

The Roles and Responsibilities of Parents

Parents are called to be actively involved in the Confirmation preparation program. However, their involvement is very different than their role as parents in the sacrament of Baptism. Much like the sacraments themselves, the role of the parents is an extension of the commitment they undertook at their child's Baptism. It is the family which serves as the primary community of faith. As the child grows in faith, the parent's role lessens in regards to decision-making and becomes one of support and witness.

For the sacrament of Confirmation, the parental role is very much one of spiritual companion and advisor, that is, both parent and child learning and growing in understanding of Catholic traditions and beliefs. As part of their continuing support and witness, parents should attend adult enrichment and catechetical sessions provided by the parish for their own faith formation. With the parish's help, parents will be better able to share their own faith journey, thereby helping the candidate in his/her own decision to grow in faith.

It is the family who serves as the first community of faith. The parents present their child for Baptism and initiation into the community of faith we call "Church." Once this step is taken, a prolonged preparation for full incorporation into the Church has begun with parents nurturing the gift of faith received by their child at Baptism through:

- ♥ personal witness in their own Christian lifestyle
- ♥ sharing their own faith experiences
- ♥ participation in Sunday liturgy with their child
- ♥ prayer
- ♥ providing opportunities for their child to fully
participate in formal religious education
experiences with peers