

Saint Patrick Religious Education



Confirmation II - Handbook

Saint Patrick Parish
71 Central Street, Stoneham MA

Confirmation II - Information & Forms

Important Dates & Deadlines

10/14/2018

Commitment Ceremony @ 6 pm Mass.

Parent or Sponsor **MUST** attend Mass with the candidate. Signed Commitment Form due after Mass in Our Lady of Providence Hall (OLPH)

12/30/2018

Last Day to Request a Confirmation Mass*

1/8/2019

(Tuesday)

Mandatory Confirmation Retreat - All candidates must arrive by 4:45 pm

- Confirmation Information Form due
- Certificate of Sponsorship due
- Christian Service Form due
- All outstanding fees must be paid

3/3/2019

Sponsor Ceremony @ 6 pm Mass:

Sponsor meeting afterwards in OLPH. Sponsor or other adult must attend both the Mass & meeting with the candidate.

4/7/2019

Night of Liminality @ 6 pm Mass.

Followed by an hour of prayer & reflection in the Church.

- All Make-up Sessions due
- Saint Report & Bishop Letter due
- Parent/Sponsor Letters due

5/4/2019

(Saturday)

Confirmation – 12 pm & 4 pm

*Confirmation Mass requests must be made by **email**. We will send out the list of Mass assignments in January. Look for your child's name on the list. If your child's name is missing, it means you are missing a form or payment. Please contact the office to find out what it is. Thank you!

The Light is On for You –Reconciliation will be offered during the Lenten Season. **All Candidates are strongly encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Confirmation.**

Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, and his biddings - in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands. (CCC, 1309)

Faith formation during the second year of preparation for Confirmation at Saint Patrick Parish aims to help candidates identify the gifts and talents they possess, and challenge them use these gifts to benefit the parish and community. Candidates for Confirmation are expected to take primary responsibility for their own faith formation and to assist others in that endeavor as well. The requirements of the Confirmation II program will provide candidates with a greater understanding of the doctrines of the Catholic faith, as well as the tools they will need to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. Fortified with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Confirmation, the entire faith community at Saint Patrick Parish is eager to send forth these young people as full members of the Body of Christ.

Program Components

Candidates, together with their families, are asked to read over and discuss the expectations and requirements of the

Confirmation II preparation program outlined in this handbook. Entry into the program assumes the candidate fully intends to fulfill these requirements. Therefore, failure to satisfactorily complete any of the required assignments or activities may be understood as equivalent to withdrawal from the program for the year. Candidates may re-enroll the following year.

Regular Mass Attendance

The Eucharist is central to the Catholic life. It is the means by which we nourish our faith and worship God. Further, it is through hearing the Scriptures read and discussed that we learn more about our faith and about God. This Confirmation preparation program is intended to complement the faith formation that takes place in the candidate's family and at Mass. Therefore, the program assumes that: 1) candidates are regularly attending Mass, and 2) are exploring and learning about their faith with their family and sponsor. Candidates are encouraged to attend the 6:00 pm Mass that precedes the class, but may attend any weekly service with their families.

Class Attendance

Classes for Confirmation II candidates take place on Sunday from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Candidates are expected to attend all sessions. Those who miss a session are required to make up the work at home with a parent. However, excessive absences (3 or more) will be viewed as a lack of commitment and the candidate may be

asked to withdraw from the program. Candidates who are unable to attend class due to physical illness or mental health challenges should contact the director of Religious Education at the earliest opportunity to discuss alternative options.

Behavioral Expectations

For class sessions, candidates meet as a single group in Our Lady of Providence Hall. The candidates will sit at tables and adult facilitators will monitor their behavior. Adult facilitators have the authority to correct or redirect the behavior of any candidate they perceive to be disruptive. Any candidate who fails to promptly comply with directions or is disrespectful to the adult facilitators will be asked to leave the hall and will not be allowed to return until he or she receives permission from the director.

Missed Sessions

Candidates who miss a session are required to make up the work at home with a parent or sponsor. The lessons for Confirmation II will be posted on our homework website. Lessons will NOT be available until after the class meets. After submitting their answers, candidates must check their score, edit any incorrect responses, and resubmit the form. Only a perfect score on all questions will be accepted a completing the lesson.

Parent/Sponsor Conversations & Letters

The presence and involvement of caring adults is vital to a young person's development, whether it is to attend sports games, dance recitals, or being there during the journey towards Confirmation. At the end of each class session, candidates will receive a discussion exercise to complete with a parent or sponsor at home. It is expected that these adults will spend at least 10-15 minutes after each session in discussion with the candidate. In addition, parents/sponsors are asked to write a personal letter to their candidate expressing their love and encouragement. These letters should be sealed in an envelope with the candidate's name and dropped off at our office. The letter will be presented to the candidate on the Night of Liminality.

