

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 candidate 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 candidate into the body of Christ. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the candidate 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 Confirmation candidate 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.
- 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) Attend all scheduled events for Confirmation preparation.

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 candidate participate in a number of faith formation sessions. These formation sessions help the candidate 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) To attend and participate in Sunday Mass every week. It is a good practice to attend mass as a family, if possible.
- 2) To take an active part in the Candidates preparation progress and to participate in specified events during the Confirmation preparation process.
- 3) To stay informed about upcoming Confirmation projects, meetings and classes and to return all required paperwork.
- 3) Volunteer to help at events and to do some service projects to gather as a family.

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