



Mary Our Queen & St. John Vianney Confirmation Handbook 2025-2026

****Confirmation: St. Cecilia's Cathedral
Time & Date TBD****



Mary Our Queen/St. John Vianney Parish Confirmation Guidelines 2026-2027

† **Confirmation Covenant** form must be signed & turned in **Tonight!**

† **Confirmation Information** form must be turned in by **February 25, 2026**. Please include a copy of the baptismal certificate.

† **Choose one Confirmation Sponsor.**

Turn in the "Sponsor Information" by **October 7, 2026**. Give your chosen sponsor the "For the Sponsor" handout. These items are in this packet.

† **Choose a Confirmation Saint Name.**

Turn in the "Saint Report" by **October 7, 2026**.

(See Page 5 of this Handbook for more information about your Confirmation Name)

† **Letters to the Candidate.**

We ask that both the Parents and the Sponsor to write a Letter to their Candidate. This letter will be given to the Candidate during their Confirmation Retreat. The Candidates will be given some quiet time to read the letters to themselves and reflect during the retreat. Parents can find directions for the letter on page 9 (gray page) of this handbook. Sponsors can find directions for the letter in their "Sponsor Handbook".

Letters are due **January 13, 2027**

† **NEW REQUIREMENTS:** Participate in Christian service on your own and with the family and sponsor. Serve the needs of others, especially the poor, with a sincere attitude of love and compassion just as Jesus did. **Candidates are required to participate in a minimum of 2 different opportunities totaling at least 20 hours of service** from the list provided. Candidates are required to write about their experience on each of the activities/events they participated in. Each activity will have its own form that must be signed by the adult in charge of the activity/event and number of hours the Candidate contributed. **ALL** Confirmation Service forms with Signatures & recorded hours are due **NO LATER THAN January 13, 2026**.

You have from January 2026 - Jan 13, 2027 to complete the required 20 Hours of Service!

† **Students are required to attend the Confirmation parish retreat. The tentative date is Sunday, January 24, 2027.**

PARENTS

Your involvement is crucial! The next several months will offer many opportunities for parents to become involved and support their daughters and sons as they prepare for Confirmation. Parents **should share their faith** and participate with their daughters and sons as they participate in service opportunities, study, and prayer.

SPONSORS

The sponsor not only stands with the candidate at the time of Confirmation but is also to be an example and guide, personally bearing witness to what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit. More than anything else, the sponsor's very example should commend her or him to the candidate for this role.

According to Canon Law (Law of the Church)

- ***A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age and cannot not be a parent of the candidate***
- *A sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.*
- *The sponsor is someone who is an active living witness to Christ through their participation in the sacramental life, worship, prayer, devotion, the works of mercy and by living a moral life according to the teachings of Christ and His Church. Thus, in all these ways being an example of a life guided by their own confirmation in the Holy Spirit.*
- *A sponsor must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken; Therefore, practicing Catholic, registered in a parish, who regularly attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days and receives the Holy Eucharist*

This packet includes a **“Sponsor Information”** form to return to the Candidate’s Parish of MOQ or SJV. The “For the Sponsor” handout, in this packet, must be given to the sponsor.

We encourage sponsors to participate in at least one service opportunity with the candidate.

****Sponsors are required to attend a 1-hour workshop on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 6:00pm in the St. John Vianney Social Hall. (tentative date)***

CONFIRMATION NAME

Baptism and Confirmation are closely related sacraments, 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 most appropriate for the candidate to keep his/her baptismal name, if it is a saint's name. If the candidate wishes to take another name, he/she should choose a Saint's name.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS OFTEN ASKED CONCERNING CONFIRMATION

1. WHO MAY RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

In this Archdiocese, Confirmation may be conferred upon any baptized person during or after eighth grade. It is most properly conferred when the person about to be Confirmed wants to enter more fully into the life of Christ, has been properly instructed, and is willing to take an active part in the life of the Church.

2. WHO USUALLY CONFIRMS?

The **Archbishop, Bishop or Vicar General** is the ordinary minister of Confirmation. They confirm to show that Confirmation is closely related to the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. Priests, too, may confirm with special permission of the Archbishop.

3. HOW IS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION CONFERRED?

The Sacrament of Confirmation is conferred through the anointing with chrism on the fore-head and through the words, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." The anointing with chrism and the words of the bishop tell us that the baptized person receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. The confirmed person is more closely bound to Jesus. She or he is given help to spread the love of Jesus among people.

4. WHICH ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, and the spirit of wonder and awe in God's presence.

5. WHAT IS THE IDEAL WAY IN WHICH THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION IS CELEBRATED?

The ideal way in which the Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated is within the Eucharist. In that way, we can see the very important connection between Confirmation and the Eucharist, which are both sacraments of initiation. At the Confirmation Mass, we hear the Word of God and receive the Bread of Life. We are also sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit - nourishment to live as Jesus taught us to live. "Sealed" means "bonded to."