Christian Service

Christian Service is a donation of time to help others that involves one or more of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy. Candidates are expected to give at least 10 hours of Christian Service to persons or organizations in need. Christian Service hours completed for Catholic high school requirements count for Confirmation Christian Service as well.

Confirmation Retreat

All Confirmation candidates must attend the Confirmation Retreat – **no exceptions!** The evening consists of songs, small and large group sessions, games, prayer and refreshments. A

parish-based retreat experience is required of all candidates who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation even if they attend a Catholic high school. Students who miss the retreat will not be eligible for Confirmation unless they are able to make it up at another parish. The date of the Confirmation Retreat is listed on the Yellow Calendar. Please make a note of it.

Confirmation Project I: Saint Report

In preparation for choosing a Confirmation name, candidates are required to research the lives of various saints and choose one as their patron or whose name they will take. Candidates are asked to write a brief report (3 – 5 paragraphs) about the saint they have chosen. The report should include details about the saint's life, what he or she did as a follower of Christ, a reflection upon a quote or other significant teaching from the saint, and a conclusion explaining why the candidate chose this saint in particular. Saint reports must be typed.

Confirmation Project II: Letter to the Bishop

Confirmation candidates are expected to write a one to two-page letter to the Bishop explaining their desire to be Confirmed and what they have done to prepare for it. Candidates are encouraged to write their letters from the heart. Parents are expected to proof read the letters for grammar and punctuation errors. We will do the same and return any that are poorly written. Letters

must be typed, signed and handed in on time so there will be sufficient time to forward them to the Bishop.

Choosing a Sponsor

The person a candidate chooses as a sponsor for Confirmation should serve as a role model for his or her own faith formation.

In accordance with the Code of Canon Law, a sponsor may not be a parent or step-parent/guardian and must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing and eligible to receive Communion. Sponsors must be at least 18 years old unless they are a sibling. Sponsors must submit the Certificate of Sponsorship and attend the Sponsor Ceremony and meeting in March with their candidate. Please make a point of informing sponsors of the date and importance of the Sponsor meeting.

Forms & Program Fees

Please take care to accurately fill out and return the Confirmation Information and Sponsor Forms. The information you provide will be added to the official Church records. These forms are due on the day of the Confirmation retreat in January. Also, due at that time are any outstanding program fees that have not been paid. This includes both the \$150 registration fee and the \$75 Confirmation fee.

Candidates with missing forms or outstanding balances will not be assigned to a Confirmation Mass until we receive all forms and payments.

Are you ready for Confirmation?

Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. In Confirmation, God confirms our faith and the grace of the Holy Spirit is given to us, along with gifts that empower us along the path of holiness.

Are you ready for Confirmation? Maybe not this second, but read through this handbook with your parents or sponsor and start thinking about it!

Confirmation is a Beginning...

Confirmation marks the beginning of a journey toward a deeper knowledge of God. You will renew your baptism and thus it should be seen as a continuation of your Christian life - an opportunity to deepen the graces of God has given to you.

Infusion of the Holy Spirit

In Confirmation, you will receive an infusion of the Holy Spirit, just as the Apostles did on the day of Pentecost. Through this infusion of the Holy Spirit you will receive the Gifts of the Spirit, you will be made more perfect, and will be strengthened to give witness to Jesus Christ.

“A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the Church and in the world. A candidate should receive the Sacrament of Penance to prepare oneself to receive the strength and grace of the Holy Spirit” - (CCC 1310, 1318 and 1319)

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit brings love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self control. Are you ready to receive these gifts? If you open your mind and heart they will be yours!

Free-will Decision of the Candidate

Christ wants you to be confirmed. Do you hear Christ calling you? Are you ready to open your heart? Are you ready for the gifts that will be bestowed upon you by the Holy Spirit?

It is not unusual to be hesitant about Confirmation. It requires commitment and self-reflection to gain a deeper love and appreciation for what it means to be Catholic.

Through Confirmation, Christ is calling you to be like the Apostles: His witnesses before the community and before the world. The Sacrament of Confirmation is the completion of the Sacrament of Baptism; this time, you will be confirming the vows taken by your parents and godparents at Baptism.

Sometimes candidates feel that they are not ready to be confirmed. Through both participation in the life of the Church and regular classes, our program is designed to help you "become ready" for Confirmation.

You may not feel prepared for Confirmation at the start of the program, but we hope you will be at the end. Confirmation is the beginning of a life long journey of growth, learning, and discovery.

However, it is important that no candidate be coerced into the formation process. This not only defeats the purpose of the experience, but also creates an atmosphere that might negatively affect others. It is expected that candidates who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation freely and fully participate in the process, and take seriously what it means to be a member of the Catholic Church.

