

**Confirmation Requirements for Candidates**

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is a very important part of this preparation process. Each session is an opportunity for the strengthening of the candidate’s relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. All of the sessions are a time to discover the meaning of that relationship in his/her life. Candidates are expected to attend all Confirmation sessions. There are a limited number of sessions and sometimes we meet only once in a month. Please try to make them all. Illness is the only excuse for an absence. A parent must contact the director to report illnesses. Two absences from classes will be accepted; after two absences in a given year, the sacrament will have to be delayed.

**MASS:** Candidates are expected to follow the precepts of the Church (CCC 2041-2043). The first precept reads “You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation…” (CCC 2042)

**Retreat:** The Confirmation retreat is an essential step in the candidate’s spiritual journey. The Diocese of Erie requires that all candidates attend a Confirmation retreat before they are confirmed. The retreat is being held on Martin Luther King Day here at Our Lady of Peace from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Candidates needing to attend elsewhere must notify Mrs. Mang as soon as possible.

**SPONSORS:** The purpose of a Confirmation Sponsor is to be a support and guide to the candidate during the Confirmation preparation process; a Catholic Christian to accompany the candidate on his/her spiritual journey to the Sacrament of Confirmation. The sponsor must be someone who is living a Christian witness by attending Mass regularly, celebrating the Eucharist, and actively living out the mission of Jesus Christ. Since Confirmation is the completion of Baptism, one’s godparents might possibly be a choice for the Confirmation sponsor. **The candidate should have his/her sponsor chosen by the end of September so that they can attend the Rite of Enrollment in October. If a sponsor is not selected by then, a parent may stand in.** Following are the sponsor eligibility requirements for Confirmation as per Canon Law of the Church:

1. The sponsor must already be fully initiated into the Catholic Church, i.e. having already received the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

 2. The sponsor must be 16 years of age or older.

3. The sponsor must be living a life of faith in keeping with the function of a sponsor. This requirement renders ineligible those who do not practice the faith.

4. Neither the father nor the mother of the one to be confirmed can be the Confirmation sponsor.

5. Both the Rite and the Code of Canon Law envision only a single sponsor per candidate. It is desirable but not required that the Confirmation sponsor be the same as the Baptismal sponsor.

**Confirmation Name:** A ritual of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the choosing of a Confirmation name. The chosen name must be that of a canonized saint of the Church. Scripture names of holy persons or angels from the Old or New Testament may also be chosen. If a candidate’s baptismal name is that of a saint, he/she may want to use that as their Confirmation name. This choice highlights the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. All Confirmation names must be found in the resource Butler’s Lives of the Saints. This resource is in the Religious Education office.

**Confirmation Preparation Forms:** The following forms must be turned in to the candidate’s small group facilitator or to Mrs. Mang:

 Certificate of Intention

 Confirmation Name Information

 Confirmation Sponsor Information

 Emmaus form

 Individual Service Hours Information.

 (Check due dates on the calendar)

This information is necessary for church records and must be submitted to the facilitator before the candidate can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The forms are found in this Information Packet. They will also be available online at [**http://www.olp.org**](http://www.olp.org/)

**BISHOP LETTER:** All candidates are required to write a letter to the Bishop requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please be attentive to the due dates on the calendar. Please submit your letter to your facilitator on the appropriate due dates.

**SERVICE:** As confirmed Catholics, candidates are initiated into the Christian community of Our Lady of Peace Church. Candidates commit themselves to the mission of Jesus through service to others. An integral part of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the candidates’ involvement in one group service project and the completion of ten (10) hours of individual service.

**INTERVIEWS:** Candidates will be interviewed by their facilitator once during the preparation process. This interview is a good opportunity for the candidate to ask questions and discuss, one on one, issues that may be concerning them. Interviews are scheduled after school hours and in the early evening. Candidates will have advance notice of the interview time. The interviews will be scheduled for some time in March or April.

**REHEARSAL:** Candidates are required to be present at the practice for Confirmation with their sponsor. If for some valid reason the sponsor cannot be present, another adult must fill in for them.

**I have read the above and am willing to accept the responsibilities and requirement for the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

**Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**