

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

January 24, 2024

Dear 2024 Confirmation Candidate,

Congratulations on deciding to make a commitment to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Your decision is most pleasing to God! Confirmation marks your adulthood in the Catholic Church and comes with responsibilities to support the Church with stewardship of time, talent and treasure. There are some matters of importance that I wanted to bring to your attention.

First, you must be in high school (9th – 12th grades) or an adult and faithfully complete the sacramental preparation that is provided by your parish. This means attending the classes, participating in the sessions, learning about your faith, participating in the required retreat, fulfilling your volunteer hours and growing closer to God.

Second, I ask that you carefully study a variety of Saints before you make a decision of which Saint's name you will choose. The Saint you choose should be one whom you can look to as a role model and pray to for guidance and for intercession.

Third, you should have only one sponsor for Confirmation, unless you choose to invite your original baptismal sponsors. Take time to consider whom you can go to for guidance on your faith journey, whom you can look to as a role model in living the Catholic faith. The sponsor should be at least 16 years of age, who is a practicing Catholic who has already received their Sacraments of Baptism, First Confession, First Communion, and Confirmation. If the sponsor you choose is married, their marriage must be blessed by the Catholic Church. The sponsor cannot be one of your parents. Your confirmation coordinator will review more details about your sponsor.

Fourth, I ask that you dress appropriately when you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Remember that you will be receiving the Holy Spirit in a special way. You can role model to the entire community the purity of our faith by the way you dress. I encourage the young men to wear dress pants and a dress shirt with a tie if you have it. I expect the young women to dress modestly.

Fifth, I am directing the Confirmation Coordinator and your Pastor to discuss three questions with you – either during your retreat or during one of your classes. 1) How are you going to support your parish with your time and talents? 2) Whom did you choose as your Sponsor and why? 3) Which Saint's name did you choose and why? Your Pastor will then provide me with a summary of what he thinks this discussion garnished.

I ask God to bless you with all the graces you need to prepare to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please acknowledge the priests, teachers and volunteers in your parish that make your preparation for this Sacrament a reality. Know that you are in my daily prayers.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Wester". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe