

2021-2022 **GENESIS** CONFIRMATION CLASS PACKET



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TEEN CONFIRMATION

GENESIS 2021-2022

INFORMATIONAL MEETING Aug. 25, 2021

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WELCOME CONFIRMATION TEENS AND PARENTS!

August 25, 2021

Parents & Teens,

Welcome to the St. Vincent de Paul Teen Confirmation program! We are excited to start the Genesis Class of 2021-2022. We know during our program, not only will you (or your teen) be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation but will also make lasting friendship and importantly come to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Confirmation is not a graduation from the faith, but in many ways just the beginning. Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. It unites us more perfectly to the Church, giving us special strength from the Holy Spirit to be witnesses of Christ, spreading & defending the faith by word and deed (CCC 1285). It is the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit that the Apostles received on the day of Pentecost which equipped them in their mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ (CCC 1302). Through this great and necessary sacrament, the Holy Spirit will increase His gifts in you, unite you more perfectly with Jesus, and help you know your identity as a son or daughter of the Father (CCC 1303). This sacrament marks the beginning of the Christian life. It makes it possible to live our faith and to become the saints God has called us to be.

We have an amazing confirmation team at St. Vincent de Paul. These faithful men and women are all dedicated to serving the teens. They are excited to journey with them during this time to help them receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to encourage them to grow in their faith. It is our hope and prayer that through this program, the teens will discover the gift of our faith and will all be equipped to become faithful & fruitful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are looking forward to this year and are eager to work hard to provide the most faith-filled & effective program as possible. Our confirmation program is structured according to the norms and guidelines set forth by Archbishop Daniel Cardinal DiNardo and we will continue to present the topics in a dynamic and relatable way. It is a blessing to be a part of this incredible ministry and we all look forward to this exciting (& seemingly ever changing) year. Thank you for allowing us to serve your family and know of our prayers for you! Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

In Christ,

Dean Kovacs

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

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Genesis

Year 1 Teens attending Non-Catholic High School

Genesis classes will be “evangelistic” in nature and while there is much catechesis, the focus will be on prayer and the spiritual experience of the teen in the faith. Building a strong relationship with Christ is the foundation that sacramental prep must be founded on. Scripture, Catechism and the Lifeteen Purpose Confirmation program resources will serve as the main materials used in this class, in addition to videos and resources relevant to the topic being presented and discussed on that night.

Material will be presented in a way that emphasizes small group discipleship and evangelization. It will not be a typical classroom setting. Jesus taught in small groups and met his disciples where they were at in life. We want to strive to pass on the faith to teens in a similar format, focusing on personal relationships and encounters with Jesus.

****NOTE:** Only teens who attend a non-Catholic high school need to attend Genesis Confirmation Classes. This is usually their freshman year. They will attend the Revelation program their sophomore year and then get Confirmed in the Spring of their sophomore year.

Lifeteen App: You should receive an email inviting you to set up a Lifeteen account. Download the app for the Confirmation calendar and paperwork due dates.



2021-2022 Genesis Topic and Class Schedule

Parent Meeting August 25 at 7p

September 8: Genesis Session 1: Intro Class: - Catholic Trivia Night/ Seeking & Desire

September 22: Genesis Session 2: Is God Real/ Does a Relationship with Him Matter

October 6: Genesis Session 3: Word of God: Scripture & Tradition

October 20: Genesis Session 4: (*Baptismal Certificate/Sponsor Form due*) The Problem of Evil

November 10: Genesis Session 5: Salvation History

November 24: No class. Happy Thanksgiving!

December 1: Genesis Session 6: Who is Jesus/ Paschal Mystery

No classes until 2022. Good luck on Midterms on Merry Christmas!

January 5: Diocesan Required Circle of Grace Class for ALL Confirmation Students

January 19: Genesis Session 7: The Church & Catholicism

February 2: Genesis Session 8: The Holy Spirit

February 16: Genesis Session 9: Discipleship & Personal Prayer

March 9: Genesis Session 10: Virtue & the Moral Life

March 23: Genesis Session 11: The Sacraments/ Reconciliation

April 6: Genesis Session 12: The Mass & Adoration

April 20: Genesis Session 13: Last Class: Eucharistic Adoration

Note: Two excused absences per year to be eligible for Confirmation (unless there are extenuating circumstances, i.e. illness, etc.)

