsuit.