

Dear Confirmandi and Parents,

We have begun the very special process of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, Spring 2013! Confirmation completes the Sacraments of Initiation and brings the gifts of the Holy Spirit alive in us so that we can take all that we have learned and whom we have become and apply it in action, full of faith and hope that what God has planned for us will come to be through the power of his Spirit. We hope to come together, grow closer to God and become more aware of God in our lives. We are being called to be soldiers of Christ and be of service to others.

This packet contains information that will help you throughout the year of preparation. Some important information included is:

- ⬆ Confirmation Preparation Expectations
- ⬆ List of important dates for the upcoming year
- ⬆ Confirmation Information sheet
- ⬆ Sponsor form
- ⬆ Saint project outline
- ⬆ How to choose a Confirmation saint
- ⬆ How to choose a sponsor
- ⬆ A sample letter to the Bishop
- ⬆ Sacramental Fee form
- ⬆ Service Experience Guidelines
- ⬆ Reflection form

Everyone involved in helping you and your child during this sacramental year is praying that this process of formation be a powerful time of faith, hope, and love.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you and guide you.

Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church
Confirmation Preparation Expectations

Confirmation, together with Baptism and Eucharist, constitutes the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. Confirmation is not just one more thing that you need to do before graduation or something to check off a to-do-list. Confirmation is part of your faith journey, which is a lifelong journey. If faith is part of your life then Confirmation is not an end, but a new beginning. It is a new relationship for you with God, the Church, your family and yourself.

Through the Confirmation preparation process the Confirmand will grow in knowledge of the Catholic faith and will mature in his or her faith. In Baptism, parents ask the church to welcome the Confirmand into the body of Christ. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Confirmand will freely ask the Bishop to complete his or her initiation into the Catholic Church. The confirmed young Christian chooses to embrace the faith that was freely given at baptism.

To be adequately prepared both intellectually and spiritually, to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation the Catholic Church asks that the candidate gain a personal relationship with Jesus and an understanding that he or she belongs to a church that is both universal and local. This requires that the Confirmand review his or her knowledge of what the Catholic Church teaches, and over prayerful reflection, incorporate this knowledge into his or her personal

faith and life. This includes active participation in the Ss. Peter and Paul School, PSR or registered Home Schooling Program and fulfilling all diocesan requirements.

What We Expect from the Confirmation Candidate:

1. As a responsible Catholic you will make the effort to attend the Sunday Mass every week. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith and an active participation in the Mass is a vital part of your faith formation. As such, Confirmandi will be responsible for completing a Mass Reflection Journal. Each Confirmand will be responsible for writing from where the Gospel was taken (ex: John 3:2-12) and a reflection on the homily. At the end of Mass, they'll be required to have the celebrant sign the entry.
2. As a responsible Catholic, you will take an active part in your faith formation and the life of the Parish.
3. Complete and return all necessary paperwork on time.
4. Complete fourteen service experience projects and accompanying reflection papers.

5. Attend all scheduled events for Confirmation preparation:

- Participating in the Rite, Call to Confirmation, on Sunday, September 23rd at 11:00 Mass. Covenant ceremony and Trivia event will follow in the SPPCS gym with pizza for lunch. Time frame: 11:00-2:00
- Retreat on Saturday, March 16th. (Date is tentative.) Details to follow.
- 8th grade Family Mass and Confirmation Rehearsal on Sunday, May 5th, 2013.

6. Confirmandi are required to study and be tested on the basic doctrine of the Catholic faith. Confirmandi must pass each test with a 90% or better. Tests will be retaken until a 90% grade or better is achieved. Original test score and retake will then be averaged for a final grade.

7. Confirmandi will be responsible for learning required prayers. A list of all prayers to be memorized is included.

8. Each Confirmand will choose his or her Confirmation name as specified by the catechists. A research project will be completed, due on dates specified by catechists.

9. The Confirmand will select a sponsor. *The sponsor can be one of the candidate's Godparents. The sponsor must be at least 16 years old, fully initiated in the Catholic Church and a practicing Catholic. Sponsors may not be a parent of the Confirmand.* Confirmandi will write letters to his/her sponsor telling him/her why he/she was chosen. This letter will be written in the classroom. Sponsors' complete address will need to be available.

Specific Information for Parents

Our Christian faith teaches us that families are the first church or the school of life. It is within the family where we first come to know and experience community, love and what is right and wrong. In this school of life, the primary educators are the parents (or legal guardians). Parents have a responsibility to educate and children have the right to an education. In the family, parents are responsible for their child's human development and Christian education. It is in the family where children come to learn, through their parent's love, witness and education, the love of God, neighbor and self.

As a Parish, Ss. Peter and Paul has a responsibility to help parents transmit the Catholic faith to their children. We do this by offering catechetical instruction through Ss. Peter and Paul School and in the Parish School of Religion (PSR). We also offer help to families that are home schooling.

The Confirmation preparation process is an important period in one's faith journey. Ss. Peter and Paul therefore requires that each Confirmand participate in a number of faith formation sessions. These formation sessions help the Confirmand to integrate catechesis into a lived reality. Our faith is not just something we read about

and study, but rather, is something that we live everyday.

As part of the Confirmation preparation process we are asking parents to take an active part in their child's faith formation. All of the formation sessions require that at least one, preferably both, of the parents participate. These formation sessions are required part of the Confirmation preparation process.

What We Expect from Parents:

Because parents (or legal guardians) are the primary educators of their children, especially in matters of faith and morals, parents witness to a personal faith that is lived everyday. Therefore, we need parents to take an active part in preparation process for the Sacrament of Confirmation and to do the following:

1. Attend and participate in Sunday Mass every week. It is a good practice to attend mass as a family, if possible.
2. Take an active part in the Confirmand's preparation progress and to participate in specified events during the Confirmation preparation process.
3. Stay informed about upcoming Confirmation projects, meetings and classes and to return all required paperwork.
4. Volunteer to help at events and to do some service projects to gather as a family.

To Whom It May Concern,

A Confirmation Candidate from Ss. Peter & Paul Parish is asking the named person in this

letter to be a Confirmation Sponsor. We are asking the named sponsor's pastor or authorized staff to verify the following information:

The Code of Canon Law (874) lists the following as criteria for one to assume the role of the sponsor of Confirmation:

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Be a Catholic who has already been fully initiated into the Catholic Church
- Be living a life of faith in harmony with the Catholic faith
- Must not be bound by canonical penalty
- May not be the parent of the candidate to be confirmed

_____ has indicated the s/he would like

(Name of Candidate)

_____ to serve as her/his Confirmation sponsor.

(Name of Sponsor)

This letter affirms that the above proposed sponsor meets the necessary canonical requirements and is a registered and participating member of our parish.

Pastor

Parish

Date

Parish Seal

Please return the completed form to the candidate's catechist as soon as possible.

*****Sponsors belonging to Ss. Peter & Paul Parish need only to fill in the top portion. The candidate's catechist will have our Parish Administrator sign the bottom portion.*****

Confirmation Information Sheet

Candidate's Full Name:

Last

First

Middle

Saint

Name: _____

Candidate's Parents:

Father: _____

Last

First

Middle

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mother: _____

Last

First

Middle

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sponsor's Full Name:

Last

First

Middle

Sponsor's Parish:

Name

City

Please make note of any special arrangements in seating preferences due to special needs of family members here: _____

Sacramental Fee Information

For Confirmation our students will all wear a white gown. These gowns will be ordered in the spring of 2013. Some families may already have a gown. While this is acceptable, the gowns must be clean with no rips, tears, or stains. There may be gowns available in the SPPCS Resale Shop. Check the bulletin for open times.

A \$30 Sacramental Fee will be assessed for each candidate for the cost of a new gown and the retreat in March, 2013. The gown fee (\$10) will be waived if you will not be ordering one.

Catechists will set a due date for this fee in the spring. Return the bottom portion of this form with the fee.

Candidate's

name: _____

_____ Yes, I need a gown for Confirmation. \$30 fee included.

_____ No, I have a Confirmation gown. \$20 fee included.

Parent

signature: _____

Confirmation Saint Report & Project

Candidates for Confirmation should understand that saints' names are chosen because these saints then act as models and intercessors in their lives. We seek this intercession of the saints because the Church has always believed and taught that all the baptized are part of God's family. God's family includes all the saints in heaven and all the "saints" on earth who continue to persevere and grow in holiness while living the Christian life with the help of God's grace.

Those of us on earth need the powerful intercession of all the saints in heaven, who stand before Jesus' throne of grace. Candidates should research several saints in whom they are interested. They should choose a saint who they see as a role model and who inspires them in their faith.

Saints are men and women in heaven, who, while on earth responded to God's call and now share eternal life with Christ. They intercede on our behalf. By completing the saint report you will become more familiar with the saints of the Catholic Church and they were called to holiness in very different ways.

Report Format

I. Introduction

- 1-2 interesting facts about the saint you chose

II. Biography

- When he/she lived
- Where he/she lived
- Feast day, special devotions, symbols for which he/she is known
- Qualities that made him/her saint
- Contributions to the church

III. Conclusion

- Why did you choose this saint?
- What qualities do you admire?
- What characteristics would you like to imitate?
- How and why does this saint inspire you to be a disciple of Christ?

****Must be at least one page in length, typed.**

****Only use a simple 12/14 pt. font in black ink with 1.5 or double spacing.**

Saint Board – GET CREATIVE!!! All presentation boards will be provided for the Confirmandi. (More info to follow.) Be sure to include the following:

- Saint's name
- Report attached to back of poster
- Use pictures of your saint
- Draw or cut out pictures of the saint's attributes. (Attributes are objects that are always seen in pictures with the saint and associated with them. Ex: St. Francis of Assisi is always seen with animals and wearing a brown tunic.
- Show pictures of the people or countries of which the saint is patron(ess).
- Prayer
- Ask for your saint's intercession on your behalf as you prepare for Confirmation and throughout life.
- Create your own prayer to your saint asking for his/her intercession on your behalf as you prepare for Confirmation and throughout your life.
- Find a prayer that honors him/her or one he/she wrote him/herself. Ex: St. Patrick's Breastplate
- Timeline of important events in the life your saint.

