



CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES SPRING 2025

8TH GRADE CLASS

Questions please email: confirmation@stpiusxchurch.org

Importance of the Sacrament

“Baptism, the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the ‘sacraments of Christian initiation,’ whose unity must be safeguarded. The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For ‘by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.’ (CCC 1285)

In its current order, the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation completes the initiation process into the life of the Church. Thus, the candidate should not take this important step lightly, but thoughtfully, with the support and the prayers of parents and sponsors.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT

1. Choose a Confirmation Saint

Selecting a Confirmation Saint should be made with much thought and prayer. It is important to find a Saint with whom you have a connection. Here are some ways to find the right Saint to support you on your adult faith journey:

- Identify what traits/virtues are most important to who you are as a person (patience, humility, diligence, fortitude, courage, piety, obedience, prayer, charity, etc.) and find a saint who embodies those virtues.
- Find out what feast day is celebrated on your birthday and research that saint to see if you feel connected to your birthday saint. A great online source for looking up saint names based on their feast days is: [CatholicSaints.Info » Blog Archive » Calendar of Saints](#)
- If you are named after a saint, learn more about that saint and see if you may have a deeper connection to that saint than merely your name.
- Find a saint who inspires you.
- Once you have identified a couple of potential saints, talk to your parents and/or your sponsor about who you are discerning between, and what has attracted you to these saints. Pray to them to discern who is being called to be your Confirmation Saint. This will be the name by which you are confirmed.
- Once you have identified your saint, pray to them, asking them to intervene for you, help you make great moral choices and be a powerful guide for you spiritually for the rest of your life.

Please complete the online [Saint Name Form](#) by scanning this QR code or by filling it out on the parish website **by January 5th.**



2. Choose a Confirmation Sponsor



The sponsor is to be a practicing, confirmed Catholic of some spiritual maturity, and be willing to assist the candidate in his/her preparation. The sponsor should be someone the candidate can relate to and have some contact with during this period of spiritual formation as well as after the celebration. The sponsor should be willing and able to share his/her faith with the candidate. Desirably the sponsor would be one of the candidate's baptismal godparents.

Qualifications for a sponsor:

- must not be a parent of the Confirmation candidate
- must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
- must be at least 16 years of age
- must be leading a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken:
 - if married, must have been married in the Catholic Church
 - if single, must be striving to live a chaste life, cannot be living with someone outside of marriage

If you have any questions about whether someone could qualify to serve as a sponsor, please contact Barbara Abshire at the church office at 232-4656, ext. 216.

The Confirmation Sponsor should complete the Sponsor Verification Form found on the parish website under the Sacraments tab, under Confirmation (<https://stpiusxchurch.org/confirmation>). **This form is due by December 15th.** It should be printed, filled out by the sponsor and emailed to registrations@stpiusxchurch.org. **Students who have turned in their Sponsor Forms and are fully registered will be able to choose the Mass that they would like to attend. This will be decided on a first come first serve basis.**

Confirmation Sponsor's Obligations: The only obligation the Sponsor will have here at St. Pius is that they should be present for the rehearsal on the day of Confirmation. The rehearsal is an hour before the Confirmation Mass; therefore the sponsor and child will need to arrive at the Church by noon on the day of their Confirmation.

3. Mass Attendance and Confession

The Confirmation candidate should be in the habit of participating in the sacramental life of the Church. Regular participation in the Eucharistic Liturgy is a minimal requirement for all Catholics sincere in continuing their relationship with Christ. Candidates for Confirmation should be properly disposed to receive the sacrament by being reconciled with God and the Church through the Sacrament of Penance. For this reason, a frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all candidates.

4. Attend a Retreat



Each candidate will need to attend a retreat to prepare for Confirmation. (*Athletic-based retreats will not satisfy the retreat requirement). St. Pius X will hold a one-day retreat for the candidates on **February 1st from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM** to provide them with an opportunity to be still and be filled with God's love for them, and to reflect upon their relationship with God, others and themselves. Registration for the St. Pius Retreat can be done by scanning the QR code or by registering on the website under <https://stpiusxchurch.org/confirmation>.

The retreat requirement can also be satisfied by attending a retreat through their Catholic school. (But we would still love for you to attend the Confirmation retreat at St. Pius if you are able.) **If your child is a SPES student and attended the 8th grade Quest retreat at the Pines Retreat Center, that retreat will count as their required retreat.** You may also attend a Confirmation retreat through another parish if you are unable to attend the St. Pius X retreat. You will need to call the church offices to find a retreat that works for you and register for it. Ask their Confirmation coordinator to send an email to sacraments@stpiusxchurch.org confirming your attendance. In addition, if you do not attend the St. Pius X Confirmation retreat, you need to send an email to sacraments@stpiusxchurch.org advising of how you met the retreat requirement. The retreat must be **completed before April 19, 2023.**

5. Attend Confirmation Preparation Sessions

Our 8th graders will be participating in our **new Confirmation Preparation Program**. All students will report to the SPES Gym and join in with the EDGE youth ministry group for food and fun, and then the 8th grade confirmation candidates will break out into their Confirmation preparation class in the SPES Auditorium. We are excited to implement this new program, and look forward to seeing how the students grow in their faith and knowledge of God.

