

Each of the following guidelines play an essential part in preparing our Candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

### Full Participation in Life Teen

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes a Christian's initiation into the Catholic Church. Life Teen provides community and the ongoing growth in understanding our faith and living it out in our daily lives. Only those high school students who regularly and actively participate in Life Teen are eligible to be candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is also expected that, following Confirmation, the newly confirmed will remain as full and active participants in the Life Teen program and take other roles of service in the parish community. This year there will be an option to do an at home preparation using Decision Point by Dynamic Catholic instead of attending Life Teen. Candidates must complete all lessons with their parent or their sponsor.

### Preparation Sessions

For those Candidates who are attending Life Teen, there will be specific sessions for the preparation of the Sacrament. Candidates are required to attend each and every session. While their participation in the Life Teen program assures them of an ever-increasing knowledge of their Catholic faith and of a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ, these special sessions are designed to give them immediate preparation for the reception of this great Sacrament of the Holy Spirit. In the event of an unavoidable absence, a makeup session or a reading and writing assignment will be assigned to ensure knowledge of the content.

### Weekly Mass Attendance

Being an active member of the parish includes keeping the Lord's Day holy. Regular and active participation in Sunday Mass is a basic requirement for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. While the obligation to attend Mass is lifted at the current time, we are still obligated to keep the Lord's Day holy. Candidates for Confirmation will be required to take Mass Notes each week in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If Candidates attend Mass at Church of St. Peter or St. Paul's, a Mass Notes paper should be picked up in the Narthex, filled out during Mass, and placed in the offertory basket at the end of Mass. If Candidates watch Sunday Mass online (while the obligation is lifted) the Mass Notes online form should be filled out following Mass.

### Saint Presentation

Candidates, with the help of their Parents and Sponsor/Mentor will choose a Saint to whom the Candidate feels a connection with. The Candidate will take on this Saint's name. Candidates will complete the Saint Report Outline about his/her chosen Saint. The reports will be shared with the members of the Candidates' small groups at a Confirmation Session or via Zoom if the Candidate is doing at home preparation.

### Write a Letter to the Bishop

It is customary in the Church of St. Peter for each Candidate to write a personal letter to the Bishop expressing their desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Letters will be turned in to Mary Grack and mailed together.

### Sponsor/Candidate Activities

Candidates for Confirmation seek the spiritual help of a sponsor. This sponsor must be a confirmed, active member in the Catholic Church. Neither the father nor mother of a Candidate can be a sponsor. Sponsors must obtain a letter from his/her parish priest endorsing the sponsor. The Sponsor and Candidate will meet, at least, 4 times during the preparation for Confirmation. In addition, the Sponsor and Candidate must attend a Sponsor Meeting, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm and Confirmation Sunday, March 21, 2021. Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> meeting can be attended via Zoom. Confirmation on March 21<sup>st</sup> must be in person.

### Attend a Retreat

Candidates for Confirmation must attend at least one retreat during their preparation. There are several ways to fulfill this requirement this year:

- Life Teen Fall Retreat - Nov. 6-8<sup>th</sup> (tent.)
- Life Teen Virtual Retreat (Oct. 16-18)
- Read an Approved Spiritual Book and write a reflection on each chapter
- Watch "The Wild Goose" Series and write a reflection on each episode.

### Basic Facts & Prayers

Candidates must be able to recite and explain the Ten Commandments, the Seven Sacraments, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed.

### Christian Service

By the Sacrament of Confirmation the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed. To prepare for this, Candidates will complete 10 hours of service divided between the home, the church and the community.

## Common Misconceptions About Confirmation

### 1. Many Catholics view the Sacrament of Confirmation as a type of “graduation”.

The Sacrament of Confirmation does not signify the end of your religious education or formation. Likewise, it is not the end of the parents’ responsibilities either. Confirmation is not an end; it’s a new beginning.

### 2. Some Catholics think that Confirmation is a time for the teen to “confirm” or “accept for themselves” what was begun at their Baptism.

Again, this is incorrect. Confirmation completes the reception of grace that was begun with the grace of Baptism. It’s not about what you have to proclaim. It is about the Church confirming what happened to you at Baptism and saying that you are ready to receive the Holy Spirit in this manner.

### 3. Some think that a sponsor has to be a relative or the godparent.

Just because you were named for “Great Aunt Agatha” doesn’t mean she is spiritually prepared for the duty. The sponsor should not only be a confirmed Catholic who goes to mass every week, but an example of what it means to live the faith. It doesn’t have to be your godparent or even a family member. The choice is yours. Find someone you look up to and respect in the faith, in or out of your family tree, and prayerfully consider them.

Source: [www.lifeteen.com](http://www.lifeteen.com)



## Confirmation Program Information Guide 2020-2021

### For more information on Confirmation preparation please contact:

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*“You will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem. Throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8

## St. Peter & Paul Area Faith Community