



HIGH SCHOOL

CONFIRMATION

CANDIDATE
HANDBOOK

2016-17

Confirmation Timeline

- September 23-25, 2016 Fall Fest
- September 24, 2016 Love Stockton
- October 2, 2016 LIFE NIGHTS begin (Mandatory)
- November 12, 2016 Sponsor Form due
- December 6, 2016 Confirmation essay due
- December 12, 2016 LIFE NIGHT Christmas vacation begins
- January 11, 2017 LIFE NIGHT resumes
- January TBA Sponsor's one day retreat (English)*
- January TBA Sponsor's one day retreat (Spanish)*
- January TBA Parish Mission*
- Feb 24-26, 2017 High school retreat (Camp St. Francis)
- April 10, 2017 Holy Week – LIFE NIGHT vacation begins
- May 1, 2017 LIFE NIGHTS resume
- April 30, 2017 Community Service form due
- May 7, 2017 Confirmation Name Form due
- May 21, 2017 Last LIFE NIGHT of semester
- August 18, 2017 Confirmation rehearsal @ 6 p.m.
- August 19, 2017 Rite of Confirmation @ 11:00 a.m.

*Attendance at **ONE** of these meets the Sponsor's requirement. Other events that meet the sponsor requirement might be available throughout the year. If so, information about such events will be promoted through the Youth Ministry website, Facebook page, email list or handouts.

Confirmation Process

Candidates between 9th and 12th grade are eligible to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. The current methodology for Confirmation preparation is not considered to be a time to review a summary of all Christian teaching. It simply is a time to explore and open up the Rite of Confirmation.

The following should help you understand the process and decide whether **your candidate** is ready to participate:

1. The Candidate must come willingly to the Sacrament. Candidate must complete a summary (50 words or more) on “Why” they would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. This summary should be turned into the Pastor or Parochial Administrator of Presentation Church no later than **December 6, 2016**.
2. The process assumes that the candidate has had some form of religious formation. 9th graders must have participated in 8th grade catechesis or have been a student at the parish school. 10th – 12th graders must have participated in LIFE TEEN last year. This is not an “everything you need to know about the Catholic Church” process. It presumes that some of their preparation process has already taken place in a parish-based process. The process does not confuse preparation for the Sacrament with other concerns.
3. You **must have pre-registered** for the process. **We must have a copy** of your candidate’s Baptismal and First Eucharist certificates.
4. All Candidates will participate in the liturgical life of the church. They can attend any Sunday Mass.
5. All Candidates will participate in LIFE NIGHTS, 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Sundays. LIFE NIGHTS are the catechetical teachings of the Catholic Church. 80% attendance at LIFE NIGHTS must be met.
6. All Candidates will participate in 12 hours of Preparation Sessions. The sessions are based on the symbols, rituals, prayers and readings from the Rite of Confirmation.
7. All Candidates will complete 15 hours of community service.
8. All Candidates will attend and participate in a 3 day, 2 night **mandatory** Confirmation retreat. The retreat begins Friday after school and concludes following LIFE TEEN Mass on Sunday.
9. **Parents and/or sponsors** are also required to attend a **mandatory** Sponsor’s Retreat. This retreat is a Diocesan requirement. The two dates are TBA. You may substitute Ministry Day, or other parish faith formation events that qualify.
10. The celebration of the **Sacrament of Confirmation** is scheduled for **August 19, 2017** subject to change due to the Bishop’s schedule.

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail me, Joshua Stoner, Director of Youth Ministry, youthministry@presentationchurch.net or call 320-5722.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

