

“We are a family of joyful missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Eucharist, strengthened by the sacraments, excited to live life for the spread of the Gospel and the salvation of souls.”

Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church
Confirmation Ministry

9TH GRADE EXPECTATIONS

Service	Retreat	Preparation
One group service project involving the whole 9 th grade class of confirmandi	Retreat experience of the confirmand's choice	Presence and participation in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of obligation
Train for and participate in liturgical ministry or relational ministry		Routine participation in the high school youth group (Life Teen) on Sunday nights from 6-8pm

By December of 9th grade year:

- Write a one-page paper on a saint. See attached “Confirmation Saint Quest”

Before the completion of the three-year program:

- Parent participation in the parish’s “Belonging” sacramental preparation program.

Notes:

- **The “Group Service Project”** is planned with all the confirmandi in their 9th grade year and accomplished together in community along with their families. The goal is to unify the group and empower them to envision, take ownership, and carry out Christian service, and to see that Christian service can grow from their own interests and awareness of another’s needs.
- **Retreat:** In the 9th grade year (this includes Summer before and after the school year), confirmandi are required to participate in a retreat experience of their choosing. Options include the diocesan high school retreat, parish or diocesan mission trips, Catholic Heart Work Camp, Appalachian Encounter service trip, National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), Ignite Your Torch, the March for Life, Gethsemani retreat (accompanied by a parent), etc. Generally, any parish or diocesan sponsored retreat experience is acceptable.

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Confirmandi should discuss their choice with the Confirmation Catechist (Brigette) ahead of time to assure it meets the necessary requirements.

- **Liturgical Ministry:** During the Fall of the 9th Grade Year, confirmandi should choose one or more Liturgical Ministry to begin to provide routinely in the parish community (altar server, lector, choir, hospitality minister). This includes choosing the ministry/ministries they are willing to serve, receiving the necessary training, and being placed on the parish rotation for providing the ministry – which should be accomplished by Advent. *Fulfilling the ministry according to the rotation schedule is an important aspect of their preparation for Confirmation in that it demonstrates the call of Christ to “serve and not be served” in our Eucharistic celebrations.* Alternatively, confirmandi in the 9th Grade year may elect to become an assistant in the EDGE youth group ministry program committing to at least 2 sessions per month or become assistant in the CCD program.
- **“Belonging” program:** Once during the three years of preparation, parents of the confirmandi are required to participate in the parish’s **“Belonging” program** as a “refresher” on the role of parents/families in the faith formation of their children. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the intimate connection among the sacraments of initiation, especially Baptism and Confirmation. The Renewal of the Baptismal Promises are a vital and beautiful part of the rite of Confirmation. (This requirement is also being extended to families with children preparing for First Communion. If you have participated in our parish’s “Belonging” program in the past 3 years, please let Brigette know – this will satisfy your requirement in that case.)
- **Mass Participation:** Presence and participation in Sunday Mass and Holy Days of obligation (there are six: The Feast of Mary the Mother of God, The Ascension, The Assumption of Mary into Heaven, All Saints Day, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and Christmas) need to form the foundation of preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation.
- **Life Teen Participation:** Becoming an active, faithful part of the Life Teen discipleship community for middle schoolers is a key part of your youth’s preparation to accept the gifts and responsibilities that come with Confirmation.

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Confirmation Saint Quest*

At least one page, typed or handwritten. Please include:

Who? Who have you chosen for your Confirmation saint? This can be the saint name you were given at Baptism or a saint of your choice. Talk to your parents and sponsor about it! ☺

What? What is the saint's story?

When? When is this saint's feast day?

Where? Where did you find information about this saint? (cite your sources)

Why? Why did you choose this saint?

How? How do you want this saint to help you grow in your spiritual life?

*As you embark on this journey to Confirmation, it is important to remember that you are not alone. You have your friends, your family, your fellow confirmandi, your sponsor, and the whole parish here for you to help you and guide you. Also, here to help you are the angels and saints in heaven. They are rooting for you and praying for you! Choosing a saint for Confirmation is a quest to find a saint that you connect with and who inspires you on your path to holiness. Maybe it's a saint who shares your name or maybe it's a saint who has a similar story to yours. Whoever it is you choose, that saint becomes a special patron for you throughout your life. Take the time to get familiar with the saints (there are tons of resources!). Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. And ask your friends and family, all the people who are here for you on this journey, to help you find a saint for Confirmation.