

Confirmation Preparation

St. Leo's Catholic Church
2021-2022

All sacraments are an encounter with Christ.

YOUCAT 193

Dear parents/guardians,

Confirmation is often misunderstood as the moment when the confirmed become “adults in the faith” or “graduates” of religious education. The Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church (YOUCAT) says that it is more like:

When a coach sends a soccer player into the playing field, he puts his hand on his shoulder and gives him final instructions. We can understand Confirmation in a similar way. A hand is placed upon us. We step out onto the field of life. Through the Holy Spirit we know what we have to do and we have been given the power to do it...we will win the game for Him. (YOUCAT 203)

Much like the start of a game, Confirmation, as a Sacrament of Initiation, marks the beginning of something. **It begins our mission to be daily witnesses of our faith, sealed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.**

This year, your teen is preparing to be commissioned as an evangelist, someone who shares the gospel by the way they live their daily life. This is no small task! Everything that we do to prepare for Confirmation, therefore, seeks to equip them for that purpose. And because this is the most lasting and important thing they will do this year, it deserves the time to prepare well.

Confirmation holds a special place in my heart because it was the turning point for me from a lukewarm faith to an active pursuit of God. My prayer and goal is that it would be just as impactful in the life of your teen as it was and continues to be in mine.

If you have any questions that are not answered in this guide then please feel free to contact me at stleoyouth@gmail.com or 336-724-9596.

God bless,



Bethany Fischer
Director of Youth Ministry

Confirmation Preparation

For all candidates preparing to receive Confirmation at St. Leo's

	Day/Time	Where	Due	For more information
Class #1: The Holy Spirit	November 14 th 9-10:15 am	Youth Room	Copy of Baptismal Certificate & Personal Reflection	see below & page 5
Class #2: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit	December 5 th 9-10:15 am	Youth Room		
Class #3: Confirmation	March 13 th 9-10:15 am	Youth Room	Sponsor Sheet & Saint Name Paragraph	pages 6-10
Class #4: Eucharist	April 3 rd 9-10:15 am	Youth Room		
Snow Make-Up Class	March 27 th 9-10:15 am			
Interviews	Date TBA 3-4 pm 6:30-7:30 pm	Youth Room		page 11
Rehearsal	Date TBA 7:00-7:45 pm	Activity Center & Church		
Confirmation Mass	TBA	Activity Center & Church		

We ***DO NOT*** need a copy of the baptismal certificate copy for:

- Candidates who were Baptized and/or who received First Eucharist at St. Leo
- St. Leo School students

Confirmation Classes

Class Set-Up

Candidates are divided into small groups that they will be with for each of the classes. Each group will have six teens, one adult leader, and one high school co-leader.

Class Attendance

Candidates should have good attendance in either their Faith Formation or school religion classes. If they are enrolled in a home study program then they should turn in those assignments on time.

Since we only have four confirmation classes, attendance is especially important. Sickness and family events are excusable absences, but any time a class is missed, makeup work will be assigned.

Makeup work policy

- *First & second absence:* written makeup work emailed the day after class that can be turned in by the following class.
- *Third:* Meeting with Bethany to discuss if Confirmation preparation should be delayed a year.

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, when Faith Formation is canceled then Confirmation class is also canceled. I will send an email to let you know, but it will also be on WXII as "St. Leo Faith Formation" (or something very similar).

Choosing a Sponsor

Why a sponsor?

At Baptism godparents were chosen for you who provided a witness to your entrance into the family of God and who promised to pray for and help guide you in the Catholic faith. A Confirmation sponsors fulfills those same responsibilities.

Who can be a sponsor?

The Code of Canon Law, in paragraph 893, states, "It is desirable that the sponsor chosen be the one who undertook this role at Baptism." If neither of your godparents is available to fill this role or if you would rather choose someone else then they need to be:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Be a baptized Catholic who has been confirmed
- Not your parent
- A person who lives an authentically Catholic life

What makes a good sponsor?

