

St. Peter's Church

Sacrament of Confirmation



Information Packet

2019 - 2020

Parent & Confirmandi

Please **READ** through this Confirmation Information Packet carefully and thoroughly as it contains pertinent information about the Sacrament of Confirmation. There are forms that need to be filled out by parents, students and sponsors. It is important that all forms be completed in a timely manner and handed in to the teacher by the due date listed. Thank you in advance!

Table of Contents:

Sponsorship Information	1
Sponsor Form	2
Confirmation Name Form	3
Volunteer Service Preparation	4-5
Volunteer Service Log	6
Service Hours Opportunities	7-8
Letter to Bishop	9-10
Retreat Location & Agenda	11
Retreat Permission Form	12
Exam Guidelines & Testing Date	13
Exam Requirements	14
Important Dates & Reminders	15
Rehearsal & Ceremony	16

St. Peter Church, Volo, IL

Sponsor Information

The role of a sponsor in the Sacrament of Confirmation is very important. While being a sponsor is an honor, it is important to choose a sponsor who is active in our Catholic Faith and will be connected to you during the course of your life and will take the role seriously. Because Confirmation is so closely related to Baptism, the most appropriate sponsor for confirmation is one of your godparents.

You may only have ONE sponsor for Confirmation. Anyone serving as a Confirmation Sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- Received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)
- At least 16 years old.
- Not married outside of the Catholic Church, nor am I cohabitating (living outside of marriage with someone).
- Attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, receive the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) at least once a year, and go to Holy Communion at least once a year in the Easter Season.
- Understands and accepts the responsibilities which he/she undertakes as a sponsor for this person. Will assist his/her parents in the Christian duty, and will help this person, by example, word and action, to live as a faithful Christian in Communion with and according to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church.
- NOT the parent of the confirmation candidate.

It is possible for a parent (or someone else) to stand in as proxy for a sponsor who is unable to attend the ceremony. Both the proxy and sponsor must meet all the 6 criteria listed above.

Sponsor (and proxy) certification:

If the Sponsor or proxy is a member of St. Peter's Parish simply have them fill out the attached form and turn it in by Feb. 4, 2020.

If the Sponsor or proxy is a member of any other parish, the Sponsor or the proxy must also fill out the attached form, have it signed by their pastor and given the parish seal for certification.

This form needs to be returned to St. Peter's no later than Feb. 4, 2020.

St. Peter Church, Volo IL
Sacrament of Confirmation Sponsor Form

This is to certify that

Sponsor's Name

accepts the invitation to be the Sponsor at the Confirmation of

Candidate's Name

I understand that the requirements to serve as a Confirmation sponsor are as follows:

- I received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation)
- I am at least 16 years old.
- I am not married outside of the Catholic Church, nor am I cohabitating (living outside of marriage with someone).
- I attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, receive the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) at least once a year, and go to Holy Communion at least once a year in the Easter Season.
- I understand and accept the responsibilities which I undertake as a sponsor for this person. I will assist his/her parents in the Christian duty, and will help this person, by example, word and action, to live as a faithful Christian in Communion with and according to the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church.
- I am NOT the parent of the above named candidate.

Signature of Sponsor

Sponsors Email Address

This is to verify that _____ is a member of this parish and that he/she fulfills the above requirements to be a sponsor for Confirmation.

Pastor / or Delegate

Date

Parish Name/Location

Please return form to:
St. Peter Parish
27551 Volo Village Rd
Volo, IL 60073

PARISH SEAL

Return by February 4, 2020

Confirmation Name Form

Candidate's Name: _____

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which you will fully receive at Confirmation, is the courage to make good choices that will help you to live an authentic Christian life. The **saints** are prime examples of authentic Christian living. When we draw from the Holy Spirit within us, we are called into deeper relationship with Jesus Christ that is nurtured through an active life of prayer, worship, study and Christian action. Believe it or not, even the saints struggled in their lives the same way we all do. It was their lives of authenticity that did not allow them to give up on themselves and therefore give up on God when they struggled. Keep all of this in mind when choosing your Confirmation name. **Try to pick the name of a saint whose life demonstrates certain characteristics that you would like to develop in your own life. You may use this sheet or type it on a separate paper.**

Here is a good online source for some 8,000+ saints' names and information about them:
<http://saints.sqpn.com>

My chosen saint is: _____

Characteristics of this saint that I admire are: _____

I have chosen this Confirmation saint name because: _____

Confirmation Volunteer Service Preparation

Service, or ministering to others, is an everyday part of the lives of all Christians. This should simply continue as Confirmation approaches.

We have several service requirements that will help the teens to explore different ways of serving within their parish and community.