6. WHY ARE SPONSORS CHOSEN AT CONFIRMATION?

Sponsors present the persons to be confirmed to the bishop for the anointing. They speak in the name of the whole believing community. The sponsors continue to help the confirmed persons witness to Christ in their daily lives.

7. **DOES CONFIRMATION MARK THE END OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?**

NO! Confirmation is not the end of religious education. Confirmation, as the last stage of initiation, marks the beginning of a new awareness of life in Christ. It is a call to live as full members of the Body of Christ.

8. **WHAT DOES CONFIRMATION CALL US TO BE?**

Confirmation calls us to be committed Christians. By that we mean we are to live the message of Jesus in everyday life. The sacrament calls us to continue to pray, serve others, and celebrate with the people of God, gathered together as His Church.

The liturgy of Confirmation speaks of receiving the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of Confirmation is to signify a certain relationship to the Lord Jesus, and to the Spirit of God, in and through the community of the Church. One aspect of that relationship is signified by the waters of Baptism, another by the food and drink people share at the table of the Eucharist. The rite of Confirmation picks up yet another theme of initiation into the Body of Christ, and that is their being sealed with the Spirit. Confirmation thus celebrates in an explicit way the life of the Spirit that became theirs in Baptism.

Before all else, Confirmation is an occasion for young people to renew their baptismal faith. It is also an occasion for the parish to witness and accept that commitment and for adults to renew their own baptismal faith. Preparation for the sacrament should center on the meaning of Baptism, of their entering into the mystery of Christ and becoming part of the family of Jesus. The symbols of Baptism - the water, the light - should be made to figure prominently in the rite of Confirmation.

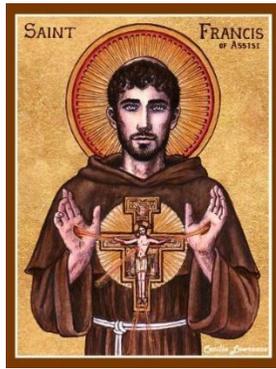
If you have any questions or concerns about Confirmation, please contact:

Mary Our Queen

Kelly Peklo, Director of Religious Education, MOQ
(402) 333-8662 or kpeklo@moqchurch.org

St. John Vianney

Leia Vranes, Director of Religious Education, SJV
(402) 895-0896 or Lvranes@johnvianney.org



“Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit ... To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1309)

WHY SERVICE?

- From Jesus’ words and example in the Gospel, we know that service is a necessary part of a Christian’s life - a disciple’s way of following Jesus.
- We are baptized into this relationship with Jesus Christ, and as such become his Body, continuing his mission and ministry on earth today.
- It is very important that our Confirmation Candidates understand the centrality of service if we are to be true followers of Jesus Christ. The candidates need to focus on what this looks like in the home, parish, neighborhood and larger community.
- Service comes from seeing with the eyes of Jesus the needs of others and responding with compassion to those needs with the heart of Jesus.
- We will strive to make service projects meaningful and connected with what Jesus modeled while he was on earth, and told us to do as his followers – the Body of Christ - called to continue his work to build the Kingdom of God on earth.
- Since the parish is the most important place in which the Christian community is both formed and expressed (*General Directory for Catechesis, # 257*), it is the privilege and responsibility of the parish community to suggest opportunities for quality experiences of service to others.

SERVICE PROJECTS: WORKS OF JUSTICE AND CHARITY

When the Archbishop lays his hands on the Confirmation Candidate during the Confirmation celebration and seals her/him with the Holy Spirit, she/he is saying **YES to the mission of Jesus**. Each person is **choosing to live a life of service** and is **celebrating the sacrament of Christian witness**.

SERVICE PROJECTS are an integral part of the Mary Our Queen & St. John Vianney Confirmation preparation program, and the youth are required to work on these projects during the preparation period and to continue this spirit of service after Confirmation. In carrying out the service projects, the candidates will come to see how they can be an active part of the Christian community. They can come to see their **role of service as integral to their lives** as confirmed Christians.

PARENTS AND SPONSORS are asked to support and be aware of the progress their children are making in the area of service. Parental interest is an important element of the service project. Parents are asked to offer encouragement, then step back and allow the candidates to take as much initiative and to assume as much responsibility as is realistic. Hopefully there will be occasions when you can include your child in any area of service in which you participate in church, neighborhood or community.

Candidates will receive a Bible in 7th grade, a gift from the parish. It is important not only to listen and understand the Word of God, but also to apply the lessons learned, through daily life and service to others. This is essential to living as a Christian following in Jesus' footsteps. These opportunities of service and journaling also give the candidates ways to explore how they can be helpful to our parish and the community. The service also serves as a reminder to parents and sponsors to live out their Baptismal call. We are the Body of Christ called to continue Jesus' work to build the Kingdom of God on earth. We are his disciples.