Broken down by the numbers:

Genesis: Over the course of 2 years, non-Catholic high school students will participate in approximately 35 hours of class instruction plus services hours and retreat.

Special Accommodations

If your child requires special accommodations during Confirmation class, please schedule a meeting with the Confirmation coordinator prior to the start of classes so we can best accommodate your child's needs.

SAMPLE CONFIRMATION NIGHT SCHEDULE

Confirmation Week 5 12-05-20- Why Be Catholic/ Why the Church

7:00-7:10: Check in & setup

7:10-7:20: Question of the Week: Is Jesus' second coming/the Rapture going to happen soon?

7:20-7:35: Caleb: Why the Church

7:35-7:50: Small Group Discussion

7:50-8:05: Caleb: Why be Catholic

8:05-8:20: Small Group Discussion

8:25-8:30: Saint of the Week, Closing Announcements

Group Closing: *Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born Of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen*

Small Group Discussion: Begin in prayer and use the questions as a guide for discussion

- Thoughts or questions regarding the question of the week or the talk?
- What have you heard about the role of the Pope in the Church? How do we know that Jesus wanted a pope? (Mt. 16:16-20)
- What do you think Papal Infallibility means? Why do you think the Church needs this gift? What sort of consequences would the church suffer if it didn't have a pope?
- How do you think people view the Church? What teachings of the Church do you think people have a hard time understanding? In what ways can we help them understand the teachings better?
- Why do you think the Catholic Church is so different than any other Church? Why do you think it matters if we are Catholic or not?
- In Matthew 28, Jesus sends His apostles out to evangelize the nations. The Church from the beginning was missionary. Why is it important to bring people to the Catholic faith? In what ways can we aid the church in her mission to proclaim the Good News?

CHOOSING A SPONSOR

Each candidate must have an eligible sponsor. Sponsors are to be spiritual guides for the candidates, as well as witnesses to the Church that the candidates are indeed ready to receive this sacrament. The sponsor's function is to ensure that the person confirmed behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the duties inherent in this sacrament. To be eligible, a sponsor must:

- Intend to fulfill their commitment
- Be at least sixteen years of age
- Be a baptized Catholic who has been confirmed and has received the Blessed Eucharist
- Not be the father or mother of the candidate
- If married, must be married in the Catholic church
- Not to be under any canonical penalty; i.e, not be excommunicated, living in a state of mortal sin, etc.

The church says it is desirable that the sponsor chosen be the one who undertook this role at baptism, their godparent. It is important that the sponsors participate in the preparation program. The Confirmation rehearsal and the Confirmation Mass are mandatory requirements for the sponsor (a proxy is allowed if the sponsor is unable to attend these events). The role of the sponsor is more than just an honorary position. It should be someone who can be a guide for the candidate through the entire preparation process. Sponsors and Confirmation Saint names will be discussed in class.

CHOOSING A SAINT NAME

Having a patron saint and saint name is an important part of Confirmation. This is the name you will be addressed as on the day of your Confirmation. Care should be taken when choosing a saint name. The saint should be someone who you feel relates to you and/or who you admire and strive to be like. This saint will especially intercede on your behalf so you can fully embrace the graces of the Sacrament. Saints do not need to be chosen until your second year of Confirmation, but it's a good idea to start researching and thinking about it. We will discuss saints and their importance in class.

