

Confirmation Policy

St. Mary and St. Peter

Confirmation will be offered to freshmen and sophomores at the parishes every two years. Juniors and seniors who were not confirmed their freshman and sophomore years may join in the Confirmation process.

For the freshmen and sophomores of the 2017-2018 school year (and juniors and seniors who haven't yet been confirmed): Confirmation will be provided for the freshmen and sophomores of 2017-2018 in the fall of 2018, with Confirmation preparation during the winter, spring, and summer of 2018. The schedule and details of the Confirmation preparation process will be made known by the end of September 2017.

For all future Confirmation classes: Confirmation will be offered subsequently in the spring of every even-numbered year (2020, 2022, etc.), with Confirmation preparation during the same school year (2019-2020; 2021-2022, etc.).

Requirements of youth during the preparation for Confirmation, and requirements of youth after Confirmation, are outlined below.

Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation preparation consists of two distinct phases: Discernment and Formation. The discernment phase ends, and the formation phase begins, with the Confirmation Commitment Mass. Youth are free to step out of Confirmation preparation at any time, and re-start this process the next time Confirmation is offered. If a junior or senior does so, they may participate in the RCIA program when they are ready for Confirmation.

The Discernment Phase

- Youth and their parents will meet for a series of sessions with the Confirmation coordinator. These sessions aid in the youth's discernment of whether or not to receive Confirmation, and if they're ready for it.
- These parent/youth sessions will:
 - Educate on the purpose of Confirmation within the Church
 - Give an overview of the action of the Holy Spirit in one's life through this sacrament
 - Provide information regarding the Confirmation preparation process
 - Explain the commitment to parish ministry as something intrinsic to receiving Confirmation.
- If a youth doesn't feel they're ready for Confirmation, they should wait to be confirmed until their junior or senior year.
- If a youth is ready for the commitment to Christ and his Church that is intrinsic to Confirmation, they will publically declare their intent to receive Confirmation and be involved in the ministry of their parish at the Confirmation Commitment Mass.

The Confirmation Commitment Mass

- In this Mass, the youth will publically declare their intent to receive Confirmation and be involved in the ministry of their parish.
- This public declaration is meant to:
 - Help youth understand the commitment to Christ, his Church, and his mission that they make when receiving Confirmation
 - Ask the parish community to support the youth on their journey to Confirmation
 - Provide an opportunity for catechesis on the Sacrament of Confirmation for the parish.
- This Mass concludes the discernment phase of Confirmation, and the formation phase begins.

The Formation Phase

- The formation phase has four components: Confirmation classes, Confirmation retreat, service hours, and the Confirmation interview.
- Classes—these provide education on Confirmation, and how it helps us participate in the mission of Jesus Christ in the Church.
- Retreat—this retreat offers a chance for youth to spiritually prepare for Confirmation.
 - There will only be one Confirmation retreat offered. All youth preparing for Confirmation must attend this retreat.
 - The sacrament of Confession will be offered to youth to aid in their preparation for Confirmation.
 - Reflection on how one can get involved in the ministries of their parish will be provided at this retreat.
- Service hours—youth must serve for 30 hours in some capacity.
 - 10 of these hours should be spent in service to the Church
 - This can include, but is not limited to, serving Mass, being involved in the music ministry, assisting with parish events (like the parish picnic, Pig Roast, craft show, etc.), and being involved in peer ministry.
 - Service to family and grandparents can't be counted as service hours.
 - Parents oversee this aspect of Confirmation preparation, as they know where their kids need to grow in service to others.
 - The service done, and the hours served, must be documented and turned in to the Confirmation coordinator at least two weeks prior to the Confirmation Mass.
- Confirmation Interview—the youth will meet with the pastor, who will discuss their Confirmation with them.
 - The pastor has the final say through this interview on whether or not the youth is ready to be confirmed.
 - If the pastor thinks the youth is not yet ready for Confirmation, the youth won't be able to be confirmed until the next time it's offered; they should take the next two years to reflect on their readiness to receive Confirmation.

After Confirmation

Confirmation doesn't end with the Confirmation Mass; the youth will be required to actively participate in some way in the life of the parish by being part of a ministry of the parish. This is part of the commitment made by the youth at the Confirmation Commitment Mass, and in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation itself.

This participation in the life of the parish can include, but is not limited to, serving Mass, lecturing at Mass, being a Eucharistic minister, being involved in the music ministry, ushering, being involved in peer ministry, or assisting with parish events (the Pig Roast, parish picnic, fish fries, etc.).

After fulfilling this requirement, the Confirmed youth will be encouraged to keep participating in the various ministries of their parishes in the years after their Confirmation. The commitment made to Christ and his Church in Confirmation is a life-long commitment!

This policy was approved on August 22, 2017

Father Mike Leshney
Fr. Michael Leshney, Pastor

PJ Ehling
PJ Ehling, Confirmation Coordinator