

# CONFIRMATION PREPARATION READINESS

## DISCERNMENT MEETING GUIDE

This year, there will be no formal assessment (test), but rather a discernment meeting with individual confirmandi **to determine whether you are ready to receive sacrament of confirmation.** If you aren't ready right now, it doesn't mean you can't be ready later!

This year, the vast majority of the teens have shown up, learned so much from the "Chosen" curriculum, asked questions, and shared their hearts! It has been a challenging few years and **you should be proud of all your teen has accomplished** over the past two years of Confirmation sacramental preparation.

**By the time they celebrate Confirmation, the Confirmandi will have:**

- Completed lessons from "Chosen" by Ascension Press
- Volunteered for hours of service to family, community, and parish
- Chosen a Saint to be named after and journey with
- Invited a faithful person to be their Sponsor
- Written a letter of intent to the Bishop
- Experienced the healing power of Reconciliation at a Penance Service
- Rehearsed and prepared to celebrate the Sacrament

## WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD WE ASK?

Below is a list of questions to discuss with your teen. Please set aside some time for a meaningful discussion of the following questions, taking time to listen to their answers and maybe even share about your own faith experience. Remind your teen: "Answer honestly and don't give the answers you think we want. Ultimately the answers you give are between you and God. He knows our every thought. He knows our hearts. He loves us. "

**If, as a family, you work through these questions and it prompts discussion so that you or your teen have questions, need guidance, or feel this is not the year to celebrate Confirmation, please reach out to Father Paul Gary, Katy De'Ath, or one of the catechists.**

Do you desire to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation?

Explore: [\[video\] What Happens at Confirmation?](#) from our "Chosen" curriculum (6 mins)

Do you believe and trust in God? Is God in the driver's seat of your life or are you?

Explore: [\[blog post\] Does God Exist?](#) from Teens for Christ

Briefly explain who Jesus is. Is he God? What did he do for you? What is your friendship with him like?

Explore: [\[video\] Someone Has Come to Fight with Father John Riccardo](#) (20 mins)

Do you desire to learn more about and spend more time with Jesus so that you can become more like him?

Explore: [\[video\] Who is Jesus? from Dynamic Catholic](#) (6 mins)

Do you attend Mass every Sunday and Holy day of obligation?

Do you go to confession at least once a year as prescribed by the Church or any time that you've committed a mortal sin?

Explore: [\[video\] Why Do I Have to Confess My Sins to a Priest? by Fr Mike Schmitz](#) (9 mins)

Is the Eucharist just a symbol of Jesus? What happens to the bread and wine at the moment of consecration at Mass?

Explore: [\[video\] Explaining Transubstantiation from Catholic Answers](#) (10 mins)

What happens when you receive the sacrament of baptism?

Explore: [\[video\]: Baptism in the Bible](#) by Dr Brant Pitre (12 mins)

Do you desire to be an active member of the Catholic Church and to carry on the mission of Jesus?

What is your prayer life like? Do you pray? How often and with whom?

Are there any teachings of the Catholic Church that you do not accept? Which ones?

Explore: [The Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) (in full, searchable)

Do you desire to grow in holiness? To accept God's mercy through Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit in order to turn away from sin and turn towards Jesus Christ, becoming like him more every day?

## CAN YOU SAY "YES" TO EVERYTHING PROFESSED IN THE CREED?

### THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# WHAT ELSE SHOULD THEY KNOW?

It would be great if your teen knew how to incorporate all of the following into their faith life (prayers, commandments, beatitudes, precepts, sacraments, virtues, gifts & fruits of the Spirit, and works of mercy) but, **the most important thing is their love of the Lord, desire to receive the Sacrament, a willingness to grow in their faith, and a knowledge of where to go to find answers when they have questions.**

If your teen doesn't feel like they remember the following parts of our faith, consider going back through "Chosen" lessons to review anything. Catechists, Father Paul Gary, and Katy De'Ath are also available to answer any questions and to speak with you about anything related to your faith or Confirmation. It's also okay if your teen only knows their prayers in Spanish – God speaks Spanish, too!

## OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## HAIL MARY

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

## The Ten Commandments

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

## The Beatitudes

The Beatitudes are the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-10). Jesus teaches us that if we live according to the Beatitudes, we will live a happy Christian life. The Beatitudes fulfill God's promises made to Abraham and his descendants and describe the rewards that will be ours as loyal followers of Christ.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean in heart, for they will see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **Precepts of the Church**

The Precepts of the Church describe the minimum effort we must make in prayer and in living a moral life. All Catholics are called to move beyond the minimum by growing in love of God and love of neighbor.

1. Attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
2. Confession of serious sin at least once a year
3. Reception of Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season
4. Observance of the days of fast and abstinence
5. Providing for the needs of the Church
6. Observance of the Church's laws on marriage.

**Seven Sacraments:** Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick

**Theological Virtues:** Faith, Hope, Love

**Cardinal Virtues:** Prudence (good discernment), Justice, Fortitude (courage), Temperance (moderation)

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit:** Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude (courage), Piety (reverence), Fear of the Lord (wonder and awe)

**Fruits of the Holy Spirit:** Charity (love), Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control, Chastity

### **Corporal Works of Mercy:**

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Visit the imprisoned.
5. Shelter the homeless.
6. Visit the sick.
7. Bury the dead.

### **Spiritual Works of Mercy:**

1. Admonish the sinner. (Give correction to those who need it.)
2. Instruct the ignorant. (Share our knowledge with others.)
3. Counsel the doubtful. (Give advice to those who need it.)
4. Comfort the sorrowful. (Comfort those who suffer.)
5. Bear wrongs patiently. (Be patient with others.)
6. Forgive all injuries. (Forgive those who hurt us.)
7. Pray for the living and the dead.