

# South Seattle Catholic Parishes

## Overview of Confirmation Program Requirements

**Confirmation requires full intention and willingness. A young person entering into this sacramental preparation process must be:**

- A baptized Catholic
- At least 16 years old or in the eleventh grade
- Willing to profess the Catholic faith
- Willing to take on the role of a disciple of Christ

The decision to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation is not one to be taken lightly, for it involves both Faith and commitment.

### Confirmation Requirements Overview

1. Gatherings
2. Retreat
3. Service
4. Sponsor (God-Parent)
5. Confirmation/Patron Saint Name
6. Documentation
7. Rehearsal and Celebration of the Sacrament

### **What are the requirements of the Confirmation preparation program?**

#### **1. Gatherings**

Gatherings are held generally on Sundays from 4:00pm – 5:30pm at one of the parishes. Attached is a schedule of all the gatherings. Except for the Kick Off Pizza Party, the Confirmation Retreat in January, and the Confirmation Rehearsal, Mass & Celebration in the Spring (probably May) which are required, candidates are allowed to miss or be absent from only 3 of the gatherings.

Each candidate and his/her parent will be asked to sign up to provide snacks and refreshments for *at least one* of the sessions, depending on number of candidates.

**All candidates must (parents are highly encouraged) attend the Kick Off Pizza Party (Date to be determined) at St. Edwards.**

#### **2. Retreat**

The Confirmation Retreat will be **(Date to be determined)**. This retreat is mandatory for all candidates. Parents and guardians are encouraged to participate as volunteers/chaperones on this retreat as well. Permission slips and more information on the retreat will soon follow.

### 3. Service

Being Confirmed in the Catholic Church means to follow Jesus Christ, serving as he served. Confirmation candidates are to complete 15 hours of community service. (must not be paid to serve, and must interact with people) A few opportunities with the group are provided on the calendar of gatherings, but the students are not limited to only these service opportunities.

### 4. Sponsor (God-Parent)

Each candidate is asked to choose a mentor from within the Catholic community to act as a sponsor during the Confirmation journey.

#### **Responsibilities of the Sponsor:**

“The sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament” (Code of Canon Law, 892)

- Pray for the candidate
- Ensure that the candidate participates fully in preparation for the sacrament (especially in faithfully attending Sunday Mass, Confirmation classes, and the retreat, completing the service hours/project, and receiving the Sacrament of Confession at least once between January 2014 and the celebration itself.
- Attend the Confirmation rehearsal (Date TBD) and the Confirmation celebration (Date TBD by the Office of the Archbishop, but likely in May 2015) at St. George Church on Beacon Hill.

If for some *important reason*, the sponsor is not able to attend either the rehearsal or the celebration itself, the candidate must inform and name to the Confirmation Team a proxy to fill in for the Sponsor. However, the Sponsor (*not the proxy*) will be listed on the Confirmation Certificate and must still fulfill his/her obligations as the Sponsor.

#### **Sponsor selection guidelines:**

- A sponsor is a Confirmed Catholic, at least 16 years old as of October 1, 2014
- A sponsor must be *active* in the Faith. Active participation means that the sponsor regularly attends Mass and is involved in the Parish life.
- Parents cannot be sponsors for their child.

### 5. Confirmation/Patron Saint Name

In Holy Scripture, a significant change in one’s life is often reflected by taking a new name. For instance, God gave Abram the name Abraham when He promised to make him the father of many nations. Christ gave Simon the name Peter (“Rock”) when He promised to make Peter the rock on which He would build His Church.

Attached is the Confirmation Patron Saint Form. Choose the name of a saint that you connect to or aspire to imitate in some way. There are many resources available to learn about saints.

## **6. Required Documentation**

to be turned in at the time of the kick off pizza party, except for the service hours log, which is due before the Confirmation Mass.

- Confirmation Program Registration Form with registration fee of \$30 (Contact the parish office if this is a concern. No one will be turned away due to lack of funds.)
- Copy of Baptismal Certificate
- Confirmation Patron Saint Form
- Service Hours log

## **7. Celebration of the Sacrament**

- Date, Time and Place of the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is still to be determined by the Archbishop's Office. Upon receiving that information, we will let you know when the celebration is. More information will soon be provided.

If you have any further questions or need clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office.

On behalf of Fr. Felino Paulino, the pastor of St. Paul, St. Edward, and St. George parishes, we look forward to working with you during this holy time of your life.

May God bless you and your family during this exciting time of your life and for the Catholic Church! Thank you.