- **The role of the sponsor and parent** is to encourage, support and affirm the candidate throughout the confirmation process.
- **Attendance** - Candidates must participate in the LIFE TEEN process and LIFE NIGHTS 6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Sundays. 80% attendance is expected. Candidates must also attend 12 hours of preparation sessions. **ALL** sessions must be attended. Preparation sessions will begin in the spring.
- **Sunday Liturgy** - weekly attendance at any offered Mass is required of each Confirmation Candidate. Mass cards will be provided for each of the candidates to turn into the collection basket each Sunday.
- **Community Service** - Each candidate **will** complete community project with a minimum of 15 hours of service. Forms are due in the Ministry Center attention Joshua Stoner by **April 30, 2017**.
- **Sponsor forms** are due in the Ministry Center by **November 12, 2016**. Sponsors are required to attend a one day retreat. Pick either of the two offered dates. If a sponsor is unable to attend, a parent must attend no exceptions.
- **A Confirmation name** is optional. If you choose an name, a form is provided.
- **Retreat** – Candidates will participate in a **MANDATORY** retreat. The retreat is offered, on **February 24-26, 2017**. The cost of the each retreat was included in the registration fees. The retreat will be at Camp St. Francis in Aptos.
- **Confirmation rehearsal – Mandatory attendance. Rehearsal is scheduled for August 18, 2017 @ 6 p. m. in the Church. If a sponsor can't come to the rehearsal, a parent may stand in for the sponsor during rehearsal. Teens are not required to attend.**
- **The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in August 19, 2017 at 11 am.** Candidates and sponsors ***must*** be in their seats in the church by 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. There is no reserved seating.

If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail me, Joshua Stoner, Director of Youth Ministry, youthministry@presentationchurch.net or call 320-5722.

Confirmation Sponsor Information

Stated most simply, a confirmation sponsor is someone (male or female) who is willing to help the candidate grow in the skills, knowledge, attitudes and practices that are considered essential to being a mature, responsible and committed (confirmed) member of the Catholic Church. In other words, a sponsor is a professed follower of Jesus. The task of the sponsor is to help the candidate take the necessary steps to begin a life long quest to continue to grow in faith.

The sponsor for the candidate of confirmation has a unique and important role in the catechetical process towards the celebration of the sacrament. The sponsor is the teacher, spiritual guide and confidant for the candidate. The sponsor should be, therefore, someone whose life is such a powerful witness to the Good News of Christ, that the candidate chooses him or her because of the desire to share in that same way of life. The sponsor is such an important part of the process that the candidate should be given proper guidance in choosing his or her sponsor. The sponsor, in turn, should be made aware of the commitment he or she is making.

According to Canon Law 893:

A sponsor must be at least sixteen (16) years old.

A sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic (one who has celebrated Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) who *“leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.”*

A sponsor must not be bound by any church penalty.

A parent cannot be a sponsor.

A parent can help the candidate select as a sponsor someone who reflects the following characteristics, which are beyond the minimum identified by Canon Law:

- A local residency to insure consistent involvement throughout the Confirmation process.
- Presence at all the Liturgical Rites.
- A positive, comfortable relationship with the candidate.
- A willingness and capacity to engage in the confirmation process as a means of enhancing his or her own growth as a Catholic Christian adult.
- A willingness to continue to be supportive of the newly confirmed individual as he or she continues through life on a journey of faith.

The sponsor's role is functional, not symbolic. He or she is responsible for helping the candidate to prepare for initiation into the Catholic Christian community and for helping the newly initiated member in fulfilling the responsibilities of that membership.

If you need clarification or have any questions, please contact Joshua Stoner, Director of Youth Ministry, youthministry@presentationchurch.net or 320-5722.

Proper attire

for the

Sacrament of Confirmation

Candidates are **expected** to be appropriately dressed for the celebration of a Sacrament.

Boys

Collared dress shirt. A tie is optional.
Dress pants with belt. **No jeans or shorts.**
Shirt tucked in.
Clean shoes.
Extremely baggy clothing is not appropriate.

Girls

Dress with sleeves or jacket
or
dressy pant suit with sleeves or jacket.
Shoulders must be covered.

Tank top type attire, low midriff is not appropriate.
Extremely short or tight clothing is not appropriate.

Flats or low heeled shoes.
If wearing heels, make sure candidate is comfortable wearing such heels prior to the Rite.

Confirmation Name

Choosing a name for Confirmation is not required. It is a choice. Your Christian name, that is the name given to you at baptism, is sufficient. However, if you would like to choose a name for Confirmation, please complete the following:

Candidates Name _____

Confirmation Name _____

I have chosen this name because _____

Reminder: If you choose a name, it should be the name of a Saint or Martyr that you admire.

Sponsor's signature _____

This form needs to be returned to the Ministry Center by *May 7, 2017*.

Community Service Project

_____ has completed 15 hours of community
(candidate's name)

service as required for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please state how the community service that was completed.

Candidate signature

Parent signature

Sponsor signature

Date _____

Please return completed form to the Ministry Center by April 30, 2017

Essays are due in the Ministry Center attention Joshua Stoner by **December 6, 2016.**