Service Projects List

We will send out more Service Project ideas throughout the year. ***See "Service Sign-up" included in this packet for ideas.***

Parents and Sponsor – A Letter to your Confirmation Candidate

We ask that both the Parents and the Sponsor write a Letter to their Candidate. These letters will be given to the Candidate during their Confirmation Retreat. The Candidates will be given some quiet time to read the letters to themselves and reflect during the retreat. The letters give the Candidates a sense of feeling loved and supported. For them to have a sense that this is an important step in their spiritual growth and that people they know, love and respect have taken the time to let them know that!

When writing your letter, you can include many things. Some ideas/examples include:

- Writing from your heart about the importance of their Catholic faith, and encourage the candidate to continue growing in their faith journey.
- Memories of when the candidate was a baby or small child.
- Write about all of the candidate's fine qualities and how they have grown over the years to this point.
- Include challenges they have already overcome or are working very hard on.
- Something about the patron saint that have chosen and how that fits in with their own life or faith journey.
- Reminder that they should ask God to help them for all that is before them in the years ahead.
- Add little family jokes or pet names if you think the candidate would enjoy that.
- Add a special bible verse that you think would be helpful to the candidate or a verse that is a family favorite.
- A few pictures are nice too if you have the time to include them.

Please seal your letter in an envelope that only your Candidate will open during their retreat.

Letters must be turned into the Candidates Parish Office no later than January 13, 2027

Mary Our Queen
Attn: Religious Ed Office – Confirmation Letter
3535 South 119th Street
Omaha, NE 68144

St. John Vianney
Attn: Religious Ed Office – Confirmation Letter
5801 Oak Hills Dr
Omaha, NE 68137

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Mary Our Queen
Kelly Peklo, Director of Religious Education, MOQ
(402) 333-8662
kpeklo@moqchurch.org

St. John Vianney
Leia Vranes, Director of Religious Education, SJV
(402) 895-0896
Lvranes@johnvianney.org



Important Dates for Confirmation 2026-20267

Confirmation Mass – Date TBA – Winter 2027

- **January 20, 2026 (Tues):** Confirmation Meeting for all 7th graders & their parents
Sign & Return Confirmation Covenant (red) TONIGHT!
- **February 25, 2026 (Wed):** Confirmation Information Form (pink) with Copy of Baptismal Certificate.
- **September 2, 2026 (Wed):** Confirmation Meeting for all 8th graders & their parents.
Following Back to School Night for RE, 6:30 pm for MOQ school
- **October 7, 2026 (Wed):** Confirmation Saint Name form (light purple) and the Sponsor Information form (Gray) are due.
- **November 10, 2026 (Tues):** All Sponsors will attend a 1-hour Confirmation Sponsor Workshop at 6:00 pm – St. John Vianney Church Social Hall (*Sponsors and Students*)
- **January 13, 2027 (Wed):**
 - Parent & Sponsor Letters written to the Candidate – place letter in sealed envelope and turn in to your child’s Rel Ed Office (Parent Handbook – White) (Sponsor Handbook – Cream)
 - Confirmation Service Hours – 20 hours of service are required to be completed and ALL Service Hour Forms (Purple) must be turned in **NO LATER THAN January 13, 2027.** (*Start working on the service hours now*)
- **January 20, 2027 (Wed): (SJV Only)** Participate in a brief Confirmation conversation during class. (*Tentative*)
- **January 24, 2027 (Sun):** Confirmation Parish Retreat - 10 am to 4 pm (*Tentative*)
- **January 27, 2027 (Wed):** Candidate Letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation (**Green**)
- **TBA (Thursday before Confirmation)** – Confirmation Practice with dinner to follow with Sponsor & Candidate – **Attendance Required** – 5:30pm @ Mary Our Queen
- **Winter 2026:** SJV & MOQ Confirmation Mass – St. Cecilia Cathedral – more info to come

Mary Our Queen/St. John Vianney Parish Confirmation Covenant

I: WE AS YOUR PARISH PROMISE TO:

- Provide Weekly/Daily Mass to allow child and parent to worship with the entire community of Mary Our Queen/St. John Vianney Parish
- Provide timely and competent teachings suitable to prepare candidates for reception of Confirmation
- Provide appropriate ceremonies and rites for the candidates, as well as Reconciliation, retreats and communal celebrations
- Pray for the Candidates
- Share in spiritual development of the candidate
- Witness the preparation and attest to the readiness of the candidate for Confirmation

II: PARENT

Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. Family catechesis preceded, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), 2223, 2226)

I (WE) AS THE PARENT(S) PROMISE TO:

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. This responsibility calls to you, as parents to:

- Participate in weekly Mass
- Pray together as a family
- Be a living example of your Catholic Faith
- Participate in family and parent activities in the parish
- Prepare your child for the Sacraments at home

III: CANDIDATE

In order to prepare myself for the reception of the Sacrament, I will promise to do the following, to the best of my ability:

- Attend confirmation classes; realizing that my faith is more important than sports and other activities
- To enter prayer services and retreats with reverence and openness
- To complete all paperwork and projects in a timely fashion
- To work willingly with my Sponsor throughout the preparation process
- To give witness to the Christian Faith by participating in service activities
- To cooperate with my Catechist, Sponsor and Parents as they help me prepare for Confirmation

I pray that the Holy Spirit will be with me as I dedicate myself to living the commitment, I make through this covenant.

