

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Program Content

Length of Preparation

Although preparation for a sacrament usually spans two years, each parish determines how many years, and which grade levels, of formal catechetical instruction need to be completed. Example: For those celebrating Confirmation in the 8th grade, this could mean enrollment and participation in grades 7 and 8.

Number of Sacrament Preparation Sessions

Sacramental preparation for Confirmation consists of 4 – 8 months of formal instruction; this may be adapted to meet the Confirmation date of your parish.

Preparation for Confirmation

During preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, students are to study the fundamentals of the faith, with special attention to the nature and purpose of the baptismal character already received, and specific details about the nature and celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Study guide questions are provided by the Diocese of Rockford's Catholic Education Office, but these are guides only. They include general questions, such as: "What is Confirmation? How does the Bishop confirm? Why does the Church encourage us to receive this sacrament?"

Specifically, from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, in order to achieve the goals stated above these areas are to be studied.

- Section I, the Profession of Faith:
 - Paragraphs 142-152: I Believe – covers the Trinity and what it means to say "I Believe"
 - Paragraphs 153-162: Characteristics of the faith
 - Paragraphs 163-165: The beginning of eternal life

- Section II, Celebration of the Christian Mystery:
 - Paragraphs 1210-1419: The three Sacraments of Initiation, with special emphasis on:
 - the Rite of Confirmation
 - the effects of Confirmation
 - recipients and minister of Confirmation

- Section III, Life in Christ:
 - Paragraphs 1830-1832: Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Material Selection

Primary curriculum materials are to be selected from the Conformity List found at the USCCB website. Anything not on this list is to be considered supplemental and used to enhance the primary curriculum.

Currently, DVD-based programs are not listed on the Conformity List. Those recommended by the Diocese of Rockford are:

- *Chosen* by Ascension Press
- *Decision Point* by Dynamic Catholic