

**St. Paul Catholic Newman Center
Youth Confirmation 2020-2021**

About the St. Paul Confirmation Program:

Confirmation preparation is a two-year program that typically takes place during the 9th and 10th grade. Candidates experience the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring of the second year. The program follows an academic schedule with summers off. The Confirmation curriculum combines catechetical learning, mentoring, and volunteering. This combination allows for an intentional and thorough discernment process. Participating youth also commit to regular participation in the sacraments and two retreats.

Catechetical learning takes place in two monthly sessions. One in-person session will include personal faith stories by leaders, reflection, prayer, catechesis instructed by trained young adults, small group discussions, food and fun. In the second monthly session candidates will engage in virtual small group discussions. Mentoring takes place with our small group leaders but mostly in Confirmation II with the Confirmation Sponsor. Volunteer opportunities will be shared on a regular basis with the candidates to choose what is best for him/her. Volunteer parish ministry is encouraged as well as local outreach.

This might sound like a big commitment. Our team is here and ready to walk the candidates, sponsors, and parents through every step. We take the preparation process slowly and intentionally so that all the components can be absorbed by each candidate in their own developmentally appropriate way. Ideally, at the end of the two-year program the Sacrament of Confirmation can be received by the candidate at its fullest potential.

Changes for 2020-2021

St. Paul is excited and blessed to begin construction for remodeling the lower level meeting spaces and kitchen. However, the construction project impedes any group meetings in the church. Consequently, Confirmation sessions will be relocated to St. John the Apostle Church in Ellettsville, Indiana. If construction at St. Paul continues according to the proposed schedule then we will be back at St. Paul after Christmas. Although, St. John's has graciously opened their spaces to us as long as we need it. Confirmation sessions will begin in September. A detailed calendar will be released in August, 2020.

Two Confirmation Sessions each month:

1. Confirmation I and Confirmation II candidates will meet at St. John's one Sunday a month from 4:00 - 5:30 pm.. The schedule will look roughly like this:
 - 4:00 welcome and snacks
 - 4:15 large group activity

4:30 small group
5:00 break
5:10 lesson and wrap up
5:30 dismissal

2. Small groups will meet one Sunday a month for 45 minutes on a zoom meeting with Bridget and the small group leader. Dates and times t.b.a.

Volunteer Parish Ministry, Confirmation I

Confirmation I candidates are asked to volunteer in parish ministry. Options include but are not exclusive to: serving at Mass as a lector, usher, acolyte, musician, or choral member. Other parish ministries like St. Vincent de Paul, Coffee and Donuts, Bethany Meals, and Buildings & Grounds are perfect for youth. Confirmation candidates will be guided and helped when they make their choice.

Relationship with a Sponsor, Confirmation II

Confirmation II candidates select a Sponsor to meet with or speak too on a regular basis. Guidelines for selecting a Sponsor will be shared at the first monthly session. Suggestions for good mentoring are shared with sponsors to help create fruitful and prayerful mentoring.

Regular Corporal Acts of Mercy

Regular opportunities for serving the community will be communicated with candidates and families. It is very important that candidates discern the Sacrament of Confirmation with acts of service while growing with catechesis. Our Catholic faith is dynamic and rooted in mission. St. Paul's Confirmation program models active participation in faith.

Regular Participation in the Sacraments

The Mysteries of God's grace are revealed through our Sacraments. While we, parents and mentors, *do* many things to help our candidates grow intellectually, socially, and spiritually, we still surrender in awe and wonder to the glory of God that sustains us and propels us forward in faith. Celebrating the Eucharist and regular confession are tools our Church provides us to rest in the awe and wonder of God's love and mercy.

Confirmation I Retreat

Confirmation I candidates participate in a day-long retreat in the Fall semester. The retreat includes recreation time, personal reflection, small group discussion and prayer. The purpose of the retreat is to build better relationships among the candidates and create a foundation for sacramental preparation.

Confirmation II Retreat

The Confirmation II candidates participate in an overnight retreat in the Spring semester. The retreat includes small and large group discussions, personal witness talks by team

members, prayer, and more personal discernment time. The purpose of the retreat is to help the candidates articulate the gifts received by the Holy Spirit at one's Baptism, then strengthened and anointed at their Confirmation.

Confirmation Team

The Confirmation team includes The Administration of Religious Education and St. Paul student parishioners. The team discerns their volunteer role as a calling to share their faith. They are committed and excellent examples of people actively participating in their Catholic faith. The team shares roles and responsibilities such as small group leaders, activity leaders, prayer leaders, teachers, and above all a friend to the candidates.

Please contact Bridget McIntyre, the Administrator of Religious Education with any questions.

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