

Saint Pius X Confirmation Preparation Guidelines

2023-2024

Class Attendance – Class attendance is very important. For those enrolled in Religious Education, make every effort to attend all classes. Home school children need to follow a dedicated curriculum covering Confirmation. The Diocese has created a program through Our Sunday Visitor which it encourages all families to follow – this program is available for purchase through the Religious Education office. SPX school students will complete a study of Confirmation during their school religion classes.

Dates of Confirmation – We will only be celebrating ONE Confirmation Mass in 2024. The date of Confirmation will be Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 pm. Students and sponsors are asked to arrive at 1:20 to prepare for the liturgy. Mass will last approximately 2-2 ½ hours, with a reception with the Bishop to follow. Please mark your calendar with this date/time now! There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, April 20 at 6:30 pm for the Confirmandi and sponsors.

Parent Preparation – We will host two parent preparation meetings for Confirmation during the year. We ask for at least one parent to attend these meetings, even families who have been through the Confirmation process before (as some information changes from year to year). **Fall meeting dates** (all meetings in the Parish Life Center): 9/5, 5:30 pm; 9/6, 12:00 pm; 9/14, 6:30 pm. **Spring meeting dates** (all meetings in the Parish Life Center, sponsors encouraged to attend): 3/6, 12:00 pm; 3/7, 6:30 pm; 3/13, 5:30 pm.

Information Sheet/Baptismal Certificates – All students must complete and submit a *Confirmation Information Sheet* and return it with their Saint Report (due: March 15, 2024). If students were baptized at Saint Pius X, we already have record of their baptism. Those baptized elsewhere will need to provide a copy of their baptismal certificate. Please do not give us originals. If you do not have a copy, we will make one for you and return your original immediately. If there are problems locating the baptismal certificate, please contact us, and we will help if possible.

Confirmation Name – A new name is not necessary for Confirmation, but most students choose a new name. If a new name is not chosen, emphasis is placed on the name given at Baptism. The new name chosen should be the name of a saint, and the saint questionnaire should correspond to the chosen Confirmation name.

Confirmation Sponsor – The sponsor needs to be a practicing Catholic **in good standing**, at least 16 years of age, and fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This person should give witness to our faith by the way he or she lives and serves as a role model for the candidate, ideally someone who is in regular relationship with the candidate. Parents may not be sponsors but godparents are eligible to serve as sponsors, as Confirmation continues the grace received in Baptism. Males may be sponsors for females and females for males. **Only one sponsor is allowed.**

Saint Questionnaire – Confirmandi are asked to complete a short worksheet, exploring the life and works of a saint of their choosing. We have many books about various saints available for loan in the Religious Education office or parish library. Students may also use the Internet or the public library as a resource. If students do not wish to choose a new name for Confirmation, this may instead be about any saint of special importance. The saint questionnaire is due on March 15, 2024. Students should begin considering their Confirmation saint now, as we will discuss this during the Confirmation retreat.

Confirmation Retreat – Our retreat will be held on **Saturday, October 7**. The day will begin at 12:00 pm, and conclude with Mass for students and their families at 5:00 pm. Students will hear from dynamic speakers, speak with clergy and staff about the meaning of the sacrament, participate in reconciliation, and find ways to connect with other ministries in our parish. Please mark this date in your calendars now. Attendance is *very strongly* encouraged, and students who miss will be asked to make up the retreat day with another parish. **Students will also be asked to bring their sponsor with them to the retreat if possible. If a sponsor cannot attend, then we ask that a parent or other committed adult in the student's life attend with them in the sponsor's place. If this will be a hardship, please contact the Religious Education office.**

Service Projects – 25 hours of service are recommended to foster a habit of stewardship in the Confirmandi. Students are to submit their completed record of service hours to the Religious Education office by April 8, 2024.