St. Vincent de Paul Church

6800 Buffalo Speedway - Houston, TX 77025-1405 - (713)667-9111 fax (713) 667-3453

Confirmation Sponsor Affidavit (Due Oct. 20)

Name of Sponsor _____

Address _____

Child to be Confirmed _____

Scheduled Confirmation date (if known) _____

FROM THE CODE OF CANON LAW: SPONSOR FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION MUST BE CATHOLICS WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED AND CONFIRMED AND HAVE RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST. THEY MUST BE IN GOOD STANDING WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND MUST LEAD A LIFE IN HARMONY WITH THE FAITH IN KEEPING WITH THE FUNCTION TO BE UNDERTAKEN (CANON #874 & #893)

I am a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul **YES**

NO – I'm a parishioner at _____

Please initial the affirmations that apply

_____ I **am** at least 16 years of age

_____ I **have** celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation

_____ I **am** single.

_____ I **am** in a valid Catholic marriage (celebrated in the Catholic Church)

_____ I **participate** in Sunday Mass regularly

_____ I **shall** give Christian witness to and pray for the person I am sponsoring

_____ I **understand** the responsibility I am undertaking and have both the desire and intention to fulfill it faithfully

Signature of Sponsor _____

Today's Date _____

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

(Due Oct. 20)

Please adhere to the following guidelines when submitting the baptismal certificate:

- Submit a **COPY** of your child's baptismal certificate. Do not submit an original. A photocopy, picture, or scanned copy will work as long as all of the information is legible. EVERYONE must submit a baptismal certificate, even if your child was baptized at SVdP.
- If the baptismal certificate is in another language, please translate the information by either writing directly onto the copy of the baptismal certificate or attaching a separate sheet.
- The following information is needed for sacramental records. If all of this information is not listed on the baptismal certificate, please include it when turning in the copy of the certificate: **Child's name, date of birth, city of birth, parents' names, Godparents' names, date of baptism, name AND address of church of baptism, name of clergy member who performed the baptism**. If any of this information is missing or illegible on the certificate, please include the information with certificate or write directly on the certificate copy.
- If your child had a valid, Christian baptism, but was not baptized at a Catholic church, please include the certificate of Profession of Faith into the Catholic church.

Confirmation Service Form
(Due 2nd Year of Confirmation or when complete)

Name of Candidate

Due to different familial circumstances and concerns about Covid-19, we are have a couple changes to our service requirements. Teens are responsible for keeping track of their service hours using this form. Due to limited opportunities at SVdP, exclusive parish hours will not be required. ANY community service completed by the student through school, church, sports teams, scouts, NHS, etc. will be counted. Additionally, we are asking teens to complete either two family service projects with a short reflection essay on both (Please see next page for explanation on this requirement) or to complete 1 service projects/trips with a short reflection on both.

Community Service Hours (5)

Date	Event	Hours	Supervisor Signature	Contact #

Service Project (Family Service Project)

Date	Activity (please attach reflection paragraph)

I verify that the hours documented were indeed completed as described.

Candidate Signature

Date

Family Service Project Guidelines

St. Mother Theresa said: “If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.” The purpose of the Family Service Project requirement is to change our home world by coming up with some ways that you can intentionally serve members of your family. These should be things that you aren’t already asked to do (like chores for an allowance) and should be things that take some time and effort. Some questions you might want to ask yourself before deciding what to do are:

- Can I do a better job of showing some members of my family that I love them?
- How do the members of my family feel loved?
- What are some ways that I can show this love? What would really mean a lot to my mom/dad/brother/sister/grandma/grandpa, etc.?
- Who are the people in my family who I have a harder time showing love to? (These should be the people you serve first!)

Here are some examples of family service projects:

- Inviting your family to a special dinner prepared by you. You do the shopping, the cooking, the serving, and the cleaning up! It could be something as simple as grilled cheese and tomato soup. It’s the act of love and service and the quality time spent with your family that counts!
- Planning a special activity or outing for you and someone in your family.
- Running errands for an elderly member of your family who may not be able to get out much and then spending some quality time with them.
- Planning a family game night with no electronics. Just fun games and family time!
- Writing an appreciation letter to each member of your family.
- Plan and lead a family prayer walk or bible study.

Be creative and intentional! The opportunities to show love are almost endless! Once you have come up with and carried out two of your ideas, write a short, 2-3 paragraph reflection on what you chose to do, why, and the impact it made on you and your family.



Frequently Asked Questions



How many classes is my child allowed to miss?