Use the public library for books on saints.

Internet

Google: "Catholic saints"

www.catholic-forum.com/saints/gallerys.htm

www.americancatholic.com

www.catholic-pages.com/dir/saints.asp

www.daughtersofstpaul.com/saintday/index.html

www.catholic.org/saints

<http://saints.sqpn.com>

Service Project Reflection Paper

Project Date: _____

Name: _____

Experience: (family, school, parish, community) _____

Describe your project: _____

What were the benefits of doing this project? (for both you and others)

What gift(s) of the Holy Spirit did this strengthen in you? How?

Which Spiritual or Corporal Work of Mercy are you modeling through this project? How?

How does this project prepare you to live as a follower and servant of Christ?

Adult signature: _____

Choosing a Confirmation Sponsor

Each Confirmand will have a sponsor to represent the support and faith of the community.

The sponsor is a vital part of the preparation process who gives witness to faith that is

alive through his/her example of prayer, ministry and honest sharing. You and your sponsor

will spend a lot of time together talking, reflecting on scripture and praying. She/he will

help you process your thoughts, questions and concerns.

Officially, in their Canonical role, sponsors present Confirmandi to the Bishop and the

community at Confirmation. But in addition, your sponsor will be your Confirmation companion. She/he can attend any sessions with you, share his/her faith story with you and

invite you to participate in parish life. Your sponsor will pray for you and ask his/her friends

to do the same.

The important thing is that they personally value being Catholic- a disciple of Jesus Christ and are an active, practicing member of the Catholic Church.

Is there a Catholic that you especially admire? Being asked to be someone's sponsor is an honor- please don't think it will be an imposition to ask.

Remember, your sponsor should:

- ⬆ be someone you trust, someone whose life you would like to model.
- ⬆ be mature in his/her faith and open to sharing his/her faith with you. This person does not need to know all the answers, but be willing to assist you in finding them.
- ⬆ be a mentor to you as you continue to grow in your own understanding of the Gospel and what it means to be a fully initiated Catholic Christian in the world today.
- ⬆ Be 16 years old or older.
- ⬆ Be fully initiated into the Church.
- ⬆ Be a practicing member of the Catholic Church and in good standing with the Church by participating in parish life and attending Mass weekly.
- ⬆ Should not be your parents. Are your baptismal Godparents still an important part of your life? They would be a natural choice.

Prayerfully consider your choice of a sponsor and ask them as soon as possible and make sure to inform them of important dates. The ministry of the Confirmation sponsor is a very important one- but it is also very

rewarding. Many sponsors feel that this is a time of learning about and deepening their own faith. Many sponsors feel that they didn't really

appreciate the sacrament of Confirmation in their own lives until they shared the journey with their Confirmand. So please don't hesitate to ask the person of your choice. It is a prime opportunity to grow in faith.

Appropriate Attire for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Although the Confirmandi will be wearing robes for the Sacrament of Confirmation, appropriate attire is still expected as it is a reverent occasion. The following is a passage from the directives of Bishop Braxton. Please keep this in mind when choosing your attire.

Since Confirmation is not just another day, but a very important religious event in their lives, the candidates and their sponsors should be reminded to wear proper modest dress attire, as they would for an important secular event. No jeans, tennis or sports shoes. No gum or candy. Nothing should be written on their hands.

GIRLS: Modest, conservative dress. No excessively tight or suggestive outfits. No midriffs showing. No

excessive

makeup or jewelry. No mini skirts.

BOYS:

Dress pants, dress shirt and tie. A dress coat if possible, and polished shoes. No polo or pullover

type

shirts.

SPONSORS: Modest, conservative dress.

Confirmation Experiences

When we put our Catholic faith in action, we demonstrate our commitment to follow Jesus through a Catholic way of life. Such experiences are based on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and, most of all, on the example of Jesus who came to serve.

When giving your time and talents to others, keep the following points in mind:

- ⬆ Your actions are not just jobs to be done; they are to selflessly and lovingly help those in need.
- ⬆ Reflect on how your actions are helping you to take on the mind and heart of Christ to fulfill the needs of others and to build up the Christian community.
- ⬆ Giving of your time and talent continues after your Confirmation and throughout your life.

To prepare yourself for Confirmation, you are to arrange and participate in 14 different Catholic action experiences. (Example: babysitting at home and babysitting for Church are NOT different experiences.) The 14 experiences are broken down into categories:

- ⬆ Family (4 experiences)
- ⬆ School (4 experiences)
- ⬆ Parish (3 experiences)
- ⬆ Community (3 experiences)

You are required to write a reflection paper for each experience and have the supervising adult sign it. Do not wait to write your reflection, or you may miss out on the benefits of understanding what it means to be of service to others.

