

...Rite of Confirmation...

Invitation to a journey



“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name-
He will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.”
John 14:26

How we prepare for this Sacrament

The Confirmation preparation process is a **journey** of learning to seek and respond to the Holy Spirit. It is developing a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and assuming a role in the greater Church community. Our primary teacher is the Holy Spirit. Faithful adult leaders and high school peer ministers will provide direction, reflection and concrete activities, which aim to help us better understand the Holy Spirit.

Goals

- Better understanding of the Holy Spirit (its actions, gifts, callings)
- Understanding and acceptance of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- More intimate union with Jesus Christ
- Assuming apostolic responsibility of the Christian Life
(To challenge and partake in the Roman Catholic Community)

These goals do not have a specific destination in mind. Each person is on a different journey and will develop in different ways and at various paces.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Fall Semester

- **MS Edge:** Scheduled Sundays (see calendar) (**80% attendance required**)
- **Parents & Candidates:** weekly Mass attendance
- **Personal Interview with Elizabeth (7th grade in the fall)**
- **Parish Wide Service Day:** Saturday October 4 (*optional* but counts for fall service)
- **Middle School “Fall” Retreat:**
 - **Guys and Girls Separate Nov 14-15 (time TBA)**
- **MS Service Day: Saturday Nov 1, 2025 (pilgrimage)**
- **Choose a sponsor:** Sponsor sheet due by November 9, 2025 (**8th graders**)
- **Sponsor Night (8th graders): Wednesday Dec. 3, 2025 6-8pm Candidate and Sponsors Required**

Spring Semester

- **MS Edge:** Scheduled Sundays (see calendar)
- **Service Day: Mar 21, 2026 –**
- **SPX Confirmation Retreat: February 7-8, 2026 (8th grade) Saturday -Sunday**
 - **Rite of Entrance: Sunday February 8, at 10:30AM Mass (Sponsor required from 8:30-11:30a)**
- **Letter of Intention: Sunday Mar 15, 2026 (8th grade)**
- **Personal Interview with Elizabeth (sign up for a time)**
- **Choose a Saint’s name and write a short biography him/her: Mar. (8th grade)**
- **Know the Apostles Creed: March 15 (all)**
- **Participate in Station of the Cross during Lent (TBA)**

Immediate Preparation

- **Immediate Preparation @ MS Edge: Sunday in Sept-Apr.**
- **Discern sponsor**
- **Weekly Mass participation**

Sacrament of Confirmation: Cathedral of St Andrew or St. Pius X, Date TBA (8th grade)

(For announcements on final dates/times pay attention to emails/notices/bulletin)

***The retreats are required events. Contact Elizabeth if you have a conflict.**

COMPONENT DESCRIPTIONS

▪ **RETREATS**

~Middle School Fall Retreat: (all 7th and 8th graders)

This is a time to explore what it means to live as a Catholic and participate in the greater Church community. This is an opportunity to go a little deeper.

-Confirmation Sponsor Retreat - 8th graders

This will be an evening for the Sponsor to learn more about what it means to be a sponsor and how to best walk with his/her candidate during this process. It will be an opportunity for the candidates to learn more about the process toward the Sacrament of Confirmation.

-SPX Confirmation Retreat (Period of Formation) -8th graders

Our third retreat will be an overnight retreat at St. Pius X. This will allow us to delve into our faith: discovering the gifts of the Holy Spirit and what it means to be a disciple in the Church today. The High School Retreat Team will lead the candidates in small groups and activities.

▪ **LETTER OF INTENTION (8TH GRADE)**

The Letter of Intention is a simple note written by the Confirmation Candidate addressed to Fr. Stephen stating that they are ready to begin the formation process to prepare them for the Sacrament of Confirmation. A formatted letter will be provided for guidance. We will have time to work on these at the end of our first retreat. The letter should be turned in prior to Easter.

▪ **RITE OF ENTRANCE (8TH GRADE)**

The Rite of Entrance welcomes the candidates as they enter into this final preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It asks the candidates to make a commitment to this process, and it calls the sponsors and Church community to join in the responsibility of passing on the faith to the young people through prayer and action. This will take place during the Confirmation Retreat.

Note: **Sponsors** should participate in the Rite of Entrance with the candidate and parents.

▪ **INDEPENDENT STUDY WITH SPONSOR (8TH GRADE)**

Candidates will be provided with journals for personal and shared reflection. There will be portions for discussion between candidate and sponsor in order to grow this relationship based in faith. These will be handed out at the December Candidate and Sponsor retreat meeting and are to be handed in by April 16, 2023.

▪ **COMMUNITY-SERVICE PROJECT**

FOUR community-service projects are required for the purposes of sharing in faith-community and serving the greater world of God's Creation over the course of the two years. *It is one way the youth are called to step up in the Church, by giving of themselves.*

▪ PRAYER EXPLORATION

There are many ways to pray and this is another aspect of our preparation to foster the growth of our spirits. Candidates will be required to “explore” **two** different methods of prayer.

Opportunities: Night of Praise and Adoration on the March Retreat, Eucharistic Adoration Thursdays at SPX, Stations of the Cross during Lent, etc. There will be a list on the Parish Website detailing other options within our community.

▪ PENANCE

We will offer this during the November retreat. It is still very important to receive the Sacrament of Penance just prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

If this is beginning to sound overwhelming, do not worry! This is a once in a lifetime, life-changing event. You are in good hands! Many people will be praying for us throughout this process! Believe it or not - it can also be a lot of FUN.

You will get out of this what you put into it.

PROGRAM NOTES

Prerequisites:

- Candidates must be actively participating in Catholic Religious Education Classes, either as enrolled in a Catholic School or Parish Religious Education Program (or approved home schooling).
- There must also be a willingness to participate with an open mind and heart- on the part of the youth.
- Baptismal Certificate (record needed if baptized at another parish)

Attendance Policy: Each aspect of the formation program is designed to assist the candidate in their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Due to the nature of the program, no component can be effectively ‘made-up’ at a date more convenient to the candidate. Realizing this, it is expected that the candidate make reasonable sacrifices in order to fully participate in each aspect of the program. Please mark all dates in your family calendar and realize their priority when making other commitments. Please contact Elizabeth Post if a conflict emerges.

Note: Confirmation is not something to be accomplished and it does not finish your child’s faith formation. Faith formation is a life-long process. Confirmation is an acceptance by the candidates to the Spirit working in their life.

Choosing a Sponsor: Ideally, the sponsor serves as a guide not only during Confirmation preparation, but throughout the candidate’s life. A sponsor represents the larger Catholic Community’s support of the candidate. ***This should be the choice of the student.*** A sponsor may NOT be the candidate’s parents. It is also discouraged that siblings within four years of the candidate be a sponsor. There is a Sponsor Information Sheet you will need to fill out and turn in by the December Rite of Entrance.

Sponsors are invited to participate in the Service projects, Prayer opportunities, the Rite of Entrance, and retreats.

Liturgical Guidelines: These will be provided further on.

Parent Communication: The primary form of communication will be sent via e-mail, updates will be in the bulletin, and reminders will be sent home with students. Please inform Elizabeth directly if these forms of communication do not work for your family.

Volunteer Opportunities: We will need parent/sponsor assistance during this process. We will need parents to help weekly with lunch, chaperone the MS Fall retreat and the Confirmation overnight retreat in addition to the Edge Service Projects. Please sign up to help with at least one event.

Contact Information:

St. Pius X Catholic Parish Office Hours: 8:30-5 M-Th.
Faith Formation: 538-2600

Parish Youth Coordinator
Emmalee Miklosovic
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