

# ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES

### THEOLOGY OF CONFIRMATION:

- “ ‘Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the work of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they may receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit’ (Acts 8: 14-17) CCC 1315
- “Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accomplished by deeds.” CCC 1316
- “Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian’s soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one’s life.” CCC 1317

### POLICY AND PROCEDURE:

In order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Stephen’s Church, the candidate for the sacrament must be in compliance with the following:

- Parents/Guardians must be registered members of the parish or have a letter of permission from proper pastor.
- Family must be attending mass on a regular basis. (minimum of 6 months)
- Students to receive Confirmation must attend the required Faith Formation classes on Confirmation or be enrolled and attending the RCIA for children.
- A Parent/Guardian must present a copy of their Baptismal Certificate of the student to receive Confirmation for our records *if not done previously*. These will be kept on file in the Faith Formation records of the child.
- The age for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be the early years of high school, between 14 and 16 years.
- A minimum of two years of formal faith formation in a parish or Catholic school program precedes preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Have fulfilled requirements concerning attendance of classes and of retreat as deemed necessary and appropriate by the pastor, DRE and catechist of St. Stephen’s Catholic Church.

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### SPONSOR INFORMATION:

- Sponsors must be fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist); if married, be in a valid Catholic marriage; and live a life of active faith in the Catholic Church.
- A sponsor must be at least 16 years of age.
- A sponsor may not be the parent of the person being confirmed.
- A sponsor may either be male or female for any candidate.
- More than one sponsor can be used but only one can be designated as the liturgical sponsor.
- A sponsor may be a baptismal Godparent, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.
- A sponsor should be someone who has been close enough to the candidate to have been supportive of their life so far. Sponsors should participate with the candidates in their preparation, as well as the celebration.