

St. Thomas Aquinas Confirmation Policies

St. Thomas Aquinas Church offers confirmation preparation to students age 14 and above in a dynamic classroom setting. Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:45am starting in September and culminating in participants receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation during the Easter Season. Classes are taught by highly qualified catechists who have undergone the diocesan Child Safety Protocol training and who have demonstrated excellence as experienced catechists in our program.

The Code of Canon Law for the Catholic Church prescribes two main requirements for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Can. 842 §1. A person who has not received baptism cannot be admitted validly to the other sacraments.

Can. 843 §2. Pastors of souls and other members of the Christian faithful, according to their respective ecclesiastical function, have the duty to take care that those who seek the sacraments are prepared to receive them by proper evangelization and catechetical instruction...

According to the Canon, we have two main responsibilities. We can only grant the Sacrament of Confirmation to those who have been baptized and who have been properly catechized to receive it. Based on these rules of the Catholic Church, we set forth the following policies with regard to Confirmation:

- 1) All students who are to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation must present a copy of their Baptismal Certificate or other acceptable proof of Baptism that is in accordance with the Canon. We ask that this be done as quickly as possible and no later than the end of the first semester.
- 2) Students are required to attend Confirmation classes and make up work must be completed for missed classes. The following are the specific rules for attendance:
 - A) If a student misses a class they have until the end of the 2nd subsequent class to turn in make up work.
 - B) If a student does not make up the work more than twice the family will be required to attend a conference with the Pastor and DRE.
 - C) A student is only allowed to miss 4 classes, provided the student completes the make-up work for the misses. If a student misses more than 4 classes the family will be required to attend a conference with the Pastor and DRE.
- 3) Confirmation students will attend one over-night retreat during the preparation year. A Confirmation class retreat is held every year on the first weekend of December (Friday evening through Saturday afternoon). If circumstances dictate that you cannot attend this retreat you may substitute one of the Diocesan retreats such as J-Fest or Destination Jesus.
- 4) Confirmation students will document 10 hours of service work, ½ of which must be completed outside the home.

The key to these requirements is that we are attempting to give the students experience in the depth and beauty of the Church and to lead them to Christ as our source and summit through the Eucharist. We have flexibility in meeting these requirements and ask that you let the DRE know if anything will be troublesome or difficult to manage.