Confirmed in the Faith



The Role of Sponsors

A sponsor can make an enormous difference in your preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Therefore, it is important, that you choose a sponsor who is well suited to the role and who will be an integral part of the process.



The Church's tradition of using a sponsor to help prepare a person for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation is an ancient approach to faith formation. Sponsors played a vital role in the early centuries, when the catechumenate was the entry point for anyone seeking to become a Christian. The sponsor represented the Christian community (its values, beliefs, behaviors, and so on) and was a mentor to the catechumen. The sponsor also acted as a witness to the community on behalf of the catechumen and vouched for his or her readiness to receive the initiatory sacraments.

It is desirable to have one's baptismal sponsor act as your sponsor at Confirmation. While this is the ideal, it is more important to choose a sponsor who is available and involved in your life in a significant way and is able to offer an authentic example of lived Christian faith.

In accordance with the Code of Canon Law, a sponsor may not be your parent/step-parent or guardian and must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing and eligible to receive Communion. Please note, in the Archdiocese of Boston, Cardinal Seán has requested that sponsors be at least 18 years of age unless he or she is a sibling.

Finally, the role of a sponsor is not over with the celebration of the sacraments. It is a lifetime commitment, a relationship that should last throughout a person's journey of faith.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

In the Book of Isaiah we read, “I have called you by name: you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1). Your name was spoken aloud on the day of your Baptism and it became part of your identity as God’s child and a member of the Catholic Church. A great deal of thought went into your parents’ choice in naming you. You may be named after a relative, a special family friend, or a saint your parents greatly admire. Now that you have decided to become confirmed, you have the opportunity to think in a new way about your name and how it relates to your decision to be confirmed.

Reaffirming Your Baptismal Name

Although it is traditional to take a new name at Confirmation, it is not required. Instead, you may want to reaffirm your baptismal name since the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are so closely related. Confirmation seals and strengthens the faith and grace you received at Baptism. It completes your Baptism. Reaffirming your baptismal name is a sign of your commitment to live out the promises your parents and godparents made for you at Baptism.

Adding a New Name

You may also choose to add a new name at Confirmation. This decision indicates your new awareness of how Confirmation will help you live as a disciple of Christ. The name you choose must be a Christian name—the name of a saint or one of the great men or women from the Bible who have gone before us in faith. You may also choose the Christian name of your Confirmation sponsor because this individual is an example for you of how to live the Catholic life. Spend time prayerfully reflecting about your choice as this is an important decision.

Research Your Name

Whether you reaffirm your baptismal name or add a new name at Confirmation, research the life of your Christian namesake. Find out how they serve as an example for your faith journey. Before you are confirmed, you may be asked to complete a form listing the name you have chosen. At that time, you may be asked to give reasons for your choice. The research you do will help you focus on the reasons for your decision.

Angela

Catherine

Grace

Cecilia

Mary

MARK

MICHAEL

Joseph

James

Paul

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION FORM

1. CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Please be sure that the information in this section is accurate.

Name of Candidate: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Church & Date of Baptism: _____

Parents name (mother maiden name): _____

2. SPONSOR INFORMATION

*Candidates are asked to select their own sponsor. The sponsor selected must be a **BAPTIZED, CONFIRMED, PRACTICING CATHOLIC** who is at least 18 years of age and well known to the candidate and his/her family.*

Please indicate the name and address of your sponsor:

Name of Sponsor _____

Street Address of Sponsor _____

City and State of Sponsor _____

Sponsor Telephone _____

3. Name to be taken at Confirmation _____

(only one name, for example, Ann, Paul, John, Mary, etc.)

Candidates may use their baptismal name or a Christian name of their choosing. Please be sure a Christian name is chosen. Books that will assist you in selecting the name of a saint are available in the Religious Education office

4. Robe Information

Height with shoes on _____ Feet _____ Inches

----- **THIS IS A SAMPLE FORM** -----

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE FULL-SIZE FORM FROM OUR WEBSITE

Certificate of Sponsorship Confirmation II Program

Candidate's Name: _____

SPONSOR – In accordance with the Code of Canon Law, parents, stepparents or guardians may not act as a sponsor for their child's Confirmation. A sponsor must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic eligible to receive communion. Sponsors are to be at least 18 years of age unless they are a sibling.

SPONSOR'S NAME: _____
(please print)

SPONSOR'S PARISH: _____
Parish address: _____

I AM: _____ A Baptized and Confirmed Catholic at least
18 years of age.
_____ A practicing Catholic.