As Parent(s) for the Candidate:

<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
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<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
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As the Candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
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2026 - 2027 Confirmation Candidate Information Form

Complete and Return to the Religious Ed Office by February 25, 2026

****Please Print Legibly****

CANDIDATE: Male or Female (please circle one)

FORMAL NAME OF YOUTH (NO Nicknames)

Last: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____

ADDRESS

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

PHONE

Home: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

E-MAIL

Home: _____ Work: _____ Other: _____

BIRTH DATE

Month

Day

Year

BAPTISM DATE

Month

Day

Year

CHURCH OF BAPTISM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

CHURCH OF FIRST COMMUNION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

FATHER'S FULL NAME (at time of youth's baptism): _____

MOTHER'S FULL NAME (at time of youth's baptism): _____

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: _____

CURRENT PARISH:

Name: _____

Address, City, State and Zip: _____

Attention Parents: A copy of your child's baptismal certificate must be provided to the Religious Ed Office by February 25, 2026. This is only needed for students who do not go to MOQ school or were not baptized at MOQ or SJV.

Choosing Your Confirmation Saint Name

Your name gives you an identity; it tells others who you are. When you were baptized, your parents chose your name. Ask your parents, or whoever named you, how they picked the name you received at birth and your baptismal name.

Now that you are to be confirmed, it is time to choose the name you will take as a sign of your growth in faith.

The name you use at Confirmation should be important to you. It should have special meaning, and it should express something of what you hope to become as an adult Christian. It might help to ask your mom, dad, or grandparents what their Confirmation name is and why they chose it.

The tradition of taking on a new name to show a new role can be traced back to the Old Testament. When Abram was called to lead his people to believe in the one God, his name was changed from Abram, meaning “father of many,” to Abraham, meaning “father of many nations.” Again in the New Testament we find Simon’s name changed to Peter, meaning “rock,” because he was to become the rock upon which Jesus founded His Church.

In Confirmation you proclaim publicly that you have chosen to live in such a way that your whole life will be a reflection of the love that God first gave at Baptism. For this reason it is most appropriate for the Confirmation name to be the Baptismal name. If you do choose another name, it should be a saint’s name.

Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron saint’s name, not because of the attractiveness of the name, but because of the attractiveness of the Christian life that person led.

Find out more about the life of the patron saint you have chosen. A few great websites are:

- www.americancatholic.org.
- catholic.org/saints
- lifeteen.com (search “saints”)

***Please note that the name must be that of a real, verifiable Catholic Saint, Blessed or Venerable. Take your time and give your name some serious consideration.*

****Please see backside**

Confirmation Saint Report 2026-2027

This report must be returned **By October 7, 2026**

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Each Confirmation Candidate chooses a Saint's name. This name is not only something that has meaning to you but also represents a Saint who you identify with and who will walk with you in spirit throughout your entire life as you continue your journey of faith. To this end, each candidate is asked to complete a saint report. The focus of this report is to bring some thought into this part of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please note that the name must be that of a real, verifiable Catholic Saint, Blessed or Venerable. Take your time with it; give your name some serious consideration.

IMPORTANT:

You are required to do a report on your Confirmation Name. this report must be typed and it is to include:

1. An introduction paragraph.
2. At least one paragraph about the saint's birth, life, and death.
3. At least one paragraph about the virtues the saint exhibited in his or her life and any vices that this Saint had to overcome.
4. At least one paragraph explaining why you chose this saint. Explain how the virtues that this Saint exemplified may be applied in our modern world and how you will incorporate these values in your daily life.
5. A conclusion paragraph.

Ensure that your name and date are typed at the top of the report!

Choosing Your Sponsor

(Each Candidate may have only 1 Sponsor)

What is a Sponsor?

A Sponsor is a person who encourages and assists a candidate to embrace and actively practice the Catholic faith both before and after Confirmation. Along the way, you will make connections with certain people who demonstrate in their lives what it means to be a Catholic. A sponsor at Confirmation is someone who stands up for you before the community, presents you to the bishop (or his delegate), and witnesses the anointing with the chrism.

The sponsor's influence in your life continues after the celebration. The sponsor should serve as someone you can turn to for help and guidance as you continue the journey of faith in the years ahead.

Who can be a Sponsor?

Being a Sponsor is not just an honor. The Sponsor must be an active, practicing Catholic who can be a role model for the Candidate. Ask someone whom you see as an example of a committed, practicing Catholic. This could be a grandparent, aunt, uncle, other relative, family friend or a teacher for example.

