

Confirmation Guidelines

The Roll of the Parents

At St. George Parish we make the Confirmation Program a real priority. Our goal is for our youth to have good values and a good sense of morality and ethics in their lives. We do this by teaching about the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. We present this program by forming a partnership. This partnership includes priests, deacons, sisters, small group leaders, speakers, the Faith Formation Leader, and especially the parents. Together we can make a very positive difference.

Can. 774 § 2. Parents above others are obliged to form their children by word and example in faith and in the practice of Christian life; sponsors and those who take the place of parents are bound by an equal obligation.

Reminders:

- Attend Mass every Sunday & Holy Day.
- Bring your son/daughter to Mass every Sunday & Holy Day.
- Bring your student to Faith Formation class and activities.

Code of Canon Law - Intra Text

www.vatican.va

The Roll of the Candidates

A student who would like to attend the Confirmation Program is required to:

1. Complete 9th & 10th grade Faith Formation Classes/Catholic High School
2. Attend & Participate in **all** of the classes offered in the Confirmation Program.
3. Attend & Participate at **one** Confirmation Retreat.
4. Participate in Church Projects and Community Service Hours.
5. Attend the Penance Celebration.
6. Participate in a Confirmation Interview.
7. Choose a Confirmation Sponsor.
8. Choose a Confirmation Name.
9. Submit a letter to the Bishop at the Interview.
10. Attend the Confirmation Rehearsal.
12. *Actively participate* in the Celebration of the Eucharist every Sunday and Holy Day and the Celebration of Confirmation!

Registration

If your student was not baptized at St. George Church, a copy of his/her Baptismal certificate must be submitted at the time of registration.

The fee for attending the St. George Parish Confirmation Program is:

\$65.00 per student for parishioners

\$100.00 per student for non-parishioners

The fee includes the cost of books, materials, and the Confirmation Retreat.

Please note, non-parishioner students must submit a letter from their home parish giving permission to attend our program.

Interviews

Requirement: Each student is required to have an interview. The interview is an opportunity for the priest or his representative to get to know the students preparing for Confirmation, to assess their readiness, and to encourage their continued participation in the life of the parish community. This is not an interview with the Bishop! Please bring your completed letter addressed to the Bishop with you to your interview.

Interviews to be scheduled at a later date.

Penance Celebration

Requirement: You should be in the state of grace to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation efficaciously. A Penance Service will be scheduled during the Confirmation Retreat.

Retreat

Requirement: Each student must make a Confirmation Retreat prior to receiving the sacrament.

Our retreat day will include prayer- being in the presence of God- in the form of games, group activities, discussions, videos, and quiet time. The retreat will close with a special Mass that will meet your Sunday obligation.

If you are unable to attend our retreat, it will be your responsibility to arrange to attend a Confirmation retreat at another parish.

Confirmation Retreat is Scheduled for
January 26, 2020 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
1:00pm—6:00pm

Service Hours & Projects

Requirement: Part of our Catholic faith calls us to service. It calls us to serve our parish community and also to be of service to the broader community. It is required you complete **Community Service Hours and Church Service Projects**. The following is a list of suggested Church Service Projects.

- † Altar Server
- † Faith Formation Program
- † Church Picnic
- † Food Pantry Walk
- † Summer Program Clean-up
- † What you do for the Parish

Confirmation Saint's Name

Requirement: All Confirmation names must be that of a saint of the Church. Only saints named in **Butler's Lives of the Saints** may be used.

Sponsors

Requirement: The following are the canonical requirements for a sponsor:

1. Be Baptized and Confirmed and received Eucharist.
2. Be at least 16 years of age.
3. Know the fundamental truths of the faith, be a practicing Catholic who goes to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, receives the Eucharist, and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family.
4. Be a registered member of a parish.
5. A sponsor can be a male or female and does not have to be the same sex as the student being confirmed. Each sponsor must obtain a sponsor certificate from his/her parish to verify their ability to be a sponsor.
6. Your mother or father *cannot* be your sponsor. They have already promised to be your primary teachers in the ways of the faith at your Baptism.
7. In order to express this connection between Baptism and Confirmation, one of your Baptismal godparents may be a good choice for a sponsor. Otherwise, a person who is a good example of how to live the Catholic faith would be someone you would choose for a sponsor.

