

# Sacrament of Confirmation

## Parent Information

### Confirmation: TBD

(awaiting for official notice from the Bishop's office)

#### Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Confirmation preparation program. The purpose of this handout is to provide information about the process used for sacramental preparation. It also details the specific dates and requirements families need to know.

### SCHEDULE

All sessions begin promptly.

\*Rehearsal and Confirmation dates are tentative upon notice from the Bishop's office.

**Session #1 Parent and Child:** Sunday January 13, 2019 at 5:30pm

**Session #2 Parent and Child:** Sunday February 10, 2019 at 5:30pm

**Session #3 Parent and Child:** Sunday Mar 10, 2019 at 5:30 pm

Service Log book & Bishops letter due today

**Parish Reconciliation:** Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7:30pm

**Retreat and Commitment Mass:** Sunday April 28, 2019

Sponsor's Confirmation certificate due today.

Candidate's Saint and Sponsor sheet due today.

Retreat at 2:30pm

Commitment Mass at 7:00pm (Candidates and families to be seated by 6:45pm)

**\*Rehearsal: Parent, Child and Sponsor: Evening prior to Confirmation Date (TBD)**

**\*Confirmation Day! TBD**

## **The Role of the Parent**

At St. Paul's a home study program is used for Confirmation preparation.

- Parents are the primary religious educators for their children. You are now and have always been your child's first and best teacher. It is your example they follow. A few hours of instruction with a volunteer teacher cannot replace the ongoing relationship between parents and children.
- The home study program allows parents to renew and relearn elements of their own faith and strengthen their participation in church life.
- Preparation for confirmation is a unique opportunity for parents and children to talk about their faith. It provides teachable moments at home and in church when book knowledge can be connected to what the candidates see and live.
- It is the expectation of the parish that the parents will take an active role in preparing their child for this sacrament. The workbooks are to be completed at home.
- The workbook and sessions are not optional in Confirmation preparation.

## **The Role of the Parish**

- Along with the parents, the parish has a role to play in your child's sacramental preparation. Fr. Domingo, and the Confirmation team, through videos, activities, and discussions will reinforce and supplement what is presented in the weekly material, and highlight some key areas to help our child understand the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Support sessions will take place on Sundays as outlined.
- Our Sacrament Coordinator is available during regular office hours, or through email for any questions or support. 403-948-5394 ext 6  
stpaulssacraments@shaw.ca

## **Expectations for Candidates**

### **Mass**

It is essential that the Confirmation candidate attend Mass regularly. Listening to the Word and receiving the Eucharist are central to our faith.

### **Attendance**

For students wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is expected that they will attend all support sessions as an indication of their commitment. If extenuating circumstances, an illness or family emergency, prevents your child's attendance at these sessions you must call the parish office to make other arrangements.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

It is expected that the candidate participates in the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Confirmation. St. Paul's Parish Reconciliation: See page 1 for dates for this Parish sacrament. There are usually 8 – 10 priests available to hear confessions. One of the lovely things about Parish Reconciliation is the feeling that we are not alone in our need to be reconciled with God. Reconciliation is also available every Saturday from 4:00pm – 4:45pm, and during Lent (check Parish website). Please encourage your child to choose from one of these opportunities.

An outline on how to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on our website: [stpaulsairdrie.ca](http://stpaulsairdrie.ca) > sacrament life > confirmation, scroll to the bottom of the page, click on "Outline on how to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation". You can also call or email me if you have questions or would like clarification.

### **Dress Code**

Appropriate clothes for the celebration of Mass, the participation in the sessions, and retreat are to be worn by all attending. Think Sunday Best. (no short dresses or skirts, no thin straps on tops, shoulders covered, and no slogans on shirts)

## **Letter to the Bishop**

A letter to the Bishop outlining your desire to be Confirmed must be submitted to St. Paul's office by Session #3. An outline will be provided.

## **Sponsors, Saints, and Service! Oh My!**

Choosing Sponsors, Saints, and doing service is prayerful. In all things, call on the Holy Spirit for guidance:

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful  
And kindle in them the fire of Your love**

**Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created  
And You shall renew the face of the earth.**

### **Sponsors:**

Each Candidate is required to choose one sponsor to guide them through the Confirmation process, and to be an example of Catholic life. After Confirmation, Sponsors continue to share their faith, and support the Candidate in living out their Confirmation mission.

All the details about choosing your sponsor are on the page titled Confirmation Sponsor, attached at the end of this package.

### **Choosing a Confirmation Saint:**

Choosing a Saint for Confirmation is more than just picking a name. You are choosing a patron who will be your spiritual companion and model of faith for the rest of your life. Your Confirmation name can be your Baptismal name, as long it is the name of a Saint. If your baptismal name is not a Saint's name, you will choose a Saint's name as your Confirmation name. You are required to do some research before you chose your Saint. You will write a summary of why you chose this particular Saint, and hopefully know enough about your chosen saint to teach me something.

Guidelines for choosing your patron Saint are on the page titled Choosing a Confirmation Saint, included at the end of this package.

Please hand your choices for your Confirmation name, and sponsor no later than the Retreat Day. Use the attached form included in this package.

### **Service:**

All candidates must participate in some community service. An awareness of the importance of and vital need for performing service to others is critical in preparing for Confirmation. Throughout Scripture, we are called to love God and to show this through love toward our neighbor. Service is something we do because we recognize the presence of Jesus in all persons and in all of God's creation.

Each candidate must complete 6 separate acts of service to others. Each service must be entered in the log book, and signed by your parent or supervisor. Get creative with your service, use this as an opportunity find causes or interests that compel you to action.

### **Guidelines and Suggestions, this is just the tip of the iceberg, get creative!**

- Your usual chores do not count as service for Confirmation.
- You are not to be paid for your service.
- Look for opportunities to help others outside of your immediate family.
- Be an Invisible Angel to someone. For example, shovel a neighbour's driveway without them knowing it was you. Being an Invisible Angel is very fun, and will probably feel the most rewarding too.
- Offer your time at the food bank
- SVdP at St. Paul's always needs a hand. You can help pack food hampers, or organize the food pantry.
- Suzanne & Heidi, in the sacrament office, will need help prepping crafts, just ask!
- Offer to help clean in the church. Washing pews, cleaning windows in the doors, or deep cleaning the kitchen is a great help!
- Get together with other Confirmation candidates and do service together.

- Organize a mini food drive for SVdP. Get your extended family, and neighbours (neighbours your parents approve of) to donate. Make pamphlets, and collect the food.
- Organize a clothing drive between your friends, collect, then donate gently used clothes to charity.
- Join the youth choir, be an usher or altar server
- Connect your service with your patron Saint