Please state relationship to Confirmation Candidate: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR PARISH PRIEST:

I certify that _____ is a Catholic
in good standing and an active participant in our Parish

Priest's Signature: _____

CHURCH SEAL

Parish: _____

Date: _____

Return to: Office of Religious Education, St. Patrick Parish
71 Central St., Stoneham, MA 02180 Phone: 781-438-1093

-----**THIS IS A SAMPLE FORM**-----

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE FULL-SIZE FORM FROM OUR WEBSITE

Confirmation II Christian Service

Jesus taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers we do for Him. The Works of Mercy are acts of love and compassion by which we care for the bodily and spiritual needs of others. They call us to live according to Christ's example and are divided into two categories: The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

The **Corporal Works of Mercy** focus on the physical (bodily) and material needs of others, and include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, and burying the dead.

The **Spiritual Works of Mercy** focus on the needs of the heart, mind, and soul, and include admonishing the sinner, instructing the ignorant, counseling the doubtful, comforting the sorrowful, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving all injuries, and praying for the living and the dead.

Christian Service is a donation of time to help others that involves one or more of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy. To complete your Christian Service requirement, we ask that you:

- Provide at least **10 hours** of Christian Service to persons or organizations in need.
- Document your hours on the Christian Service Form. Include a brief description of the service you performed, along with the name, signature, and telephone number of the person who supervised the service. In many cases, this will be your parent or guardian.
- Return the completed form to the Office of Religious Education by the end of March.

Christian Service is part of your preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. You are there to make a positive difference in people's lives. Time spent to fulfill Catholic School service requirements may count towards Confirmation as well.

We will be announcing opportunities for Christian Service via e-mail throughout the year and will post opportunities as we become aware of them. We strongly recommend that you take advantage of these opportunities as they become available.

Saint Patrick Parish
CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Name _____ Grade _____

This form should be filled out and submitted to the Office of Religious Education when you have completed your Christian Service requirement.

Type of Service: _____

Date of Service: _____

Hours of Service: _____

Supervisor: (Name & Phone) _____

.....
Type of Service: _____

Date of Service: _____

Hours of Service: _____

Supervisor: (Name & Phone) _____

.....
Type of Service: _____

Date of Service: _____

Hours of Service: _____

Supervisor: (Name & Phone) _____

Saint Assignment

This year, you will need to choose a Confirmation name. Since the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are closely related, you may choose to reaffirm the name given to you at Baptism. Your baptismal name is a sign of the commitment made by your parents and godparents to raise you to be a disciple of Jesus. In choosing it, you are reaffirming this commitment for yourself.

You may also choose a new name. The name you choose may be some virtue to which you aspire: e.g., Faith, Hope or Charity, or it may be that of a saint as a special patron. The saints are the heroes of our faith. They inspire and motivate us to emulate their witness to Christ.

Regardless of which option you choose, you will need to research a saint whose life appeals to you personally. Saints are known to have special gifts or “charisms” from God: St. Anthony for eloquent preaching, and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus for her “little ways” or small acts of great love. Other saints are special patrons of the arts or activities: St. Cecilia for music, St. Sebastian for sports, and St. Michael the Archangel for police officers.

Saint lives are fascinating! Write 3–5 paragraph report about the saint of your choice. This should include details about the saint’s life, what he or she did as witness to Christ, a reflection upon a quote or other significant teaching from the saint, and a conclusion explaining why you chose this saint in particular. Saint reports must be typed and handed in before the deadline indicated in “Important Dates”. You may include pictures if you like.

How to write a letter to the Bishop

As a Confirmation candidate, you are required to send a letter to Bishop Peter Uglietto explaining what Confirmation means to you personally and why you wish to be confirmed. The letter should be well written and typed. The purpose of the letter is to describe what is happening in your faith life. You should include what service activities you have completed and how you have prepared for Confirmation.

Your letter is due April 7th so that it can be delivered to Bishop Peter with enough time for him to read it.

When writing your letter, be sure to include:

- The date
- A Greeting: Begin the letter with, “Dear Bishop Uglietto”
- A description of how you are practicing your faith and all the things you have done to prepare for Confirmation.
- The Christian Service you have performed and what impact it has had on you.
- An explanation of why you wish to be confirmed.
- Your handwritten signature and your name typed below.

(Do not copy this letter verbatim!)

Sample Letter

February 6, 2017

Dear Bishop Uglietto,

My name is Mark Smith and I am currently preparing for Confirmation at Saint Patrick Parish. I am 16 years old and a sophomore at Stoneham High School. I have been preparing for Confirmation for almost two years now and I want to tell you why I wish to be confirmed...

---BODY OF LETTER HERE

I have learned that Confirmation is not the end, but just the beginning of my faith life. I am ready to take my faith seriously, become active in my parish, and live my faith through service.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature here

Mark Smith