

SAINT PETER PARISH

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Confirmation Preparation Program 2018-2019

Confirmation is a sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to make us stronger Christians and true witnesses of Jesus Christ. It is a sacrament of initiation, which begins with Baptism and continues through Eucharist.

The Archdiocese of Boston requires a two-year preparation program. Typically, this coincides with the 9th and 10th grade (Confirmation I and Confirmation II). However, candidates can begin their preparation in the latter years of high school as well.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFIRMATION I AND II

Liturgical: We expect that candidates preparing for this sacrament attend Sunday Eucharist regularly. Our 5:00 PM Sunday Mass immediately precedes our scheduled gatherings and is an ideal time to attend Eucharist.

We also expect each candidate to attend specific liturgies during Lent and Holy Week, as noted in the schedule.

Educational: Once a month we will gather on Sunday evenings. The sessions begin after the 5:00 PM Mass, from 6:00 to 7:15 PM. Each session includes a pizza dinner.

Catholic High School Candidates: If the candidate attends a Catholic high school, he or she only needs to register for and attend our program in their sophomore (or later) year.

Service: We expect candidates to complete fifteen (15) hours of service per year. Candidates who are performing service as a part of school or social group requirements can most certainly use that service time to satisfy this requirement. Summer months prior to Confirmation may be used to fulfill this requirement. We ask for a one-page reflection paper telling us about your service work (due March 6).

Spiritual: Candidates for Confirmation are expected to grow in prayer. Some consistent form of prayer each day is strongly recommended. We will provide candidates with a variety of prayer formats they may use.

Retreat: Confirmation II candidates must attend a retreat, as scheduled on March 24. If there is a conflict, please speak with Bob Flaherty in advance for approval to attend a retreat offered through another parish.

Reconciliation: Candidates preparing for Confirmation are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this preparation time and before receiving the sacrament.

SPONSORS

Each candidate chooses one sponsor. This person is usually the candidate's Baptism sponsor (godparent). The sponsor stands with the candidate, as a sign of support and a reminder of their baptismal relationship, when he or she receives the sacrament. Sponsors should be chosen early in the preparation process. More information about sponsors will be given at the first gathering. The criteria to be a sponsor are:

1. A person who is a practicing faith-filled Roman Catholic adult, at least 16 years old.
2. A person who is able to relate in friendship to a teenager and is a good listener.
3. A person who is willing to participate in the Confirmation process during the year.
4. A person who is willing to share his or her own experience of faith.
5. A person who is a fully initiated Catholic. That is, he or she must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Preferably, the baptismal sponsor (godparent) should be the Confirmation sponsor whenever possible.
- 6. Parents may not be sponsors for their children.**

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

We need a copy of a candidate's Baptismal Certificate (unless previously provided or the baptism took place at St. Peter Parish). Please send us a copy or ask the church of the place of baptism to fax (617-547-1525), mail, or email it to us. Please call us if you need assistance with obtaining the certificate.

If the candidate was not baptized, or was baptized in a church other than Roman Catholic, please let us know as soon as possible.