

Preparing for Confirmation



Confirmation is an important milestone along the journey in one's Catholic faith life. For teens, it represents an opportunity to look at our Catholic faith in a more adult way - exploring, discerning and deciding to make a willful and intentional commitment to learn and live the Catholic faith, beliefs, morals, and practices. For parents, Confirmation represents an important accomplishment in the parenting of a Catholic son or daughter, and an opportunity to talk about our faith with them in a more concrete way.

Confirmation completes Baptism. It is as if the Bishop seals and approves the Baptism celebrated earlier in life. It represents a personal commitment to grow in the knowledge, love, and practice of our faith.

When you are confirmed, you gain a new identity as a full member of the Church. You make the decision to celebrate this sacrament, and then you carry out your decision as you learn, live and love your faith.

Every Catholic who is prepared to celebrate a sacrament may do so. This preparation is not a way of "earning" the sacrament; rather, the sacrament is God's gift to us. Our preparation is the way we show gratitude for God's goodness, by striving to appreciate as best we can the gift we are given.

To ensure that you are well prepared, you will be asked and expected to engage in several formational experiences, all listed in this guide. The parish Faith Formation program, youth ministry activities, and adult faith formation will help you to have the information and tools you need. Some experiences are yours to undertake on your own, with the support of your parents, your sponsor, your peers and your fellow parishioners.

Confirmation will take place in the fall after year two of preparation. You have plenty of time to accomplish the preparation steps. Be assured of the love, support, and prayers of the entire parish community as you undertake this important process. If you need help or advice, just ask!

God Bless,

Alisha Giles

Director of Faith Formation

alisha.giles@stpeter-douglas.org, 269-857-7951 x 2

PERSONAL PREPARATION

- ◆ Choose a sponsor - someone who is already confirmed, and at least 16 years of age, and who can help you to grow in your Catholic faith. Your sponsor must be a practicing Catholic and cannot be your parent.
- ◆ Get enrolled as a Confirmation Candidate and present Father Fabio your *Journey to Confirmation* paper during Mass in your second year of preparation.
- ◆ In order to better understand the Communion of Saints and build relationships with those close to God, you must research as least three different saint. One of those saints will be your "Confirmation Name." You will give presentations for each saint researched.
- ◆ Write a letter to Bishop Bradley during your second year of preparation requesting confirmation and what it means to you.
- ◆ All Confirmandi, along with their parents must have an "interview" with the priest or DRE at the beginning and at the end of the preparation process.
- ◆ You should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year and right before you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.



KNOWLEDGE OF THE SACRAMENT

You should be able to respond in an age-appropriate way to these questions.

- ◆ What does it mean to be Confirmed and why do you want to be a part of this process?
- ◆ What is your role as a member of the Body of Christ?
- ◆ How will you be a part of the parish community as one of its members following Confirmation?
- ◆ What are the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and how do you incorporate them into your daily life?

Formation classes will help the Confirmandi, parents and sponsors to develop appropriate responses to the above questions.

PARTICIPATION

- ◆ Formation Classes, third Sunday of the month (except Apr. is 2nd Sun), from 9:15a to 1:15p
- ◆ Complete and turn in all monthly homework assignments.
- ◆ Attend all Confirmandi, parent and sponsor classes, meetings and retreats.
- ◆ Attend at least one retreat experience each year of preparation. You will be notified when opportunities are available.
- ◆ Respectful behavior and attitudes are expected. Disciplinary action will be taken if you interfere with the learning and formation of your classmates.

WORSHIP & PRAYER LIFE

- ◆ Weekly participation at Mass (formation class does not replace Mass, even though both are on Sunday) and Holy Days of Obligation.
- ◆ PRAY - Know the common Catholic prayers. Please pray regularly.
- ◆ Read the Bible regularly.
- ◆ Know the seven Sacraments, the Holy Days of Obligation, and the days of fasting and abstinence. What do they mean?
- ◆ Be familiar with the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment of Jesus and be able to talk about what these mean in your life.

SERVICE

During your preparation you must show a desire to perform works of mercy and loving Christ-like service. This includes acts of kindness, rooted in faith, in everyday life. Use the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as a guide.

Each year perform at least,

- ◆ 5 hours of service at my church
- ◆ 5 hours of service in my community
- ◆ 5 hours of service in my family

Upon completion of a service, please fill out the *Service Project Form*, and return to the Faith Formation Office. We will be organizing some opportunities to do service at a group.