Each Confirmandi is asked to explore at least 2 Corporal Works of Mercy (think, “hands on” service) and at least 2 Spiritual Works of Mercy (think, “service through prayer and participation in liturgy and religious education”). Some of the ways of serving are more obvious than others - one can feed the hungry by helping out at a soup kitchen. Some of the ways of serving are less obvious - one can visit the imprisoned by visiting people at a nursing home who often feel abandoned and purposeless.

Service hours should be signed by an adult who is leading the event or activity using your log sheet. If there is not someone available (for instance at a liturgical event), a parent may sign the sheet. **A total of 20 hours of service are asked of each student. Keep in mind that the students must complete two (2) Spiritual AND two (2) Corporal Works of Mercy.** The point is not to add a burden to students but to encourage variety and a consistent habit in active service.

Paid service or jobs do not count.

Here are some ideas that would qualify for service hours. Many opportunities present themselves on a regular basis through the St. Peter bulletin.

Corporal Works of Mercy (2 Required)

- Feed the hungry - soup kitchens, food collections, parish events that need servers
- Give drink to the thirsty - volunteer at a race for a good cause
- Clothe the naked - help with a clothing drive or getting gifts for poor children at Christmas through St. Peter's Giving Tree
- Shelter the homeless - volunteer with Habitat for Humanity
- Visit the sick - visit nursing homes, volunteer your time to help a sick person or pregnant/new mom with meal prep, child care, yard work, or house cleaning
- Visit the imprisoned - same as above
- Bury the dead - maybe indirect by helping to clean the church

Confirmation Volunteer Service Preparation Cont.

Spiritual Works of Mercy (2 Required)

- Serve in liturgy through choir, reading at Mass, altar serving, etc.
- Prayerfully attend a special service like a formal holy hour, funeral, or celebration of a feast day that does not fall on a Sunday or Holy Day
- Pro-life prayer, participation in Pro-Life activities (see attached)
- Going to a cemetery to pray for the Poor Souls in November or anytime

Suggestions for Selecting Service Projects:

1. Pray about it! Examine your own talents and gifts. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Do not just seek the easy way out or the fastest way to finish.
2. Challenge yourself and be creative! Your service project should lead you to a greater desire to serve further, draw out virtues in your life, and ultimately bring you closer to God.
3. Do not go at it alone! Discuss this with your parents, sponsors, teacher and friends. They are all good resources and support. You may want to put together a group project with your friends such as raking leaves for an elderly neighbor or praying for one of the seminarians at Mundelein for a year.
4. Use the attached list of suggestions which includes many ideas.
5. Do not stop at 20 hours! It's OK to keep going. Part of the reason for the service hour requirements is that we are called to serve for the rest of our lives.

To be a volunteer is to expect nothing in return but to joyfully give of yourself to others. This is what the saints whom you are choosing for your confirmation names did during their lives. They patterned themselves after Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

If you have questions, feel free to email Connie Ballantine @ rcballantine@sbcglobal.net.

Quick Summary:

20 Hours of Service

2 Corporal Works AND 2 Spiritual Works Required

For each event fill out the hours sheet

Once your 20 hours is completed, parent and student must sign the form and turn it in to Mr. Nordlund by Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

Confirmation Service Hours Log

- 20 TOTAL hours required for Confirmation
- Must Include 2 Corporal Works & 2 Spiritual Works of Mercy

Student Name: _____

Due by March 31, 2020

Date	Service Completed	Type of Service (Church, Community, Family)	Hours	Adult Signature

Final Total Hours: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Service Hours Opportunities for Confirmation Preparation

Check St. Peter's weekly bulletin for more opportunities.

CHURCH

Fall & Spring Grounds Clean Up -

Help set up and take down for Church events (i.e., St. Anne's Craft Fair, Christmas cribs, St. Joseph's Table, etc.)

Altar Serving for boys - Contact Fr. Nathan Caswell

Join the Youth Choir - Contact Stephanie Brune

Help CLEAN the Church on Saturday Mornings - Contact Rita Meinhart

Clean the Church for Lent or Advent

Rosary Processions at St. Peter Church

Prayer & Fasting for those in need - Anytime

Offer a Eucharistic Holy Hour for someone in need (Wednesdays & First Friday)

Adopt a family for Christmas

Visit a cemetery and pray for the Poor Souls in November

COMMUNITY

Volunteer at your local Food Pantry

Visit a retirement community

Help your teacher at school

Help an elderly neighbor with yard work or housework

FAMILY

Help your parents or grandparents with a project

Babysit siblings (without pay)

Plan a Holy Hill pilgrimage with your family

Service Hours Opportunities for Confirmation Preparation

<i>PRO-LIFE PLANNED ACTIVITIES</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Baby Bottle Project	Fall / Spring
Jericho March & Eucharistic Procession at Planned Parenthood in Aurora at 10AM	TBD
Pro-Life Holy Hour at St. Peter's Church, Volo	TBD
Life Chain - Location TBD	TBD
Rosary Rally for America Needs Fatima - Location TBD	TBD
March for Life in Washington D.C.	TBD
Crusaders March for Life Tour - January 2020	TBD
Pray for the children whose lives were ended by abortion	TBD
Activities that provide you a benefit or payment may not be included.	
There are many other service opportunities! Be creative!	