According to Canon Law (Law of the Church)

- ***A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age and cannot be a parent of the candidate***
- ***A sponsor must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.***
- ***The sponsor is someone who is an active living witness to Christ through their participation in the sacramental life, worship, prayer, devotion, the works of mercy and by living a moral life according to the teachings of Christ and His Church. Thus, in all these ways being an example of a life guided by their own confirmation in the Holy Spirit.***
- ***A sponsor must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken: Therefore, they must be a practicing Catholic, registered in a parish, who regularly attends Mass and receives Holy Eucharist***

Prayer to Help Choose a Sponsor

Holy Spirit, helper and guide,
give me wisdom as I choose my Confirmation sponsor.
Help me to choose a person of prayer
who will teach me also to be a person of prayer
Who will support me in difficult times,
who will guide me to make good choices,
And who will challenge me when I do not.
Help me to choose someone who will love me and teach me to love Jesus.
Thank you for giving me a community of people around me
to support and guide me as I take this important step
in becoming more fully a member of your Church.
Amen

Mary Our Queen/St. John Vianney
Sponsor Documentation for Confirmation 2026-2027

This form must be returned by **October 7, 2026**

Confirmation Candidate's Name _____

Candidate's Parish: (Circle one) **Mary Our Queen** **St. John Vianney**
3535 South 119th Street **5801 Oak Hills Dr**
Omaha, NE 68144 **Omaha, NE 68137**

Sponsor's Name _____

Sponsor's Relationship to Candidate _____

Sponsor's E-Mail _____

Sponsor is 16 years of age or older? _____

Sponsor was baptized Catholic and is confirmed in the Catholic Church? _____

Sponsor's Current Parish _____ City _____

Statement of the Sponsor

As a registered and participating member of the Catholic community identified above, I affirm that:

I have received the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.

I regularly participate in the Sunday Liturgy and give witness to my faith in Jesus Christ by receiving Him in the Eucharist.

I actively strive to live out my commitment to Christ and to His Church, and endeavor to grow in the knowledge and understanding of my Catholic faith.

I promise that I will give support to the Confirmation Candidate named above by my prayers and by my Christian example of my daily life.

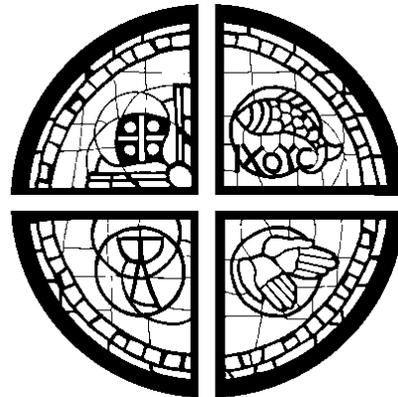
Signature of Catholic Sponsor _____
Date

Statement of a Priest

This will verify that the above-named is a registered member of _____ Parish, has to the best of my knowledge completed the Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation), is in good standing with the Church, is faithful in attending Mass and in the practice of the Catholic faith, and is worthy to accept the responsibility of being a Sponsor.

Signature of Pastor-Associate _____
Date

Confirmation Sponsor Handbook



Please give this handbook to your Confirmation Sponsor

Instructions enclosed on page 5 to write a letter to your Candidate – Due January 13, 2027

If you have any questions or concerns about Confirmation, please contact:

Mary Our Queen

Kelly Peklo, Director of Religious Education, MOQ
(402) 333-8662 or kpeklo@moqchurch.org

St. John Vianney

Leia Vranes, Director of Religious Education, SJV
(402) 895-0896 or Lvranes@johnvianney.org

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FOR THE CONFIRMATION SPONSOR (2026-2027)

Congratulations! You have been chosen to sponsor a Confirmation candidate!
Here are a few suggestions on how to be the best possible sponsor for your candidate:

- ✚ **First of all, you must be a baptized Catholic, and a confirmed active member of the Church community.** You must be at least 16 years old, and not a parent of the candidate.
- ✚ **Be a living model of faith.** At least a part of what this young person admires in you is your faith. Your faith should be authentic and sincere.
- ✚ **Pray for your candidate and yourself.** As candidates decide to be confirmed, they need spiritual strength. Your prayers for them are important, but don't forget to pray for yourself also, that you can share why you value and practice your Catholicism. Attend Mass together, come to Reconciliation together, do service for others together.
- ✚ **Give of your time and share your gifts.** This may mean discussing lessons or working on a service project together. You could also share your own experiences or write a letter of encouragement. Let your unique God-given talents and gifts shine! Offer a gift of spiritual significance- a rosary or book about our faith or about the saint the candidate has chosen for a Confirmation name - be creative and relevant!
- ✚ **Participating in the ceremony is an important part of being a sponsor.** You will place your right hand on your candidate's shoulder, and tell the bishop (or his delegate) your candidate's Confirmation name.

Your role on Confirmation Day is only the beginning. Stay connected to the newly confirmed Catholic. After Confirmation Day, remember birthdays and the Confirmation anniversary. Send a card, make a phone call, or send a text message. Continue to worship together, or from time to time do some Christian service. Put those "Gifts of the Spirit" into practice.

