



St. Patrick Parish
Confirmation Preparation – 2024/25
8th Grade

During confirmation, we are sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and sent out on mission to be soldiers for Christ in this world. It is an acceptance by the confirmation candidate of the Holy Spirit working in their life. This means this is not the end of a journey; rather, it marks the beginning of entering mission territory for the Body of Christ.

Our confirmation preparation focuses on knowing the Gifts the Holy Spirit provides to us at baptism and are hyper infused into each candidate at confirmation, knowing the fruits of the Holy Spirit that are visible when we are living the life Christ set out for us, applying our faith in our lives through small group discussions and activities, learning how to discern where the Lord is calling us, and then making the choice to do it! Remember this is a JOURNEY. It will not happen overnight, nor will it conclude on the day of confirmation. The journey takes time and consistently being aware of the Holy Spirit’s promptings and work in our lives so we can actively give our “yes” to wherever He is calling us – just as Mother Mary did at the Annunciation.

Our goals through confirmation preparation are:

- A deeper understanding of who the Holy Spirit is (His promptings, His gifts, etc.) and understanding the Lord’s call for each of us.
- An understanding and acceptance of the Sacrament of confirmation.
- A deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.
- A desire to be the hands and feet of Jesus in this world – in other words, to SERVE!

Parental Role in Confirmation

Parents are the primary educators of their children, especially as it relates to our faith. As parents, it is your responsibility to ensure your child is “suitably instructed” and “properly disposed,” but we are here to help! Additionally, it is important that parents not approach the confirmation of their child simply as “graduation” from religious education, a “rite of passage”, or “family tradition.” Confirmation is just the beginning of a new journey of a life of service within the Body of Christ!

There must be serious intent on your part to support your child as a practicing Catholic. This means taking seriously the moral and spiritual obligations given to us through the teaching authority of the Church. To that end, parents and candidates must be registered members of St. Patrick Parish (see below if you are registered at another Catholic parish) and demonstrate a history of active membership by *attending Mass*

every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and Holy Days of Obligation. You will be asked to sign a form acknowledging this. **If you are currently not attending Mass regularly, you will need to contact Fr. Mike and meet with him to discuss your personal circumstances before your child can be confirmed.**

It is the role of the parent to do the following for confirmation preparation:

- Ensure weekly Sunday Mass attendance as well as on Holy Days of Obligation.
- Support your child in the completion of all confirmation preparation requirements. Help them make preparation a priority.
- Ensure your child receives the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) just before receiving the sacrament of confirmation.
- Encourage your child to make weekly contact with their sponsor to talk about their journey towards the Lord through the sacrament of confirmation, as well as other details of their life and how they relate to their faith.
- Volunteer as opportunities present themselves! Remember the saying that “more is caught than taught.” When they see us living our faith and serving others, they see beautiful examples of the people God created us to be.

If you are registered at another Catholic parish but have good cause to request the sacrament of confirmation in this parish (for example, your child attends St. Patrick School and would like to celebrate this sacrament with their class), please *obtain a letter from your pastor* attesting to the below qualifiers. This letter can be submitted with your *Confirmation Preparation* form:

1. You are a registered member of his parish.
2. You actively participate by regularly attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
3. Permission is given for your child to be prepared and confirmed at St. Patrick Parish.

Parent/Student Confirmation Preparation Meeting – September 8 or September 15

There will be two confirmation preparation meetings for all 8th grade students and their parents who will be seeking the sacrament of confirmation this school year. They will be held on Sunday, September 8, 2025, and Sunday, September 15, 2025, both immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall. **Attendance at one of those meetings by both the student and at least one parent is required.** We will discuss all information relating to confirmation preparation, answer any questions, and distribute all necessary paperwork to register your child. **At this meeting, we will discuss in length the following:**

In-Person Confirmation Preparation

Our in-person confirmation preparation option is done through our Edge Middle School Youth Ministry program held on Sunday evenings. We utilize the Catholic youth ministry program called “Edge” which helps students better understand our faith and how to live it according to His will. We then infuse confirmation preparation into the nights to help them understand this beautiful sacrament and what it means in their own lives. To fulfill the confirmation preparation requirements utilizing the in-person option, it is required for the candidate to attend nine (9) of the highlighted nights within the school calendar year (see calendar for highlighted dates).

It is important to note that no aspect of these nights can be effectively “made up” at a time more convenient. This is a spiritual journey and one that requires accompaniment and community, which is what the program is designed to provide. Please be sure to mark these nights on the calendar, as well as the other required nights, and realize their priority when making other commitments.

This will require an open mind and heart on the part of the youth. They will get out of this what they put into it, just as with everything else in life. When they are in attendance it is our expectation that they are truly present and participating in the activities and discussions.

Online Confirmation Preparation

While the in-person confirmation preparation option is strongly encouraged because we are built to grow in faith through community, we do understand that some circumstances make it difficult to participate. Therefore, we do have an online preparation option that is to be completed by the candidate AND either their sponsor or their parent(s).

As has been utilized in our parish for the last five years, families may choose to complete the Chosen program online. This will consist of a series of 12 short courses that provide content, activities, and conversation topics. You will receive a calendar detailing which sessions should be completed each month.

As with the in-person confirmation preparation option, the students (and sponsor and/or parents) will get out of the program what they put into it. An open mind and heart to discussing the topics and discussion questions in each of the sessions with each other is a must.

If you decide this is the best option for your child and family, it is still highly encouraged they attend youth group when able. It is not only good for them to be in relationship with others, but also for the Church as the Body of Christ.

Confirmation Retreat – February 1, 2025

The confirmation retreat will allow candidates to dive deeper into our faith in an atmosphere where they are better able to focus and begin to discover what the Lord is calling them to. They will be discovering and rediscovering the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the fruits of the Holy Spirit, as well as what it means to be a soldier for Christ in the Church today. Our retreat team will lead the candidates in small groups and activities. Diving deeper into our faith doesn't have to be bland. It can be FUN and that is what we intend on doing!

All 8th grade students (not sponsors) seeking confirmation are **required** to attend this and only under extenuating circumstances will other arrangements be made.

Should you have any questions or want to discuss confirmation preparation further, Contact Nikki Brown at nikkibrown@portlandstpats.org or 517-647-6505 ext 2052.