“I pray that you will understand the words of Jesus, ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ Ask yourself ‘How has he loved me? Do I really love others in the same way?’ Unless this love is among us, we can kill ourselves with work and it will only be work, not love. Work without love is slavery.” - St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

A LETTER TO THE BISHOP REQUESTING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Each candidate is required to write a letter to the Bishop, stating your desire to be confirmed. The letter is your own description of your personal faith journey so far. They are also a reflection on both you and on St. Peter's Parish, so please write what is in your heart and take this endeavor seriously.

Here are some guidelines. These topics should be covered, in your own words and style. All letters should be typed and you should check your spelling and grammar.

GREETING

Begin your letter with the greeting – Your Excellency, Most Reverend Joseph Perry

BODY OF LETTER

- ❖ Paragraph 1
 - Introduce yourself. Say something about your family, your education and your parish.
- ❖ Paragraph 2
 - Request the sacrament. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.
- ❖ Paragraph 3
 - Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service hours, your sponsor's name and why you chose them and/or your saint's name and why you chose it.
- ❖ Paragraph 4
 - Tell what difficulties young people today face and how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the Faith real and alive in your life.

CONCLUSION

Conclude the letter and include your complete signature.

There is no "right" way to write this letter. Everyone's will be different, as each of you have had a different experience. Most importantly is should be your own work and a personal reflection of your journey.

You should turn your letter into your Confirmation teacher by February 4, 2020. All letters will be mailed together to the Bishop.

SAMPLE LETTER TO BISHOP

Your Excellency,

My name is John (Jane) Smith. I am currently in 10th Grade at (name of School) and I belong to St. Peter Parish, Volo, IL. I have an older brother and a younger sister. I have lived in _____ all my life. I enjoy playing sports, watching TV, and having fun with my friends.

I am writing you today to request to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. I want to be confirmed because I want to deepen my relationship with Jesus. I know that when I receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I will be more fully equipped to face the challenges that I will have in the future. I want my Catholic Faith to always be a big part of my life, and I know that Confirmation will give me the grace that I need to keep it like that.

I have done a lot of work in preparation for Confirmation. I began my preparation in 9th grade, reviewing important information about Jesus, the Bible and the Church. I have finally chosen my Confirmation saint, who is St. (name), whom I admire very much because (reason). I participated in all of my classes, which taught me a great deal about the Faith. I also completed my service hours, as well as found a sponsor, which helped me see the importance of serving others, which is something Jesus always likes to see.

Once I am confirmed, I will continue to live my Catholic Faith for the rest of my life. I will go to Mass on Sundays, and try to make it to Confession more often. I will continue to learn about my Faith by reading the Bible and listening more closely to those who talk to me about doing the will of God. I look forward to meeting you, your Excellency, when you come to our Church to celebrate Confirmation.

Sincerely,

(Signature here)

John (Jane) Smith

The Confirmation Retreat is TBD

RETREAT LOCATION: TBD (Information forthcoming)

PRELIMINARY AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS (Times are subject to change):

8:00 am Arrival

8:10 am Retreat Begins

12:00 pm Lunch

3:00 pm Departure (student pickup)

The retreat will begin shortly after 8am so please be sure students arrive on time. We will be there to greet the students at the door and to bring them to the meeting space location.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided for the students.

More information will be forthcoming. If you should have any questions about the retreat, you may reach out to the CRE at rcballantine@sbcglobal.net or via cell phone at 847-951-9526.

Please note: Students are responsible for their own ride to and from the retreat.

Confirmation Retreat Permission Form

I, _____, give my child,
_____, permission to attend the Confirmation
retreat to be held on **Saturday, TBD**. This retreat will be conducted by **TBD** and will
serve as my child's retreat prior to making his/her Confirmation at St. Peter in Volo on
TBD.

Students are responsible for their own ride to and from the retreat.

(Parent Signature)

Due by February 4, 2020

Confirmation Written Exam Guidelines & Testing Date

Exam Guidelines:

- Students will be given study notes for the exam.
- **Testing will take place on TBD.**
- The exam will be closed book with no notes allowed.
- Students will need to score an 80 percent or higher to pass.
- If they do not pass the first test, they will be able to retake the exam one more time on **TBD**.
- In addition students will be interviewed by Fr. Anthony Rice or Fr. Nathan Caswell on **TBD**.
- Students will need to pass their written exam and prayers in order to be confirmed.

