

3 July 2019

Dear Parents of the 8th Grade Confirmation Class,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the beautiful summer months! As you may know, Saint Peter Parish has always held Confirmation every other year. As the parishes in our grouping move towards becoming one parish, we are finding more ways to grow together. One such way is by coming together to celebrate Confirmation on an annual basis.

For those 8th grade students at Saint Peter Parish, this means we will be preparing to celebrate Confirmation in the Spring of 2020. As we look towards Confirmation, I wanted to share some information about the program and formation. This formation is not simply intended to prepare these young men and women for Confirmation, but to provide opportunities for them to grow in relationship with God and know God more fully as they prepare for the journey ahead.

Extra-curricular activities and Reflections:

One of the goals of preparing for Confirmation is to help our young people find ways to be involved and live the faith, beyond what they know of attending class and Mass. Over the course of the year, we will ask our candidates to complete:

- 10 hours of service work
- 2 events at the Parish, beyond Sunday Mass

After completing any specific event, students are asked to complete the "Service and Event" form (included in this letter and available on the Religious Education portion of the Parish Website). This reflection is simply intended to help our young people reflect on the importance of Christian service and participation in parish life.

If you need help identifying opportunities for these events, please see the parish bulletin, the Facebook page, or contact me and I would be happy to help brainstorm some events. As a reminder, service work does not need to be completed with the parish. Any service work the young people do is wonderful, they should simply write and submit a short reflection on their experience.

Confirmation Date:

The date and time of Confirmation is determined by the Bishop's Office. Last year, we were notified about the date in January. We anticipate Confirmation to take place in mid-Spring 2020. As soon as the Diocese determines the details about Confirmation, we will communicate it to families.

Candidate Information Sheet

Included in this letter is the "Candidate Information Sheet," which we ask all Confirmation Candidates to complete. This helps us organize all the information for the candidate, as well as providing an opportunity to reflect on the Patron Saint that they are selecting. We will ask for this form by November 24th.

Baptismal Certificate:

For those who were Baptized at Saint Peter Parish, we have your Baptismal information on record. If you were Baptized at a different parish, please contact that church and ask them to send a copy of the Baptismal certificate. Baptismal forms should be submitted by November 24th.

Requirements of a Sponsor:

Sponsors are men and women who know a Candidate and intend on helping the young person on their spiritual journey. A Sponsor must be a fully initiated, practicing Catholic in good standing, which means:

- ✓ They should have the intention of performing the role of sponsor and be someone who takes his or her Catholic faith seriously
- ✓ Confirmed Catholic who attends church regularly and lives in harmony with the faith
- ✓ Must be at least 16 years old
- ✓ A sponsor can not be the candidate's parent
- ✓ If married, the marriage must be a valid church marriage

Sponsors will need to obtain a "sponsor eligibility form" from their parish. These letters should be submitted to the Religious Education Office by Sunday, November 24th. If the sponsor is a practicing parishioner at Saint Peter Parish, all you will need to do is submit his or her name.

When submitting a "sponsor eligibility form," please be sure to note your name on it, so we can match-up the correct form with the correct candidate.

Retreats:

Fall Candidate/ Sponsor Retreat: Sunday, October 27th at 9:45am at Saint Peter Church. This retreat is for Candidates and their Sponsors. Pastries, coffee and juice will be served at 9:30am and we will begin at 9:45am. It will conclude with the 11:30am Mass at St. Peter Church. This morning of recollection is intended to get sponsors and candidates talking about the Sacrament of Confirmation and a life of faith. If a sponsor is unable to attend, a parent or other suitable person may stand-in at this retreat.

Spring Confirmation Retreat: The date for this is TBD, and will be based on the date the Diocese sets for Confirmation. More details will follow about this retreat.

Contact Information:

I frequently send reminder and informational emails. If you have never received an email from me, please let me know. My email is education@rockcatholic.org (Please note, several email providers, especially zoominternet, seem to send these group reminders to the "junk" mailbox.)

Hopefully this helps as your son or daughter prepares for Confirmation in the Spring of 2020. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Checklist for 8th grade students

- _____ Regular Sunday Mass Attendance
- _____ 10 Hours of Service Work (does not need to be completed with parish)
- _____ 2 Events at the Parish (beyond Sunday Mass – i.e. adoration, stations of cross, fish fry)
- _____ Sponsor Eligibility form (if sponsor is a practicing member of St. Peter Parish, just submit name)
- _____ Baptismal Certificate (if Baptized at St. Peter Parish, we have the record)

Peace,

Katie Boosel

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