

THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED

Can. 889 §1. Every baptized person not yet confirmed and **only such a person is capable of receiving confirmation.** *Valid Christian baptism must have occurred for any other sacrament to be celebrated.*

§2. To receive confirmation licitly outside the danger of death requires that a person who has the use of reason be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew the baptismal promises.

Can. 890 The faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the proper time. **Parents and pastors of souls, especially pastors of parishes, are to take care that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the sacrament** and come to it at the appropriate time. *The proper instruction is determined by the diocese and implemented by the pastor of each parish. The diocesan policy is that at least two years of consecutive faith formation be completed prior to reception of the sacrament. Additional work may be required for inadequate faith formation prior to those two years. The obligations placed on one at baptism cannot be waived, namely participation in Mass and Christian formation.*

Can. 891 The sacrament of confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the **age of discretion unless the conference of bishops has determined another age**, or there is danger of death, or in the judgment of the minister a grave cause suggests otherwise. *In the Diocese of Youngstown, the age for Confirmation has been set as minimum age those in the 8th grade (13-14). This age may be extended if reason or sufficient preparation is determined to be lacking.*

SPONSORS

Can. 892 Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament.

Can. 893 §1. To perform the function of sponsor, a person must fulfill the conditions mentioned in can. 874, namely:

- have completed the sixteenth year of age;
- be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and **who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on; the sponsor must be registered in a parish and regularly attending Mass and participating in the life of the parish community. They must also live in harmony with the Church and be free of any impediment to the sacraments, especially with regard to marriage.**
- not be bound by any **canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared; if married, must be in a valid marriage within the Catholic**

Church – a more recent concern are “destinations weddings” that, while the persons may not have been previously married without benefit of a Church annulment, have not had their marriage validated by the Catholic Church.

- not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

§2. It is **desirable** to choose as sponsor the one who undertook the same function in baptism. *Desirable does not mean mandatory.*

PARTICIPATION IN THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

Can. 912 Any baptized person not prohibited by law can and must be admitted to holy communion.

Can. 913 §1. The administration of the Most Holy Eucharist to children requires that they **have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation** so that they understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity and are able to receive the body of Christ with faith and devotion. *“Sufficient knowledge and careful preparation” is determined by the diocese and implemented in the parish. Diocesan policy requires two consecutive years of faith formation prior to being admitted to the sacrament. If this has not occurred, the reception of the sacrament may be delayed.*

§2. The Most Holy Eucharist, however, can be administered to children in danger of death if they can distinguish the body of Christ from ordinary food and receive communion reverently.

Can. 914 It is primarily the duty of parents and those who take the place of parents, as well as the duty of pastors, to take care that children who have reached the **use of reason are prepared properly and, after they have made sacramental confession, are refreshed with this divine food as soon as possible. It is for the pastor to exercise vigilance so that children who have not attained the use of reason or whom he judges are not sufficiently disposed do not approach holy communion.** *In the Diocese of Youngstown, the use (or age) of reason is children in the 2nd grade (6-7 years old). If a lack of reason or participation in sufficient preparation is found lacking, admittance to the sacrament may be delayed. "Refreshed with this divine food as soon as possible" illustrates the parents' obligation to join with their child(ren) in celebrating the Eucharist on Sundays and other obligatory celebrations throughout the year.*



