



Sacred Heart of Jesus

Catholic Church

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."
— 1 Peter 4:10

Role of Parents in the Confirmation Process

"Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by *creating a home* where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and...service are the rule." *Catechism 2223*

Your role as the parent of a Confirmation candidate is indispensable, because it is primarily within the family that your child will learn how to live the teachings of Jesus. As parents, your responsibilities will include two main components, which center on your own spiritual life.

1. **Grow in holiness.** No matter where you are now on your spiritual journey, make a commitment to grow closer to Christ this year. Be an example to your child as to what it looks like to live a holy, Catholic life. Show him/her the joy that comes from living a life of service, rooted in prayer, for His glory. Ideas for growing in holiness:
 - a. Attend Mass together as a family; participate by raising your voice in song and speech. Consider volunteering for a ministry that serves during Mass.
 - b. Commit to daily prayer. Schedule some time each day for prayer, even if it is just 10 minutes. If you already have this time, consider lengthening it, or try adding something new. Let your child see you taking the time to pray.
 - c. Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly. If you haven't gone to Confession lately, now is the perfect time to make it a habit! Take your child along.
 - d. Come to know Jesus through scripture. Consider enrolling in a bible study, or commit to reflecting on the daily readings.
 - e. Bring Christ to others. Many people in our parish, neighborhoods, and even in our families are longing to feel the love of Jesus. Consider a visit to the homebound or those in a nursing home, make cookies for a lonely neighbor, take the time to chat with an old friend.
2. **Pray.** Pray for your child as they prepare for Confirmation. Pray with your child as they prepare for Confirmation. Pray as a family; even simple prayers like the Grace Before Meals or a family rosary can have a huge impact on your child's spiritual life. Pray for strong, positive influences and role models to help guide your children when you can't be there. Pour out your thoughts and concerns to the Lord – it makes Him happy. ☺

"If we pray, we will believe; If we believe, we will love; If we love, we will serve."
-Mother Teresa