The role of the sponsor is to:

1. Assists you in preparing to receive the sacrament
2. Presents you to the bishop at Confirmation
3. Along with your parents/guardians, helps you live out your Christian life faithfully

Pick someone who loves being Catholic, loves Jesus Christ, and is a great example of holiness! They can be a teacher, a relative, a family friend, the mom or dad of one of your friends, a neighbor, etc.

What if my child's sponsor cannot attend?

Another adult that fulfills the above requirements can be a proxy sponsor and stand-in for the sponsor if they cannot attend. This can be a parent.

Please see the [Confirmation page of the website](#) for the
Sponsor Form

Choosing a Confirmation Saint Name

*“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name.”
Isaiah 43:1*

These words of God through the prophet Isaiah are powerful! Through them, God tells us that He knows us personally, he calls us by name, and we are His.

In the rite of Confirmation you are called by name. At the moment the Sacrament is conferred you will stand before the bishop, your sponsor will place his or her hand on your shoulder, and give your name to the bishop. The bishop will then make the sign of the cross on your forehead with chrism saying, “(Your Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”

The Church encourages you to use the saint’s name given to you at baptism as your Confirmation name to emphasize the strong connection between these two sacraments. If your baptismal name is not a saint’s name then you should choose one for Confirmation.

Why a saint’s name? The saints offer us their powerful intercession; powerful because they are in the presence of God. Their earthly lives also offer us an example of holiness. Bl. Mother Teresa said, “Holiness is not the luxury of a few; it is a simple duty, for you and for me.” Saints show us how to live a life set apart for God and then pray for us to help us along the way!

Making the Decision

Whether you choose to use your baptismal name or a new one, it is important to learn as much as you can about the saint name you are taking. Don’t pick a name just because it sounds good or is popular; pick a saint that you can relate to or who did something that inspires you. Take your time. Pray about it.

Saint Information Online

www.catholic.org/saints

<https://info.franciscanmedia.org/saints>

Confirmation Saint Name

Your Name: _____

Confirmation Saint Name: _____

Tell me a little bit about this saint and why you chose them (150 word explanation)

Confirmation Interview Questions

We will ask the following questions as well as some open-ended questions about the candidate's experience of preparing for Confirmation.

1. What is a Sacrament?

Sacraments are holy, visible signs instituted by Christ of an invisible reality, in which Christians can experience the presence of God. This is possible because God's grace works in the sacraments (YOUCAT p. 105).

2. What are the seven sacraments?

Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony

3. What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacrament that completes baptism; in it the gift of the Holy Spirit is bestowed upon us. It secures and strengthens us to be a living witness to Christ (YOUCAT p. 120).

4. How does the bishop give Confirmation?

The bishop extends his hands over those who are to be confirmed, prays that they may receive the Holy Spirit and anoints the forehead of each with holy chrism in the form of a cross.

5. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

- Wisdom- being able to see that the ways of God are best
- Understanding- getting the "why" of what we believe
- Counsel- being able to make the right decision
- Fortitude- being committed to doing the right thing even if it's difficult or inconvenient
- Knowledge- being able to decide if something is right or wrong
- Piety- acting out of love for God
- Fear of the Lord- being able to see the glory of God in our world and acting so as not to offend God

Confirmation Mass

We will not know our Confirmation date until Spring 2022. When we know the date I will send you the rehearsal and Mass information. Right now, I don't know the logistics of Mass (how many guests, etc) because so much could change between now and Confirmation.

Dress code:

Guys: jacket and nice pants, tie, dress shoes

Girls: dress or skirt that reaches to the knees or dress pants with a nice blouse, dress shoes

Please, no bare shoulders, sneakers, flip flops/sandals (no matter how nice they are), or jeans. This dress code goes for Confirmation candidates and their sponsors since both will be approaching the bishop at Confirmation.

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