



## CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES SPRING 2025

### **9TH GRADE CLASS**

*Questions please email: [sacraments@stpiusxchurch.org](mailto:sacraments@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](mailto: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.) **For STM students who attended the Quest Retreat in the Fall, or will attend the Crossroads Retreat in the spring, those two retreats will count for your 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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 at 3:15 p.m. in the Parish Life Center. Please arrive by 3:15 to check in and leave your cell phones in your car so you can participate fully without distractions. **Sessions: March: 9, 16, 23, 30 & April: 6, 13**



#### 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, 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.**

##### Some Service Hour Opportunities:

- **If your child participated in the STM Service Day on November 20th, those hours can count towards their service hours.**
- **We will be putting together Christmas food baskets for the needy of the parish on December 18th from 5-9pm here in the PLC. All adults and teens are welcome to help out and those can be used for service hours.**

- **St. Pius usually has some Lenten opportunities for the youth, keep an eye on the bulletin and Facebook for announcements.**



## **7. Complete 5 Holy Hours**

In a world filled with noise, it is a gift to discover the joy and peace that come from being still in God's Presence. Therefore, each candidate will spend **5 Holy Hours** in Adoration. Adoration is available in the Adoration chapel from 5:00 AM-10:00 PM 7 days a week. The Adoration chapel is located at the base of the "tower" of the church. The Adoration code is 01968#. Please be very respectful and remain completely silent in Adoration, helping you and all who come before the Blessed Sacrament find that "stillness" in which we quiet our hearts enough for God to "speak" to us, helping empty ourselves of our worldly concerns and stresses, and fill ourselves with God's peace and love.

Adoration is also held in church the first Wednesday of every month from 6:00-7:00. Another alternative is Visitation with Jesus in the church, where He is always present in the tabernacle. The church is open Monday-Friday from 5:15 AM-6:00 PM.

Please complete the online [Holy Hours Form](#) found on the website or scan the QR code above. This form is due **by April 6th**.

## **CONFIRMATION LITURGIES**

For all candidates who have met the requirements, 9th grade Confirmation will be held on **Saturday, April 26th at 1:00 P.M and Saturday, May 10 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](mailto: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.

## **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 9th Grade Class:**

- December 15th** - *Sponsor Verification Form Due (Once turned in, you can choose which date you’d like to be confirmed.)*
- 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 3:15-4:45 PLC*
- April 6, 13** - *Confirmation Preparation Sessions 3:15-4:45 PLC*
- April 6th** - *Service Hours Form Due (5hrs)*
- April 6th** - *Holy Hours Form Due (5hrs)*
- April 6th** - *Cut-Off Date for Choosing Your Confirmation Mass*
- April 19th** - *Approved Retreat Completed*
- April 26th** - *1:00 PM Confirmation Mass for 9th graders (& upperclassmen)*
- May 10th** - *1:00 PM Confirmation Mass for 9th graders (& upperclassmen)*