



CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PLAN 2017-2018



The Sacrament of Confirmation is a turning point in our faith journey. Through this Sacrament we are fully initiated into the Catholic Church and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which enable us to live out our faith in the fullness of grace. This Sacrament and the preparation preceding the Sacrament should not be taken lightly. This information gives candidates an idea of what to expect in their preparation for Confirmation.

YEAR PRIOR TO CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Archdiocesan guidelines state that every young person wishing to be confirmed should be participating in their parish community and **be registered in that parish** unless their parish and the parish they wish to prepare at have granted special permission. Therefore, **ALL** candidates for Confirmation are expected to participate in the parish in some capacity the year prior to their Confirmation. Candidates are expected to attend Mass regularly and be an active member of our faith community. Active involvement includes, but is not limited to, regular attendance (weekly commitment) in one or more of the following:

- WCFF (Whole Community Faith Formation) Sundays, 9:45-10:45am.
- Night FLASH (Once a month Sunday evening high school bible study)
- Music ministry or liturgical ministry
- Parish outreach ministries
- For those students attending Catholic High School we know that much is done on faith formation in your Religion classes. We still ask some level of parish involvement during that first year and an written explanation from the Catholic High Student as to how they feel their faith based activities at their Catholic School are helping them to prepare for the Sacrament that first year.

We ask that you find some way to be a part of Queen of Peace Community each week along with your faithful commitment to the Celebration of Mass.

YEAR OF CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

The year students will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation the following requirements need to be met (*after having completed one year of active involvement in the parish community*):

1. Whole Community Faith Formation: **ALL** candidates for Confirmation are expected to participate in the parish youth ministry program, **Whole Community Faith Formation (WCFF)**, the year of their preparation. WCFF Begins **Sunday October 1st from 9:45-10:45am in the gym.**

2. Confirmation Preparation Sessions: You are **also** expected to attend our special Confirmation Preparation Sessions, which are a breakout session during WCFF. These six sessions cover aspects of our faith that are more specific to the Sacrament of Confirmation and The Holy Spirit. We ask that your parents and your sponsor attend these meetings with you.

3. Attend Mass Regularly. Confirmation initiates us into full membership with the universal and local church, insisting on a personal commitment to attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Day and show a willingness to contribute to the Eucharistic celebration by praying, listening, singing, and perhaps serving in a special liturgical ministry.

4. Read one of the Gospels. We suggest the Gospel of Mark, it's the shortest and presents a good basic understanding of whom Jesus is and his invitation to faith.

5. Attend 2 Retreats or Conferences/Rallies. Retreats are an amazing opportunity for candidates to dig deeper into their faith lives and to get to know Christ and other Catholic youth a little better. The AFTERNOON CANDIDATE GATHERINGS on Sunday, October 22nd and Sunday February 11th, 12:30-5pm, for candidates do not count as one of your retreats, although they are an expectation to attend. These are gatherings used for the candidates to get to know those they are going through preparation with and to help them understand the preparation journey. We ask that you attend at least one other retreat, along with either a second retreat or a rally/conference.

6. Choose a Confirmation Sponsor (indicate on attendance sheet by our November meeting) Parents are not to be sponsors for their own child. Each candidate should choose a sponsor who meets the following requirements: 1) must be age 16 or older, 2) must belong to the Catholic Church and have been initiated in the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist; 3) should be attending Mass regularly and receiving The Eucharist. It is recommended that the Baptismal sponsor serve as Confirmation sponsor as well, to reinforce the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. The sponsor should be someone who will support the candidate in living the Christian life, and who will pray with and for the candidate.

7. Keep A Mass Journal At our Introductory Confirmation Day Retreat (Oct. 8th), each candidate will receive a Mass Journal. We ask each candidate to become even more deeply involved in the Mass each Sunday by reflecting on the readings, the homily, and the Mass itself and to seriously ask the question. “God, show me one way in this Mass I can become a better person this week.” Not only does this help you with the process and the discernment, but also as you write your thoughts and feelings, you become more aware of your relationship with God through His liturgy, and He responds through grace to your writings. This is a wonderful practice that can enhance your Mass experience and your Confirmation preparation.

8. Faithfully complete the Home Study Course or attend 12 Sunday afternoon Confirmation Classes
I offer two different options for your main preparation study.

