

# CONFIRMATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What are Small Groups?

Small groups are how we do ministry to high school youth at St. Philip the Apostle. We desire for every teen to be a part of small groups to help them grow in their faith. The goal of each small group is four-fold. We desire for teens at St. Philip to have a shared experience of community, learning, prayer, and mission. We do this through weekly meetings of friend groups who meet with two adult leaders to guide these four areas of growth. We rely on the support of their parents to bring food and aid in hospitality. And we desire for each teen through this process to become a disciple of Jesus Christ.

## What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist). It perfects Baptismal grace and, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian's soul.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches "A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs" (1319).

Confirmation:

- Roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry "Abba! Father"
- Unites us more firmly to Christ.
- Increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us.
- Renders our bond with the church more perfect.
- Gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit.

- CCC 1303

## Why an Essay?

Our goal for confirmation candidates is that they are formed individuals committed to living as Disciples of Christ. With that in mind, the purpose of the essay is to allow us to get a better sense of where the candidate is starting in this faith journey towards Confirmation. It helps for them to define for themselves what they desire most in their lives and how they would like to grow in their relationship with Christ.

## **What are the requirements for the Essay?**

Student's essay (500 words total)

The essay's purpose is to give the students' small group leaders a better understanding of where the candidate is in his/her faith journey. There are no perfect answers, we only ask that you are honest.

- 1. Describe how you are living your faith now, and where do you see your faith life in five years? (250 words)**
- 2. Describe what steps you personally need to take to get closer to God? (250 words)**

## **How do I choose a Sponsor?**

A Sponsor must be a practicing, confirmed Catholic able to receive communion and in good standing with the Church. He/she may **NOT** be the candidate's mother or father. A godparent or grandparent may be a good choice for a Confirmation Sponsor. We encourage you to pick someone who is close by. The sponsor should be a person who is prayerful, open, dependable, loving, and is comfortable sharing his/her faith with a young person.

### *What does a Sponsor do during Preparation?*

The primary responsibility of a sponsor is to ensure the Confirmation candidate is genuinely ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to live out the mission that comes with it. The ways to help students prepare for this mission is to:

Discuss with your candidate the content of the Catholic Faith.

Provide a "sounding board" for your candidate to talk about his or her spiritual life, habits, hopes, fears, and struggles.

Be a good example of the Christian life to your candidate.

Pray with and for your candidate.

Sponsors DON'T WORRY! We know this seems like a lot!!! We have Sponsor guide that will help you along every step of the way. It will help you have incredible conversations with your candidate that you will not soon forget!

## **How do I choose a Confirmation Name?**

Each teen should research a saint and decide what they would like their confirmation name to be. Many teens find saints with similar birthdays, interest, or perhaps just someone that is interesting. The goal is to find a saint that you can emulate in life. Someone that you can follow as an example of holiness in your own life.

For more information on Saints and people from scripture check out the Catholic Encyclopedia <http://americancatholic.org/features/saints/byname.aspx>

### **Confirmation Mass Details**

#### **Do we have a date yet for Confirmation?**

Currently TBA. We typically know the date of Confirmation in December, and the Sacrament occurs typically after Easter.

#### **What if my teen cannot make that date for Confirmation?**

If your teen is unable to attend Confirmation with St. Philip, you'll need to:

- Find a parish whose Confirmation date works with your family's calendar and request that you teen be confirmed at that parish.
- Contact both Zach Everett here at St. Philip as well as the Confirmation Coordinator at the other parish to have it approved by both and for the necessary paperwork to be transferred.

#### **Is there a dress code for Confirmation?**

*Ladies:*

- White dress or blouse with shoulders covered
  - Dress/skirts must be at least to the top of the knees.
- Shoes with a back to them and should be either white/silver/clear/flesh toned.
- Please keep jewelry to a minimum.

*Gentleman:*

- White Button up Shirt
- Black Slacks
- Black or dark colored shoes
- Solid black tie
- Dress jacket is preferable

Those receiving Confirmation cannot have anything in their hands.

Each student will have a name tag that has their name and Confirmation Name and must be visible at all times on the right side of the chest. (Long hair needs to be up or pulled back when going to receive confirmation.)

#### **How do we do pictures?**

A photographer will be provided for Confirmation that offers the best view of the actual moment. Pictures may be taken before and after the mass and during the moment of Confirmation, but please be respectful to other guests in the pews. The professionally taken photos will be available via an email after Confirmation.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Zach Everett [youth@stphilipcc.com](mailto:youth@stphilipcc.com) or call (361) 991-5146