Sponsors obtain a Sponsor Form from their Home Parish by contacting their Parish Office or Rectory.

Letter to the Bishop

Requirement: Each student must submit a typed letter to the Bishop requesting the sacrament.

The desire to receive the sacrament must come from the individual student. This letter is to be a testament to the student's desire and preparedness for the sacrament. Following is the list of questions that the Bishop expects to be answered in your letter. This letter is to be completed and turned in at your scheduled interview.

Bishop Letter Questions to Answer

Instructions: Use the following ten questions and form letter as a guide in writing your letter.

1. Why do you feel you are ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation?
2. Please list the service projects in which you were involved.
3. Please write a few words on how you felt about giving during your service projects. How will these experiences encourage you to further service in the future?
4. What saint's name have you chosen?
5. What characteristics of the saint or person whose name you are taking would you hope to model in your life?
6. What was the theme of your Confirmation retreat? Please write a few words on what was the most meaningful part of the retreat for you.
7. Tell why you picked your sponsor. What in your sponsor's life tells you what it means to be a follower of Christ?
8. God calls each of us to be disciples in a particular way of life. This call is lived out through a variety of vocations such as marriage, the single life, the life of a deacon or priest or that of a religious sister or brother. Have you prayed to God asking that he reveal your vocation to you?
9. Have you ever thought God might be calling you to follow him as a priest or deacon, religious sister or brother?
10. How do you plan to serve the church after Confirmation? What gift or gifts do you plan to offer?

Candidate-to-Bishop Form Letter

This is a serious letter indicating your desire and intent to be confirmed. It should be typed in black ink and have a professional appearance. Double-check spelling, punctuation, and grammar. As you respond to each question, please use the question number to identify your response.

NO ONE WORD ANSWERS!

Date

Dear Bishop,

My name is (your full name), and I am a member of St. George Parish. (1) I want to receive the sacrament of confirmation because (give two or three reasons).

To prepare for confirmation, I have (2) list your service projects.) (3) tell the Bishop why these things helped you understand and prepare for confirmation.

I have chosen (4) as my saint's name (5) What reasons?

(6) The theme of our Confirmation Retreat was about (fill in the blanks).

What was the most meaningful part of the retreat for you?

(7) Who is your sponsor and why did you pick him or her.

(8) Answer question 8 in two or three sentences.

(9) Answer question 9 in sentence form.

(10) Answer both parts of question 10 in sentence form.

I am looking forward to meeting you on (confirmation date Mass), when you celebrate the sacrament of confirmation with us.

Sincerely,

Sign your name to your letter

Rehearsal

Requirement: All students must be present along with their sponsors, if your sponsor cannot be present, a proxy should come who can inform the sponsor of his/her duties. The date and time will be given to you after we are notified by the Diocese of the date for Confirmation.

Confirmation May 11, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.
Candidates with Sponsors arrive at 6:30 p.m. in school
Gathering Space

Each year we submit a series of dates for the celebration of Confirmation to the Bishop along with all the other parishes in the Diocese. When all these dates have been coordinated into the Bishop's schedule, then the actual date for Confirmation is released to the parishes. We submit the dates in the Fall and should receive the actual date in late Fall. **Remember:** Confirmation should be a priority if scheduling conflicts would occur on our assigned date.

Please Practice May 10, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Church

During the Confirmation Rite, after the Bishop anoints your forehead, he will say to you;
Bishop: *Be sealed with the Holy Spirit.*

You: *Amen.*

Bishop: *Peace be with you.*

You: *And with your Spirit.*

For questions please contact:

Mrs. Mary Lou Pacoe, Faith Formation Coordinator

Office: 864-0622 ext.281

Email: mpacoe@stgeorgeerie.org