

Saint Pius X Confirmation Preparation Guidelines

2019-2020

Please review the following guidelines carefully and contact us with any questions.

Class Attendance – Class attendance is very important. For those enrolled in CCD, make every effort to attend all CCD classes. Home school children need to follow a dedicated curriculum covering Confirmation. The Diocese has created a program through Our Sunday Visitor which it encourages all families to follow – this program is available for purchase through the Religious Education office. SPX school students will complete a study of Confirmation during their school religion classes.

Dates of Confirmation – We will have ONE Confirmation Mass at Saint Pius X, a wonderful benefit of the opening of our new church. Confirmation Mass will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 2:00 pm. There will be a rehearsal on Friday, May 1, 2020 at 6:30 pm. Confirmation Mass will last between 2-2.5 hours, with a reception to follow.

Parent Preparation – We will host two parent preparation meetings for Confirmation during the year. We ask at least one parent attend these meetings, even families who have been through the Confirmation process before (as some information changes from year to year). The tentative dates for the **fall parent meetings** are September 16 (6:00-7:00 pm), September 22 (11:00 am-12:00 pm), and September 24 (12:00-1:00 pm). We will have more information about the retreat available during that meeting. Sponsors are also strongly encouraged to attend the **spring parent meeting** if possible – the tentative dates for these are March 16 (6:00-7:00 pm), March 17 (12:00-1:00 pm), and March 22 (11:00 am-12:00 pm).

Information Sheet/Baptismal Certificates – All students must complete and submit a *Confirmation Information Sheet* and return it with their Saint Report (due: February 28, 2020). If students were baptized at Saint Pius X, we already have record of their baptism. Those baptized elsewhere will need to provide a copy of their baptismal certificate. Please do not give us originals. If you do not have a copy, we will make one for you and return your original immediately. If there are problems locating the baptismal certificate, please contact us, and we will help if possible.

Confirmation Name – A new name is not necessary for Confirmation, but most students choose a new name. If a new name is not chosen, emphasis is placed on the name given at Baptism. The new name chosen should be the name of a saint, and the saint questionnaire should correspond to the chosen Confirmation name.

Confirmation Sponsor – The sponsor needs to be a practicing Catholic **in good standing**, at least 16 years of age, and fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This person should give witness to our faith by the way he or she lives and serves as a role model for the candidate. Parents may not be sponsors but godparents are eligible to serve as sponsors, as Confirmation continues the grace received in Baptism. Males may be sponsors for females and females for males. **Only one sponsor is allowed.**

Saint Questionnaire – Confirmandi are asked to complete a short worksheet, exploring the life and works of a saint of their choosing. We have many books about various saints available for loan in the Religious Education office or parish library. Students may also use the Internet or the public library as a resource. If students do not wish to choose a new name for Confirmation, this may instead be about any saint of special importance. The saint questionnaire is due on February 28, 2020. Students should begin considering their Confirmation saint now, as we will discuss this during the Confirmation retreat.

Confirmation Retreat – All Confirmation candidates will participate in our parish Confirmation retreat on Saturday, October 19, 2019. The retreat will begin at noon, and will end with Mass at 5:00 pm. Parents are expected to make every effort to clear their child's schedule to allow them to attend. We hope all sponsors can attend with students. In the place of a sponsor, a parent or significant adult may attend.

Service Projects – 25 hours of service are recommended to foster a habit of stewardship in the Confirmandi. Students are to submit their completed record of service hours to the Religious Education office by March 27, 2020.