



# *Confirmation Preparation*

## PARENT PACKET

Office of Religious Education | 985.893.2446 |  
ore@stpeterparish.com

## Welcome

Dear families, we are so excited to begin this journey with you, as your teenager prepares 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!

## Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 7:15 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. (Office Closed on Fridays)

Office Phone: 985.893.2446.

Email: [ore@stpeterparish.com](mailto:ore@stpeterparish.com)

Co-Coordinator: Penny and Rafi Flores

## What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation, conversion, and renewal. The candidates 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:

- Parish-based catechetical sessions (determined by the parish)
- An interview with a member of the parish clergy or catechetical team
- 4-6 apostolic service hours
- A Confirmation Retreat
- Regular Mass attendance

## *What happens during a catechetical session?*

Each catechetical 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 trained Catechists will facilitate discussion and sharing regarding the night's topic and ways to apply this into daily living.

## *What is the policy on attendance and behavior?*

We expect each Candidate to make their best effort to attend each catechetical 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 another emergency, parents and candidates will be notified through email and the St. Peter Parish App.

Candidates 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 catechists.

## *What is the role of the parent?*

We affirm and support, you, the parents as the primary teachers of the faith for your family. We are humbled by the opportunity to assist you in this mission of catechesis. Throughout the process of preparation, parents will be encouraged to:

- Do their best to ensure that their teenager attends Sunday Mass
- Pray intentionally for and with their teenager during the process
- Take interest in the formation that their teen is engaging in
- Discuss the topics addressed each night with their teen at home and ask questions about ways they are struggling, growing
- Model a life of prayer and devotion by frequent reception of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

## *What is the role of a Confirmation Sponsor?*

The sponsor serves as a role model and mentor to the candidate (cf. can. 892). In order for a person to be a sponsor, he/she must:

- Be a Catholic who has celebrated Confirmation
- Live in harmony with the Catholic faith and understand the role of a sponsor
- Not be bound by canonical penalty
- Not be the parents of the person being confirmed (cf. canons 893, 874)
- Be active in the Catholic church and serve as a model of faith

It is acceptable for a candidate to choose his/her godparent to also serve as the sponsor.

A Testimonial Form will be provided by the office, and must be completed by each sponsor to ensure that he/she meets the requirements of canon law.

## *What is considered an apostolic service hour?*

Each candidate 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
- A time of theological reflection to help candidates 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.

## *What is the Confirmation Retreat?*

The Retreat is an experience of prayer and encounter with the Holy Spirit, aimed at deepening the candidate's interior life, and further preparing him/her to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The retreat is planned by the Confirmation coordinators and the Confirmation Team, and is designed for Candidates only. Each candidate 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 the families.

## *Will there be a rehearsal?*

We will hold one (1) mandatory rehearsal for all candidates and sponsors the week prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Families will be notified in advance of this date.

## *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

In addition, we've provided a schedule of topics that will be covered during each catechetical session, as well as corresponding "Parent Prompts" that will help you continue the conversation 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 the 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 changes us into who we are made to be. When we set aside time to pray, particularly with our families, God transforms our hearts, and we become who we are called to be, by growing in daily 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.