- You have a maximum of two absences per Confirmation year to be eligible for Confirmation, unless there are extenuating circumstances such as severe illness.



How old must my child be to be confirmed?

- Teen must be in high school, and must be at least a sophomore to receive Confirmation.



What credentials puts my child in the Revelation classes?

- Teen must have been registered and actively participated in the Confirmation Genesis program the previous year or enrolled in a Catholic High School their freshmen year of high school.



My child can't make the retreat next year. What do I do?

- We really want your child to go on retreat with their fellow classmates here at SVdP! However, if it is impossible, then they may attend another Confirmation retreat with another parish after clearing it with the Confirmation Coordinator. A weekend retreat is an Archdiocesan requirement for Confirmation prep. The retreat typically occurs Veterans Day Weekend during the second year.



What are some good ideas for service hours with SVDP?

- Becoming part of our Peer Teen Leader program is a great way to earn SVdP service hours. More information and the application can be found on our website: <http://svdp-houston.com/lifeteenptl>
- Help is always needed in our Nursery during Masses and at special events. Contact Melissa to sign up!
 - Nursery Coordinator, Melissa Pruet: mpruet@svdp-edu.org
- We need help with the Live Streaming the Mass & serving the 5pm mass. Please contact for more details
- Help is always needed at SVdP Fundraisers like FunFest & other special events. Details will be posted on the website & email reminders.



My child goes to public high school, but went to Catholic grade school. How come that doesn't allow them to just do Confirmation in one year?

- Catholic theology classes in high school are very different than grade school courses. We want your child to be as prepared as possible for the Sacrament and gain the most out of this experience. We also need to follow the Diocesan guidelines for Confirmation prep which states that those attending non-Catholic high school must attend two years of Confirmation preparation.

Parent Resources

The following resources are just a few among the wealth of information that is available for navigating the parenting of a teenager and confronting some of the tough issues. We've decided to include additional resources on pornography, as this issue we find is one of the most prevalent among teenagers today. It is also important to periodically monitor the safety of the social media apps your teens are using.

- **Lifeteen Parent Life:** <https://ltparentlife.com/>
 - Free access to hundreds of blogs, videos, and resources on marriage, parenting, teenagers, etc.

Resources for Dealing with & Confronting Pornography

- **Catholic Resources:**
 - www.integrityrestored.com (includes weekly podcasts)
 - www.theporneffect.com (focused on young adults)
- **Secular Resources:**
 - www.fightthenewdrug.org (focused on youth)
 - www.fortifyprogram.org (online recovery program for youth- free for those 22 and younger)
- **Apps/Software:**
 - Lifeteen Victory App (accountability and usage tracking- search in app store)
 - <https://www.covenanteyes.com/> (internet accountability and filtering. Does have a fee)
 - <https://protectyoungeyes.com/> (blogs, risk profiles for apps, websites, and devices, etc.)

Resources on Vaping/JUULing/E-cigarettes

- https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipsheet_508.pdf
- <https://raisingteens today.com/vape101-what-parents-need-to-know/>

St. Vincent de Paul Youth Ministry Events & Activities

Confirmation is not a “graduation” from our faith. It’s only the beginning! All high schoolers are encouraged to attend our Life Teen youth group to grow in their faith and community! We would love to have you!

Life Teen Mass: Every Sunday at 5PM. Contemporary worship music and message geared toward teens. Teens are invited to sit at the front left of the church if not seated with their family.

Bible Study: Every Monday from 6-7PM. Join us for fun, lively discussions about various topics and have an opportunity to enhance your prayer life.

Lifeteen: After the Sunday Life Teen Mass till 8:30pm, we meet in the Family Center for a night of faith, fun, & fellowship. Join us for opportunities to make new friends and to grow in your relationship with God in an uplifting and welcoming environment. Visit <https://svdphouston.com/lifeteen> for more details

Retreats & Special Events: We offer several social outings and retreats during the year and the summer. Events will be shared by email or visit <https://svdp-houston.org/life-teen-programs> for more details

Follow us on Instagram!

@st.vincentlifeteen



Email Dean at dkovacs@svdp-edu.org for more info!