The first option is a home study process to help those of you with conflicting schedules. I will be sending you via e-mail, and giving you at our meetings, reflection questions to continue your study each week on your own. In keeping with the Archdiocesan guidelines for Confirmation preparation it is vitally important for candidates, their parents and their sponsors to work together during the preparation process. The home study portion of your preparation is not meant to be done alone, but it is meant to strike up dialogue with other Catholic Christians in your life, especially your parents and your sponsor. Our main source of information and study with this option comes from The YouCat (Youth Catechism) and you will be asked to read a portion of it each week and then reflect together with parents and sponsor on what you have read. After reading and reflecting you will answer two reflection questions taken from what you have read. ***I will be asking candidates to share their reflections with me.***

The second option is a study called *Decision Point*, by Dynamic Catholic, featuring Matthew Kelly. It includes a series of video clips that will direct our discussion, along with a workbook that each candidate will receive. We will meet 12 Sunday afternoons (12:30pm-2:30pm) and parents and/or sponsors are asked to attend.

You will need to decide at the beginning of your year of Confirmation preparation which option you are going to use and stick with that all year. Of course, I would LOVE to see you choose both and really become filled with the fire of The Holy Spirit.

9. Baptismal Certificates (at our November meeting) Each candidate must have been baptized in the Catholic Church or have been validly baptized in another Christian denomination. It is necessary that this baptism be validated by the Church. **I will need a copy of your Baptismal Certificate, even if you were baptized at Queen of Peace.**

10. Choose a Confirmation Name (before our January meeting) *Selecting a Confirmation name is optional but highly encouraged.* The name chosen is used by the bishop during the celebration. Candidates may choose to use their Baptism names for Confirmation. However, if a candidate wishes to choose a Confirmation name the following considerations should be observed: The name reflects a Christian ideal, goal or value that the candidate wishes to strive for, or the name is chosen in honor of a particular saint whose holiness or charitable works inspires the candidate. Cool websites to search for Saint Information:

<http://www.catholic.org/saints>

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/indexsnt.htm>

<http://www.cin.org/saintlink.html>

11. **Service** Confirmation candidates are called to provide service within the church and community. We offer many service opportunities here at Queen of Peace, plus there are many opportunities in our city, neighborhood, schools, and families. Some Queen of Peace opportunities are: **Craft Fair Café / Coffee/Donuts / WCFE – set up...tear down, musician, singer / Poinsettia and Christmas Tree Sales / Table of Plenty / Habitat 4 Humanity/ Children’s Ministry Opportunities/ Altar Server/Choir member/ special events.** You will be asked to write a written reflection on the service that you participated in during your preparation period.

12. Letter to Father Tim (due by our March meeting) Candidates are expected to write a letter to our parish priest indicating a desire to be confirmed. Our goal is to help Father Tim discern your readiness to be Confirmed and what you have done in order to prepare for this Sacrament. Letters should have the salutation, “*Dear Father Tim...*”. Please bring letters to our Sunday morning meeting in March or to any youth meeting before this date. This letter should be sincere, short, and include (but not limited to) the following in your own words:

- indicate a desire to be confirmed
- share what has been most inspirational to you during your preparation
- share some information about what you did as service and what it meant to you

13. Interview with Youth Ministry Coordinator. Toward the end of your Confirmation preparation period, (and earlier if needed) you will be asked to set up a time to meet with the youth ministry coordinator to discern together your readiness for the sacrament. At this meeting we will go over your commitment to the preparation, and discuss any concerns or questions that still exist. You will have the option to meet alone, or with parents and/or sponsor, or with another candidate or two.

We will be reviewing the handouts, ***Outlines of the Catholic Faith and discussing what we learned by studying the YouCat (Youth Catechism) all year or from Decision Point.*** You will be expected to understand and feel comfortable with the contents of these booklets that you will receive during your preparation period. These booklets contain many basic principles and prayers of our Catholic Church.

Specific to Confirmation/Session Dates and other expectations:

(Please note that these dates MAY change due to conflicts and other such things. Always check the bulletin, or your email, and always feel free to email me with questions, cheri@qpsalem.org. Please also note that there are MANY other events in youth ministry that we hope you will get involved with. Attending all WCFF sessions is an expectation, and we also offer monthly bible study, (aka F.L.A.S.H. Café), movie nights, monthly study series, and a ski trip.)

