

## 2021 Quick Facts during Pandemic Religious Education/Youth Ministry

1. Does the parish still follow the Confirmation Calendar sent out in December 2020? The Pastor or Parochial Vicar have been delegated by Archbishop Wester to be the minister of Confirmation. Each pastor will determine the schedule for his parish for the Easter Season 2021.
2. Do all the Confirmation candidates (confirmandi) have to be confirmed at the same time? All social distancing guidelines must be followed during the pandemic and in many cases, there may need to be multiple liturgies, as determined by the Pastor, Priest Administrator or Parish Life Coordinator, in which the youth of the parish are confirmed during the Easter Season 2021.
3. Do we need to submit the letters from the Confirmation Candidates to the Archbishop within the two weeks prior to Confirmation? Archbishop Wester has changed this process and individual letters are no longer required (See official letter of September 29, 2020). A discussion of the three questions posed to the candidates by the Archbishop is to take place at a formation class or at their retreat. The Pastor, Priest Administrator or Parish Life Coordinator is to prepare a summary of the answers provided in the discussion, without specific names of the Confirmandi, on the Summary Form of Upcoming Confirmation. This form is then sent along with the Liturgy Form two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled confirmation.
  - Exemption: During the Easter Season 2021 this Summary Form does not need to be submitted to the Archbishop's Office as the Pastor or Parochial Vicar have been delegated to be the minister of Confirmation.
4. Is someone going through the RCIA process required to attend a retreat? Formation should follow the manner and movement described in the *Rite of Initiation for Adults*. Many parishes choose to offer a retreat experience for catechumens and candidates, but it is not required by the Archdiocese. **[Always]**
5. Is an adult candidate for Confirmation required to attend a retreat? Included in the preparation for Adult Confirmation is "a retreat which uses the Rite of Confirmation as the source of prayer and reflection. During this retreat an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be offered." (Guidelines for Adult Confirmation, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, [IV (A.) (5)], Aug 2012. **[Always]**
6. Are children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion required to attend a retreat? Many parishes provide a retreat for children, their parents and godparents

prior to the reception of First Eucharist. This is a parish practice and not required by Archdiocesan policy. **[Always]**

7. Is a retreat required for youth confirmation candidates during the current pandemic? The exemption of 5/28/2020 regarding retreats prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation has been continued through this Easter Season (2021). Parishes are invited to encourage those who will be confirmed to make a retreat next year (i.e. once the pandemic restrictions have been lifted). Parishes may also offer reflections, prayers and meditations for parents, sponsors and their confirmandi to do together at home, so as to prepare their hearts and souls for the reception of this beautiful gift of Confirmation.
8. How many service hours are required to be completed by youth confirmation candidates? The Archdiocese of Santa Fe does not require a set number of service hours but “a comprehensive program of pastoral ministry for youth that includes... justice and service.” Parishes differ in how a sense of service to community is developed. In many parishes the confirmation candidates provide accountability of their service to the community through “service hours” **[Always]**
9. Is there a requirement on number of hours of instruction to be confirmed? No. Parishes, should, however, be following the *Comprehensive Model of Youth Ministry* and employing a process of discernment in order to determine if the candidate is ready for confirmation. (See 5.2 of *Confirmation for Youth Policy*). **[Always]**  
Indicators following a discernment process include:
  - A sense that the candidate is sufficiently formed in the Gospel message, Catholic belief and practice Catholic belief and practice, and how to live as a Christian in today’s world.
  - Commitment to living the rest of one’s life as a follower of Jesus in the Catholic community.
  - Willingness to share one’s time and talent in parish-related ministry or ministry to the world.
10. How many retreats are required for youth confirmation candidates? Parishes are expected to provide retreat **experiences** as part of the final year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. (See 12.2 of the *Confirmation of Youth Policy*). Retreats involving youth must follow the Archdiocese of Santa Fe *Guidelines for Youth Retreats*. A copy can be obtained at: <http://asfym.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Guidelines-for-Adolescent-Retreats-8.1.16.pdf> **[Always]**
11. Is a robe required for confirmation? It is the Pastor’s decision. He may require (or not) that confirmandi to wear a robe for their Confirmation. It is not required by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. **[Always]**

12. Can the parish have the confirmation candidates wear a stole for their Confirmation?

The practice of wearing a stole by the confirmation candidates is **not** allowed, since the stole is the distinctive garb of ordained ministers. **[Always]**

13. How many years of formation are required before a youth can be confirmed?

Archdiocesan policy requires a **minimum** of two years of preparation. However, based on the *Comprehensive Model for Youth Ministry*, preparation is intended to be a journey and may take all four years of high school as determined by the candidate, parent, youth minister and pastor. A youth **must be** in high school to be confirmed. **[Always]**

- [See paragraph 2 & 12 of the Confirmation for Youth Policy:

<https://archdiosf.org/documents/2019/8/Aug%202019%20Revised%20Confirmation%20for%20Youth%20Policy.pdf>]

For more information:

Office of Religious Education/Youth Ministry 505-831-8142 [dmontano@archdiosf.org](mailto:dmontano@archdiosf.org)

Office of Worship 505-831-8128 [dthillet@archdiosf.org](mailto:dthillet@archdiosf.org)