

When does Confirmation happen?

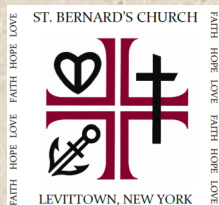
For Christians, the really “big time” of the year is our celebration of the 50-day long Easter season, which begins on Easter Sunday each year. We normally confirm adults on the last day of the Easter Season, the day that is known as Pentecost Sunday. (The date varies; it’s always the 7th Sunday *after* Easter Sunday.) This is when the Church celebrates Jesus’ gift of his Holy Spirit to the world, which makes it the perfect day to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for adults who have been preparing and have a new awareness of the Spirit in their lives.

“Practicing” Catholic

Just as a wedding is the ceremony that “kicks off” the really important part - married life – your Confirmation is the ceremony that “kicks off” your life as a newly-committed adult Catholic. This is a life of continuing to worship, to learn, and to serve, just as you have already begun to do as you journeyed toward becoming fully Catholic. Here at St. Bernard’s, our Mission Statement expresses our purpose:

With faith, hope and love
the people of St. Bernard’s parish family
are on a mission
to bring the gospel of Jesus
to the Levittown community and beyond.
We hope you will join us!

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Being Confirmed in the Catholic Church as an Adult

St. Bernard's Church
Levittown, New York

Catholic but never Confirmed?

First, realize that you're not alone! There are many adults like you who were baptized and who may or may not have had a Christian or Catholic upbringing. You may have had some formal religious education as a child, or maybe not.



Maybe you have received Holy Communion and maybe you haven't. Whatever your situation, and no matter how old you are, you are welcome!

Getting to know you

You probably have a lot of questions, and we are here for you to answer them as best as we can. We welcome both casual and serious inquirers, and we will converse with you at whatever pace is comfortable for you. In the beginning, you set the agenda, and there is no pressure. We will help you to figure out whether or not you are ready to pursue Confirmation at this time. We'll find out about your relationship with Jesus and the Catholic Church right now: What brought you here? Why are you seeking Confirmation at this time in your life?

Different people, different paths

What your journey toward Confirmation will look like will depend on where your path has lead you so far, and what "distance" you still have to go before being ready to commit yourself as an adult to Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church. Some people will be approaching us for the first time; having little connection with the Church. Others will be regular church-goers who have just



decided that it's finally "time". The path we guide you along will depend on where you're at now regarding Sunday worship, adult learning and Christian service. Wherever you are, you'll meet some GREAT people and role models along the way!

What do I have to do?

The very first sign that someone is on the road to being a confirmed Catholic is when he or she has shown a commitment to worshipping with the parish community every Sunday. This is the Church's "big meeting," and everything else about being



Catholic flows out of our worship together. It's where we most fully "learn" to be Catholic. It's kind of like the "fueling station" for the Christian life. We're fueled each week by God's message from the Bible and by the "food" of Jesus' real presence that comes to us in Holy Communion. We support and encourage one another in our common mission together, and then we go out for the rest of the week and live it out by serving others and witnessing to the values of Jesus in our homes, communities and workplaces.

In addition to worship, being a fully-committed Catholic involves *knowing* the faith and *doing* the faith. As far as knowing, we will guide you in joining classes and discussions with other parishioners. Note that one requirement is participation in a 10-week group course/discussion on the Catholic faith designed especially for adult Confirmation candidates. As far as *living*, we can offer you many service opportunities in the parish, or you can engage in service elsewhere in the community. As long as you're actively and intentionally doing the work of Jesus, you're on your way to Confirmation!