WAYS IN WHICH A SPONSOR MAY BE ABLE TO HELP PREPARE FOR CONFIRMATION AND AFTER CONFIRMATION, TO CONTINUE YOUR FAITH JOURNEY TOGETHER:

- ✚ Help in learning about our Faith: Encourage attendance at some form of Religious Education throughout life, and continue your own education and formation.
- ✚ Help in learning how to participate in parish life: Encourage participation in activities after Confirmation.

- ✚ Help in learning more about the parish or archdiocese: Take a tour of the Cathedral together, read and talk about the archdiocese and its leaders.
- ✚ Help in learning how to witness: Share and show how you witness to your faith community.
- ✚ Help in learning how to pray: Talk about your own experience. Pray together.
- ✚ Help in doing service projects: Find an interesting and fun project and do it together.
- ✚ Help in overcoming bad habits and attitudes: Talk about your own experience.
- ✚ Help in learning how to recognize the Spirit's action in our lives: Talk about your own experience.
- ✚ Help confirm and keep his/her commitment to the Church: Be there for them.

November 10, 2026: All sponsors will attend a Confirmation Sponsor Workshop at 6:00 pm in the St. John Vianney Social Hall (Sponsors ONLY) (Tentative Date)

Your candidate is required to complete **20 hours of service activities/events** along with Service Journal Forms for each activity/event must be signed by the supervising adult and returned to the Religious Education Office by **January 13, 2027**. Each candidate is required to complete a minimum of 2 different activities totaling 20 hours of service from January 2026 to January 2027: Activities must be selected from the "Service Project List" they received in January 2026. We encourage families and sponsors to take part in the service opportunities alongside the candidates. The candidates are required to journal on each project completed. Each Service Journal Form must include number of hours served and be signed and dated by the event supervising adult. These Service Journal Forms must be returned no later than **January 13, 2027**.

The candidates are required to attend a retreat at St. John Vianney Church in January 2027. Please say a special prayer for your candidate and talk to them about their retreat experience.

In the event you, the candidate, and candidate's parents, should decide the candidate is not ready for Confirmation, please bring this to the attention of the pastor, the teacher or catechist, and the Director of Religious Education.

It is very important that the candidate have the freedom of choice in this matter. It is equally important that you, the sponsor, have the freedom to make a conscientious decision regarding the candidate's readiness.

Parents and Sponsor – A Letter to your Confirmation Candidate

We ask that both the Parents and the Sponsor write a Letter to their Candidate. These letters will be given to the Candidate during their Confirmation Retreat. The Candidates will be given some quiet time to read the letters to themselves and reflect during the retreat. The letters give the Candidates a sense of feeling loved and supported. For them to have a sense that this is an important step in their spiritual growth and that people they know, love and respect have taken the time to let them know that!

When writing your letter, you can include many things. Some ideas/examples include:

- Writing from your heart about the importance of their Catholic faith, and encourage the candidate to continue growing in their faith journey.
- Memories of when the candidate was a baby or small child.
- Write about all of the candidate's fine qualities and how they have grown over the years to this point.
- Include challenges they have already overcome or are working very hard on.
- Something about the patron saint that have chosen and how that fits in with their own life or faith journey.
- Reminder that they should ask God to help them for all that is before them in the years ahead.
- Add little family jokes or pet names if you think the candidate would enjoy that.
- Add a special bible verse that you think would be helpful to the candidate or a verse that is a family favorite.
- A few pictures are nice too if you have the time to include them.

Please seal your letter in an envelope that only your Candidate will open during their retreat.

Letters must be turned into the Candidates Parish Office no later than January 13, 2027

Mary Our Queen
Attn: Religious Ed Office – Confirmation Letter
3535 South 119th Street
Omaha, NE 68144

St. John Vianney
Attn: Religious Ed Office – Confirmation Letter
5801 Oak Hills Dr
Omaha, NE 68137

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Mary Our Queen
Kelly Peklo, Director of Religious Education, MOQ
(402) 333-8662
kpeklo@moqchurch.org

St. John Vianney
Leia Vranes, Director of Religious Education, SJV
(402) 895-0896
Lvranes@johnvianney.org

SPONSOR'S PRAYER

**God of all ages,
You send out Your Spirit
to touch the hearts of all people,
so that they may believe in You
and in Jesus whom You sent.**

**Look kindly on all candidates for Confirmation
as they listen to Your voice.
Open their hearts to Your Spirit
and bring to fulfillment the good work
that You have begun in them.**

**As I reach out to my candidate,
make me an instrument of Your love.
Teach me to reverence what is holy in others,
and to be patient with what I do not understand.
Deepen my faith in the Gospel
and help me to pass it on by my example.**

**With those who are hesitant or afraid,
let me be a source of encouragement;
and with those who are weak,
let me be a pillar of strength.**

**I humbly accept the ministry of sponsor
and pray that You will continue to guide me
and sustain me.**

**We praise you through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

A LETTER TO THE BISHOP
REQUESTING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Each Candidate is required to write a letter to Archbishop Lucas, stating your desire to be confirmed. The letter is your own description of your personal faith journey, so far. The letter is also a reflection on both you and on Mary Our Queen/St. John Vianney Parish, so please write what is in your heart and take this endeavor seriously.