- **Items highlighted in yellow are considered to be opportunities that you are expected to attend but are not considered one of your retreat/rally/conference requirements.**
- **Items highlighted in green are Decision Point Sessions.**
Please make sure you keep these dates open so you can attend these sessions.
- **Items highlighted in blue are Retreat/Rally/Conference opportunities**
- **Confirmation Sessions are highlighted in magenta**

DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Sun., September 10	9:45-10:45am	Chapel	CONFIRMATION 1 st and 2 nd yr. CANDIDATES and PARENTS MEETING
Tues., Sept. 26	7pm	Gathering Area	Internet addictions Father Carey
Thurs., Sept. 28	7pm	Gathering Area	Opening Up Ephesians Father Carey
Sun., Oct. 1	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF Kick Off
Sun., Oct 8	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., Oct 15	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., Oct. 15	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #1
Sun., October 15	6:00-9:00pm	St. Edward's	High School Vicariate Fall Kick Off
Sun., Oct. 22	12:30-5:00pm	Youth Center	2 nd Yr. CANDIDATE GATHERING #1
Sun., Oct 29	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., Oct 29	11am-6pm	Southlake Church 1555 SW Borland Rd. West Linn	"Your Amazing" Youth Rally
Sun., November 5	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF (daylight savings ends)
Sun., November 5	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then Chapel	Session One: Who Are We/Who Is God?
Sun., November 5	11:00 Mass	Church	Blessing and Welcome Rite
Sun., November 5	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #2
Sun., November 12	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF (C2P Session)
Sun., November 19	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., November 19	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then Chapel	Session Two: Sacraments/Sacramentals
Sun., November 19	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #3
Sat-Sun., Nov. 25-26	2 hr. shifts	QP Craft Fair	F.L.A.S.H. Café (service opportunity)
Sat-Sun., Dec. 2-3	After all Masses	Gathering Area	Poinsettia Sale (service opportunity)
Sun., Dec. 3	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., Dec. 3	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #4
Sun., Dec. 10	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., December 10	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then Chapel	Session Three: How Do We Serve
Fri.-Sat., Dec. 16- 17	TBA	FBYC, Mt. Angel	Called To Greatness Retreat (retreat opportunity)
Sun., Jan. 7	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., Jan. 7	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #5
Sun., Jan. 21	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., Jan. 21	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #6
Sun., Jan. 28	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., Feb. 4	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF

DATE	TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Sun., Feb. 4	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then Chapel	Session Four: Being Catholic, Not For Wimps
Sun., Feb. 4	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #7
Sun., Feb. 11	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., Feb. 11	12:30-5:00pm	Youth Center	2 nd Yr. CANDIDATE GATHERING #2
Sun., Feb. 25	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., March 4	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., March 4	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #8
Sat., March 10	ALL DAY	PDX	Rise Up! Rally (rally opportunity)
Sun., March 11	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., March 11	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then Chapel	Session Five: How Do We Pray?
Sun., March 11	11:00 Mass	Church	Rite of Covenant
Sun., March 18	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., March 18	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #9
Mon. Mar. 26-29	All Day	TBA	Camp Joshua (retreat opportunity)
Sun., April 8	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., April 8	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then Chapel	Session Six: Life After Confirmation
Sun., April 8	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #10
***Fri-Sun. Apr 13-15	3:30pm-2:30pm	Lincoln City	Beach Retreat (retreat opportunity)
Sun., April 15	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Fri-Sun. Apr 20-22	TBA	FBYC	Confirmation Retreat (retreat opportunity)
Sun., April 22	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	WCFF
Sun., April 29	9:45-10:45am	Gym, then YC	Last WCFF (St. Germaine Baby Shower)
Sun., April 29	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #11
Sun., May 6	12:30-2:30pm	Youth Center	Decision Point Confirmation Study #12
***Fri.-Sat., May 11-12	Fri. 6pm-Sat.7pm	QP, Tualatin	24-hour Food Fast Retreat (retreat opportunity)
<i>TBD</i>	<i>6:30pm</i>	<i>St. Ed's or QP</i>	<i>Confirmation Rehearsal</i>
<i>Thursday, May 17*</i>	<i>7:00pm</i>	<i>St. Ed's or QP</i>	<i>Confirmation Celebration</i>

If you are interested in being confirmed but have not been baptized or received your First Communion, please contact us immediately. The sacrament will be celebrated during the Easter Season. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Cheri Posedel (cheri@qpsalem.org) or at 503-364-7202, ext. 206.