Confirmation Exam Requirements

Ten Commandments

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory Be

Apostles Creed

Act of Contrition

Hail Holy Queen

St. Michael

Guardian Angel

Rosary (all 4 sets of mysteries)

The Holy Trinity

Four Marks of the Catholic Church

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Seven Sacraments (including explanation of their effects)

Form for Sacrament of Penance and Act of Contrition

The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist

Two Natures of Jesus Christ

The Hypostatic Union

The Incarnation

The Immaculate Conception

Two Commandments of Love

The Golden Rule

Three Theological Virtues

Four Cardinal Virtues

Five Precepts of the Catholic Church

Seven Capital Sins

Four Last Things

Important Dates & Reminders

This letter contains reminders regarding what students need to complete and hand in prior to making their Confirmation along with important dates and times of planned events.

SPONSORSHIP FORM: Due on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

CONFIRMATION NAME FORM: Due on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

SERVICE HOURS LOG: Students need to turn in their volunteer service hours log by **TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020**. This should also include 2 Corporal Works and 2 Spiritual Works of Mercy. If you are a member of the parish choir, an altar server or a volunteer in another parish activity, these hours count. However, there should be more than one type of volunteer service. Ideally, volunteer activities would be from these three categories: the Church, the family, and the community. Any pro-life activity counts as well.

LETTER TO BISHOP PERRY: The deadline for handing in the letter to the Bishop is **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020**. **Please bring the letters with you to class or mail them to me at the parish office. All letters will be mailed together to the bishop.** The letter should contain students name, the chosen saint's name, why you have chosen this saint, why you wish to be confirmed, the name of your sponsor and why you have chosen your sponsor. Your letter should start with "Dear Bishop Perry" or "Your Excellency". It should be typed or neatly handwritten on plain white paper using correct spelling and punctuation.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT: The Confirmation retreat is scheduled to be held at **TBD**. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY**. The retreat will start at 8:00 a.m. and will end at 3:30 p.m. A detailed schedule for the day will be mailed to all families. ***Please return the permission form by February 4, 2020.***

CONFIRMATION TEST: The Confirmation test will be administered to all students on **TBD**. If you do not pass this test you will have an opportunity to re-take it again on **TBD**.

PRIEST INTERVIEWS: Interviews by Fr. Anthony Rice, SJC, or Fr. Nathan Caswell, SJC will take place on **TBD**. During the interview, students will be asked some questions regarding the Catholic faith and about the Sacrament of Confirmation as well as prayers.

CONFIRMATION PRACTICE: The practice for Confirmation will take place on **TBD**.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Confirmation is scheduled at St. John Cantius, Chicago, IL on Saturday, May 30, 2020 with Bishop Joseph Perry. Detailed information will be sent out at a later date.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Rehearsal & Ceremony

(Subject to Change)

Rehearsal – TBD

Students along with their sponsors are to meet in the school building at TBD. Please be on time. We will discuss a few things in the school before heading over to the church at 7:00 PM to practice. If the sponsor is unable to attend, a proxy or parent should attend in the sponsor's absence in order to explain the proper procedures prior to the ceremony.

During the rehearsal, we will go over the dialogue, practice the anointing process and explain the procedures that will occur during the ceremony.

The Sacrament of Penance will be offered for the confirmands and sponsors and anyone else who wishes to go to confession after the rehearsal.

Ceremony – TBD

Students and sponsors need to meet in the school at TBD. We will line the students up with their sponsors and walk over to the church prior to Mass.

Twenty (20) students will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. We will reserve the first 6 front row pews on each side of the aisle for confirmands and their sponsors. The remaining pews will be open to the families on a first come first serve basis.

Dress Code *The color red signifies the Holy Spirit which is often represented as fire.*

Young Ladies

Ladies are to wear modest dress. Dresses or skirts must be knee length or longer, necklines should be conservative; **Shoulders are to be covered**- No spaghetti straps or sleeveless blouses. No open back dresses or tops. Sheer or see through wraps are not an acceptable cover-up for sleeveless or spaghetti strap blouses and dresses. Dress shoes (be conservative on heel height). Open toe shoes are acceptable, flip flops are not.

Young Men

Suits, or dress pants, collar dress shirt, and tie, and dress shoes. No sneakers, hiking boots or flip flops.

Photos with the Bishop

After the Mass & ceremony, a group photo of all the confirmands and sponsors will be taken up at the altar with Bishop Perry. Following the group photo, families may use the altar to take pictures with the bishop and priests as well.

Reception in School

On behalf of the St. Anne Sodality, all are invited after the ceremony for a savory and sweets reception in the school.

Confirmation Certificate

Students should pick up their Confirmation Certificate in the school after the ceremony.