We will have six sessions to help prepare students for their initiation into the Church. The sessions will take place on six Sundays this Spring **after 5pm. Mass. Students should report directly to the SPES Gym (through the Breezeway) at 6pm.** The students can be picked up at **7:45pm** in the SPES breezeway. Cell phones will be turned in upon check-in so you can participate fully without distractions. **Sessions: March: 9, 16, 23, 30 & April: 6, 13**

Our 8th grade program will be "The Search Begins" created by the Augustine Institute:

The Search Begins is a new seven-episode video series adapted from the Augustine Institute's award-winning series The Search, hosted by Chris Stefanick. It is designed to enkindle meaningful discussions with teens searching for answers: What is the meaning of my life? Why am I here? Who am I? Is God real?

Modified for teens, The Search Begins invites middle and high school students to consider the deepest questions of the human heart. The series considers death, sorrow, happiness, science, and faith. It features teen commentary and shorter segments to facilitate honest conversations between teens and their youth ministers, parents, teachers, and peers.

The Search Begins emphasizes why a teen should care to ask life's tough questions and, ultimately, seek an answer to this most important question: Who is Jesus Christ, and how do I respond to his invitation?

- This video series is available to watch for free on Formed.org

6. Complete 5 Service Hours



The point of offering service opportunities is to encourage candidates to live a life of service and discover the joy and fulfillment found in serving other members of the Body of Christ. It is in serving that we serve Jesus, and also have an opportunity to have a profound encounter with Him. We will be sending you links to sign up for various service hours as they arise. Service hours that are performed for other purposes (schools, Key Club, Beta, NHS, VBS, or other organizations) may be used to satisfy your service requirements. You will be required to participate in **5 service hours**. You will keep track of your service hours and submit them via the Service Hours Form found on the website or scan the QR code above. **This form is due by April 6th.**

***Holy Hours - 8th graders WILL NOT be required to complete 5 holy hours.**

CONFIRMATION LITURGIES

For all candidates who have met the requirements, 8th grade Confirmation will be held on **Saturday, May 3rd at 1:00 P.M and Sunday, May 4th at 1:00 P.M.** in the St. Pius X Church. Students who have turned in their Sponsor Forms and are fully registered will be able to choose the Mass that they would like. This will be decided on a first come first serve basis. If you have special circumstances, please email registrations@stpiusxchurch.org to schedule your Confirmation Mass. **The cut-off date to change your Confirmation Mass date is April 6th.**

Rehearsal will be held **one hour** before the Rite of Confirmation for both Candidates and Sponsors. *The only requirement for the Sponsor is that they attend the Rehearsal an hour before the Confirmation Mass.

DRESS CODE FOR CONFIRMATION MASS

Wear your "Sunday Best." Attire that is inappropriate for the occasion or deviates from modesty in the judgment of the dress code committee will result in having to put a choir robe over clothes or scheduling the reception of the Sacrament at another time in proper attire.

Ladies

For girls, dresses and attire that reflect traditional modesty are required. Traditional interpretations are often at odds with fashion and cultural trends. Your attire should be appropriate for a family church event. Modesty is admittedly a subjective interpretation, but one which we have a duty to uphold. Girls should err on the side of **modesty** and formality and not put the church in the difficult position of upholding standards. Thank you for your full cooperation from girls, parents, and sponsors. Also, although there is no color requirement, traditionally, most girls choose to wear white dresses.

Specifics for Dresses:

- Dress backs may not be lower than the shoulder blades.
- Dresses may not be any shorter than **4” above the front of the knee** when kneeling (This includes any slits in the dress. If you purchase a dress with a slit that does not meet those guidelines, you will need to have the slit sewn.)
- Dresses may not expose mid-drifts or cleavage.
- Dresses must not be too tight or form fitting.
- Dresses may not have cut outs.
- Dresses must not be low cut in the front.
- Dresses may not be strapless or spaghetti strapped.
- Dress shoes must be worn.
- Appropriate undergarments must be worn based on the style of the dress.

Gentlemen

Gentlemen must wear nice slacks, dress shoes and a shirt and tie. A suit may be worn, but is not required.

Reception

There will be a reception for candidates and their families and friends in the Ministry Building immediately following the Confirmation Mass. Confirmation certificates will be available to the newly confirmed at that time. The Women’s Guild will provide cake and punch.

Important Confirmation Dates for 8th Grade Class:

- ❑ **December 15th - *Sponsor Verification Form Due***
- ❑ **January 5th - *Saint Name Form Due***
- ❑ **February 1st - *Confirmation Retreat at St. Pius 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM***
- ❑ **March 9, 16, 23, 30 - *Confirmation Preparation Sessions after 5pm Mass in the SPES gym, pick up is at 7:45pm***
- ❑ **April 6, 13 - *Confirmation Preparation Sessions after 5pm Mass in the SPES gym, pick up is at 7:45pm***
- ❑ **April 6th - *Service Hours Form Due (5hrs)***
- ❑ **April 19th - *Approved Retreat Completed***
- ❑ **April 6th - *Cut-Off Date for Choosing Your Confirmation Mass***
- ❑ **May 3rd - *1:00 PM Confirmation Mass for 8th graders***
- ❑ **May 4th - *1:00 PM Confirmation Mass for 8th graders***