Salutation:

Begin your letter with a greeting:

Dear Archbishop,

Body of the Letter:

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Tell something about your family, your background.

Paragraph 2: Request the Sacrament. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3: Explain how you have prepared for the Sacrament. It is important that you talk about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service for others exercised at home, with in the parish etc.

Paragraph 4: Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your confirmation in the faith real and alive in the future.

Closing:

End the letter with a salutation such as "In Christ," or "In Christ through Mary," or "Sincerely," Then leave a few lines of space where you will sign your name by hand once your letter is printed. Lastly, type your full name

Example:

In Christ through Mary,

Kelly Peklo (Signature is handwritten)

Kelly Peklo

Your letter must be turned in by January 27, 2027 Mrs. Peklo & Miss. Vranes will present your letters to Archbishop Lucas

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Confirmation Candidates are required to complete a **minimum of 20 hours of Service Projects from the list provided.**

Must choose at least 2 different Service Projects from the list provided:

- ___ SJV Parish BBQ – January 31, 2025 from 12:00 to 8:30 pm
- ___ SJV Lenten Fish Fry Help – Friday nights, from February 20 to March 27, 2026 – 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- ___ Spring 2026 – SJV & MOQ Parish Grounds Clean-Up (more information will be in the Bulletin)
- ___ Holy Saturday – April 4, 2026 – Set-up/Clean-up help before & after Mass
- ___ Help with St. John Vianney Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 13, 2026 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 p.m.
- ___ Vacation Bible School – June 1-5 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day (@SJV). (Tentative)
- ___ Totus Tuus (@SJV) – July 6-10, 2026 (Tentative)
- ___ MOQ Fall Festival – September 2026 from 4 - 11 pm. (Shifts Available) (Tentative)
- ___ SJV Live Nativity – December 5, 2026 (Contact Leia Vranes @ Lvrnes@johnvianney.org) (Tentative)
- ___ Altar Server- 5 hr max (Daniel Horak 402-547-1363 or djhorak2@cox.net SJV, rspicka@moqchurch.org MOQ)
- ___ Volunteer in a nursing home (Contact Leia Vranes 402-895-0896 or Lvrnes@johnvianney.org)
- ___ EPS Baby Shower – this will take place in February to March 2026
- ___ Prayer Shawl Ministry – directions in this packet
- ___ Childcare for RCIA, Alpha, other parish events

Confirmation Service Project Ideas - The following Community projects are ideas for me and my family/sponsor to participate in together.

COMMUNITY

- Bell Ringer for Salvation Army
 - Donate food or clothing or volunteer at Francis House, www.sienafrancis.org or 402-341-1821
 - Donate food or clothing to Stephen's Center, www.stephencenter.org or 402-731-0238
 - Sort clothes, etc., at Essential Pregnancy Service, www.essentialps.org or 402-554-0121
 - Volunteer at Ronald McDonald House, www.rmhomaha.org or 402-346-9377
 - Assist a Teacher at School; Assist at a Day Care or Preschool
 - Participate in Fund-Raising for Charities: Walk for Juvenile Diabetes, Memory Walk for Alzheimer's, etc
- Questions?

Contact Leia Vranes @ Lvrnes@johnvianney.org or Kelly Peklo @ kpeklo@moqchurch.org

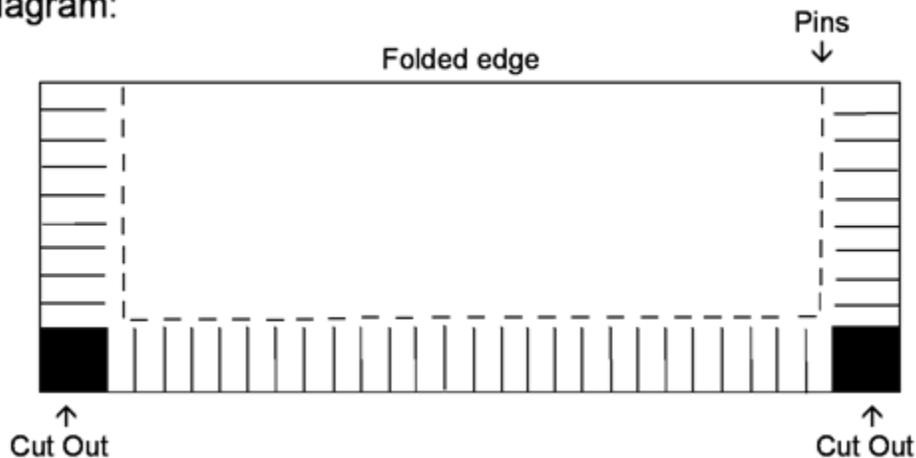
Instructions for Prayer Shawl

Supplies: 1 or 2 yards of fleece depending if you are making a shawl for a little one or for an adult. You will also need a ruler, straight pins, scissors, and a template to cut the corners out easier.

