



# Confirmation Preparation

Parent Packet

2019-2020

## Welcome

Dear families, we are so excited to link arms with you as your teenager begins this exciting journey of preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation! Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at any time in the year, with questions or concerns – we are here to serve you!

## What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a Sacrament of initiation, conversion, and renewal. The Confirmandi who present themselves for Confirmation, become “more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit” (CCC 1285). As the Apostles at Pentecost, they are missioned to become disciples of Jesus Christ, for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

## How will my teen prepare for Confirmation?

Preparation for Confirmation aims to lead the Christian into deeper relationship with Christ and His Church, develop a familiarity with the actions and promptings of the Holy Spirit, and awaken in him/her a sense of belonging in the Church and local parish community (CCC 1309).

At St. Peter Parish, preparation for Confirmation consists of:

- Monthly parish-based formation sessions (**See Calendar**)
- An interview with a member of the parish clergy or designee
- 4-6 Apostolic Service hours (**See section on Apostolic Service**)
- A Confirmation Retreat
- Regular Mass attendance

## What happens during a formation session?

Each formation session will begin with a time of fellowship and refreshments, providing a welcoming atmosphere for the teens. After Opening Prayer, the Confirmation Coordinator will present an engaging catechesis on the “Main

Topic” of the night. The teens will then meet with their assigned “Small Groups”, and Small Group leaders will facilitate discussion and sharing regarding the night’s topic and ways to apply this to daily living.

## What is the policy on attendance and behavior?

We expect the Confirmandi to make their best effort to attend each formation session. Any serious conflicts should be addressed by notifying to Office of Religious Education ahead of time. Should a session ever need to be cancelled due to severe weather, or any other reason, all will be notified by email and the St. Peter Parish App.

Confirmandi are expected to display Christian behavior during and away from catechetical sessions, and any other parish activity, by:

- Dressing appropriately
- Respecting the dignity of others during discussion and sharing
- Using appropriate language
- Arriving to each session on time
- Respecting the roles of the Coordinators, and the Small Group Leaders.

## What is the role of the parent?

We affirm and support, you, the parents as the primary teachers of the faith for your family (CCC 2223). It is a gift and a privilege to accompany you in this year of grace. Throughout the process of preparation, parents are expected to:

- Do their best to ensure that their teenager attends Sunday Mass
- Pray intentionally for and with their teenager frequently
- Actively participate in the formation that their teen is engaging in by utilizing the parent materials and other resources
- Discuss the topics addressed each night with their teen at home and ask questions about ways they are struggling, growing, etc.

- Model a life of prayer and devotion by frequent reception of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

## What is the role of a Sponsor?

The Sponsor serves as a role model and mentor to the Confirmand (cf. can. 892). It is essential that Sponsors maintain ongoing communication and prayerful dialogue with their Confirmand (*See Helpful Tips for Sponsors*). In order for a person to be a Sponsor, he/she must complete the Sponsor Testimonial form provided by the Office, to ensure that he/she meets the requirements (*See Sponsor Testimonial Form*).

*It is acceptable for a Confirmand to choose his/her Godparent to also serve as his/her Sponsor.*

## What is considered an Apostolic Service hour?

Each Confirmand is required to complete at least 4-6 hours of Apostolic Service during their formation process. These hours consist of:

- Individual service or a group service activity, facilitated by the Confirmation Coordinators
- An Apostolic Service Reflection (*See Apostolic Service Form*) to help the Confirmandi understand the connection between the apostolic work and the sacrament they are preparing for, as well as the continual mission to serve.

*It is recommended that the service hours performed relate to the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.*

*This will help them understand the apostolic work as a lifelong commitment.*

## What is the interview process?

Each Confirmand is required to participate in an interview with a member of the parish clergy (or designee) prior to their reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is an opportunity for each Confirmand to articulate their experience of preparation for Confirmation and discuss their hopes, desires, and/or concerns regarding their reception of the Sacrament.

## What is the Confirmation Retreat?

The Retreat is an experience of prayer and encounter with the Holy Spirit aimed at deepening the Confirmand's interior life, and disposing him/her to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The retreat is planned by the Confirmation Coordinators and Team, and typically takes place a few weeks prior to the Confirmation Liturgy. Each Confirmand is required to attend this day-long retreat.

## When does the Sacrament of Confirmation take place?

At St. Peter Parish, Confirmation takes place in the fall, usually during the month of September or October. In the spring, the Archdiocesan Office of Worship will contact parishes with their approved date, time, and celebrant of the sacrament. Once this has been confirmed, we will notify all families.

## What else can our family do to prepare?

### MASS – IT'S NOT WHAT WE DO, IT'S WHO WE ARE

The most important gift you can give to your teenager this year, is the gift of Holy Mass. When we make Mass a priority, everything else falls into place. Remember, Mass is not a "thing we do", it is "who we are". Whether you are 15 minutes early, or just barely making it in 15 minutes late - God DELIGHTS in you just being there! It is the most important thing about us, and the absolute BEST GIFT we can give to our families.

### KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

We encourage you to dive in deeply by taking advantage of the amazing parent materials that are available to you during this year of preparation. All have been purposefully designed to help you facilitate meaningful conversations at home with your teenager. Showing an interest in what they are learning, and diving into conversation about our faith will make this experience one of transformation and renewal for not just your teenager... but your whole family!

### PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

We get it. Life is busy, it's crazy, it's unpredictable. But there is one thing that is stable...peaceful...reliable...

and that is the Love of God.

When we pray, we don't change who God is, He transforms us into who we are created to be. When we carve out time to pray, particularly with our families, God transforms our hearts, and we become more perfectly who He has made us to be, by growing in intimate relationship with Him.

And so as we journey this year together, let's pray, and pray *without ceasing* (Thes 5:16) and allow God to transform our families!