



CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PLAN 2019-2020



The Sacrament of Confirmation is a turning point in our faith journey. Through this Sacrament we are fully initiated into the Catholic Church and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which enable us to live out our faith in the fullness of grace. This Sacrament and the preparation preceding the Sacrament should not be taken lightly. This information gives candidates an idea of what to expect in their preparation for Confirmation.

YEAR PRIOR TO CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Archdiocesan guidelines state that every young person wishing to be confirmed should be participating in their parish community and **be registered in that parish** unless their parish and the parish they wish to prepare at have granted special permission. Therefore, **ALL** candidates for Confirmation are expected to participate in the parish in some capacity the year prior to their Confirmation. Candidates are expected to attend Mass regularly and be an active member of our faith community. Active involvement includes, but is not limited to, regular attendance (weekly commitment) in one or more of the following:

- WCFF (Whole Community Faith Formation) Sundays, 9:45-10:45am.
- Night FLASH (Once a month Sunday evening high school bible study)
- Music ministry or liturgical ministry
- Parish outreach ministries ((Table of Plenty, Family Promise, Habitat 4 Humanity, St. VdeP, etc)
- For those students attending Catholic High School we know that much is done on faith formation in your Religion classes. We still ask some level of parish involvement during that first year and a written explanation from the Catholic High Student as to how they feel their faith based activities at their Catholic School are helping them to prepare for the Sacrament that first year.

We ask that you find some way to be a part of Queen of Peace Community each week along with your faithful commitment to the Celebration of Mass.

YEAR OF CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The year students will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation the following requirements need to be met (*after having completed one year of active involvement in the parish community*):

1. Whole Community Faith Formation: **ALL** candidates for Confirmation are expected to participate in the parish youth ministry program, **Whole Community Faith Formation (WCFF)**, the year of their preparation. WCFF Begins **Sunday, September 29th from 9:45-10:45am beginning in the gym.**

2. Faithfully attend 12 Sunday afternoon Confirmation Classes: Our Confirmation sessions, called **Decision Point**, are by Dynamic Catholic, featuring Matthew Kelly. It includes a series of video clips that will direct our discussion. We will meet 12 Sunday afternoons, 1:00pm-3:00pm in the youth Center (see Confirmation Prep Calendar) and parents and/or sponsors are asked to attend.

If looking over your calendar, you see that you have many conflicts that you cannot resolve, please contact me a.s.a.p. to discuss an alternative preparation.

3. Attend Mass Regularly: Confirmation initiates us into full membership with the universal and local church, insisting on a personal commitment to attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Day and show a willingness to contribute to the Eucharistic celebration by praying, listening, singing, and perhaps serving in a special liturgical ministry

4. Attend 2 Retreats or Conferences/Rallies: Retreats are an amazing opportunity for candidates to dig deeper into their faith lives and to get to know Christ and other Catholic youth a little better. As opportunities for other retreats, rallies, parish missions, conferences options become available, I will send out information through email.

The AFTERNOON CANDIDATE ½ day GATHERINGS on Sunday, October 20th and Sunday March 8th, 12:30-5pm, for candidates do not count as one of your retreats, although they are an expectation to attend. These are gatherings used for the candidates to get to know those they are going through preparation with and to help them understand the preparation journey. We ask that you attend at least one other retreat, along with either a second retreat or a rally/conference.

5. Choose a Confirmation Sponsor (indicate on attendance sheet by our January 12th Decision Point Session) Parents are not to be sponsors for their own child. Each candidate should choose a sponsor who meets the following requirements: 1) must be age 16 or older, 2) must belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist; 3) should be attending Mass regularly and receiving The Eucharist. It is recommended that the Baptismal sponsor serve as Confirmation sponsor as well, to reinforce the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. The sponsor should be someone who will support the candidate in living the Christian life, and who will pray with and for the candidate.

6. Keep A Mass Journal At our Introductory Confirmation Day Retreat (Oct 20th), each candidate will receive a Mass Journal. We ask each candidate to become even more deeply involved in the Mass each Sunday by reflecting on the readings, the homily, and the Mass itself and to seriously ask the question. "God, show me one way in this Mass I can become a better person this week." Not only does this help you with the process and the discernment, but also as you write your thoughts and feelings, you become more aware of your relationship with God through His liturgy, and He responds through grace to your writings. This is a wonderful practice that can enhance your Mass experience and your Confirmation preparation. I ask that they continue doing this for at least 6 Masses, and if they have not benefited from this then they may discontinue.

7. Read one of the Gospels. We suggest the Gospel of Mark, it's the shortest and presents a good basic understanding of whom Jesus is and his invitation to faith.

8. Baptismal Certificates (indicate on attendance sheet by our November 3rd Decision Point Session) Each candidate must have been baptized in the Catholic Church or have been validly baptized in another Christian denomination. It is necessary that this baptism be validated by the Church. **I will need a copy of your Baptismal Certificate, even if you were baptized at Queen of Peace.**

9. Choose a Confirmation Saint indicate on attendance sheet by our January 26th Decision Point Session) *Selecting a Confirmation Saint is optional but highly encouraged.* The name chosen is used by the bishop during the celebration. Candidates may choose to use their Baptism names for Confirmation. However, if a candidate wishes to choose a Confirmation name the following considerations should be observed: The name reflects a Christian ideal, goal or value that the candidate wishes to strive for, or the name is chosen in honor of a particular saint whose holiness or charitable works inspires the candidate. Cool websites to search for Saint Information:
<http://www.catholic.org/saints> <http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm>
<http://www.cin.org/saintlink.html>

11. **Service** Confirmation candidates are called to provide service within the church and community. We offer many service opportunities here at Queen of Peace, plus there are many opportunities in our city, neighborhood, schools, and families. Some Queen of Peace opportunities are: **Craft Fair Café / Coffee/Donuts / WCFF – set up...tear down, musician, singer / Poinsettia Sale / Table of Plenty / Habitat 4 Humanity/ Children’s Ministry Opportunities/ Altar Server / Choir member / Youth Group service special events.** Please write and provide to your youth minister at our final Confirmation DP Session a written reflection on the service that you participated in during your preparation period.

12. Letter to Father Tim bring on or before our April 5th Decision Point Session)

Candidates are expected to write a letter to our parish priest indicating a desire to be confirmed. Our goal is to help Father Tim discern your readiness to be Confirmed and what you have done in order to prepare for this Sacrament. Letters should have the salutation, “*Dear Father Tim...*”. Please bring letters to our last Confirmation Session or to any youth meeting before this date. This letter should be sincere, short, and include (but not limited to) the following in your own words:

- indicate a desire to be confirmed
- share what has been most inspirational to you during your preparation
- share some information about what you did as service and what it meant to you

13. Discernment with Youth Ministry Coordinator. After making your commitment to preparing for this Sacrament, I may ask you to meet with me to discuss your “game plan” and to prayerfully work out a plan for success. Toward the end of your Confirmation preparation period, (and earlier if needed) you may be asked to set up a time to meet with me to discern together your readiness for the Sacrament. At this meeting we will go over your commitment to the preparation, and discuss any concerns or questions that still exist. You will have the option to meet alone, or with parents and/or sponsor.



If you are interested in being confirmed but have not been baptized or received your First Communion, please contact us immediately. The sacrament will be celebrated during the Easter Season. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Cheri Posedel (cheri@qpsalem.org) or at 503-364-7202, ext. 206.