Directions: Say a prayer or two. To get you started: "God, please bless and comfort the person who will receive this shawl. Let him/her feel your warm hug. Amen."

- Trim off salvages.
- Fold in half lengthwise.
- Pin together 4 inches from edge on non-folded sides.
- Cut out 4-inch square from non-folded corners.
- Cut approximately 1-inch wide strips along non-folded edges; strips should be 4 inches in length - to the pins.
- Tie front fringe to the back fringe with 2 ties (one knot).
- Remove pins as you go.
- Wash the shawl (if possible).
- Turn the shawl in to the parish office, so that it can be blessed at Mass. If you made the shawl for a particular person, please attach a note to the shawl, so that the shawl may be returned to you after the blessing.
- Fleece for shawls may be available through the parish office.

Diagram:



Ora et Labora: Works of Mercy

*****At least 10 of your 20 hours of service must be Corporal and/or Spiritual Works of Mercy*****

Please reflect on the Works of Mercy that you have completed, log them and then complete a reflection essay on each (these are in addition to any group projects). Reflection Essay forms are found in the (Green) "Service Journal". While you are only required to document two activities, you are encouraged to do many more since the life of a Christian should be one of love and service towards God and others. Each service activity should in some way relate to a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy. Please do different activities for each reflection. You can find ideas below:

Corporal Works of Mercy:

Feed the Hungry; Give Drink to the Thirsty; Shelter the Homeless; Visit the Sick; Visit the Imprisoned; Bury the Dead; Give Alms to the Poor:

- Serve at a Homeless Shelter or cook food and deliver it to a homeless shelter or the Bethlehem House
- Send letters of encouragement to prisoners, children in hospitals, soldiers, or the elderly in nursing homes.
- Go to a nursing home and visit one of the residents who has not had visitors.
- Do chores for your grandparents
- Visit a cemetery and pray for the souls in Purgatory
- Send a card or letter to someone who has lost a loved one.
- Find a charity that is meaningful to you and volunteer
- Donate a portion of your allowance or birthday money to the poor (give enough that it hurts a little)

Spiritual Works of Mercy:

Counseling the Doubtful; Instructing the Ignorant; Admonishing the Sinner; Comforting the Sorrowful; Forgiving Injuries; Bearing Wrongs Patiently; Praying for the Living and the Dead

- Pick a teaching of the Church that you struggle with and learn more about it and then teach your parents, siblings, or friends (www.catholic.com and the Catechism of the Catholic Church are great resources!)
- Volunteer at the Church
- Serve at Mass
- Volunteer to help a family who is going through a tough time
- Bring a friend to Mass or Youth Group with you that does not go
- Spend an hour in the adoration chapel with the Lord

“Service is a life-long response to Christ.”

A Disciple’s Journal

January 2026 – January 2027

Name: _____

Due January 13, 2027

Each project must be signed by a Supervising Adult

All of us continue to learn about, and grow in, our relationship with God. Every time we celebrate a sacrament, we give ourselves the chance to open ourselves up to God and to see God in our lives. This year you will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. We hope to offer you the opportunity to see God in your life and to continue living your life as a Catholic Christian.

We, as baptized people, are commissioned by Jesus Christ in the Gospel to love and care for one another. Jesus modeled the most perfect kind of caring, through his actions, with people every day.

-Jesus visited the sick and healed many people.

Service Information for Confirmation Candidates

To focus our lives on living as Catholic Christians, this journal will be used to help you reflect on different service opportunities. We encourage families and sponsors to take part in the service opportunities with your Confirmation Candidate. **You are asked to do a minimum of 3 different projects, with a total of 20 hours of service to be completed.** *A Supervising Adult (not a parent) from each service project must sign when you’ve completed your service*

From January 2026 to January 2027, you, the candidate, along or with family and/or sponsor, will participate in at least **3 service opportunities totaling a minimum of 20 hours.** After each, you should write about the experience on the attached Service Journal Forms. We encourage you to participate in more than 3 service projects.

SERVICE, It’s *NOT* an obligation ... IT’S A CALLING!!

- Jesus cared for those in prison.
- Jesus loved and cared for the outcasts of society.
- Jesus fed the hungry and clothed the naked.
- Jesus was concerned for the widows and children.

Examples are told in the Gospel stories that we can read in our Bibles and hear proclaimed at Mass. We are called to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ today! You will be confirmed as disciples of Jesus to continue living the Gospel throughout our lives.

This journal will help you, from now to December 2024, to focus on service as a Catholic Christian, and your relationship with God.



Service Activity Plan

Make a Plan!

What Service Projects interest you? You must participate in at least 2 Service Projects totaling a minimum of 20 hours. Plan for at least 2 projects with a few extra as a backup!

Keep this as your record of completed projects!

Service Log

Date	Service Project Description of work	What did you learn about your faith	Adult Signature