

Information Concerning the Sacrament of Confirmation 2019

GUIDELINES FOR PARISH PREPARATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOR CONFIRMATION IN THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

- ***Age considerations***
 - Each parish in the Diocese of Scranton annually invites persons in the equivalent of Grade 8 to participate in a process of Confirmation catechesis and then the liturgical celebration. Direct preparation for Confirmation is to take place at the parish where the young person presently worships and/or is registered. Catholic schools do not offer preparation programs for Confirmation, and eligible young people will celebrate Confirmation in their own parish.
- ***Sponsors***
 - Sponsors for Confirmation must meet the requirements as in Canon Law:
 - At least sixteen years old and have received all three sacraments of initiation;
 - Lead a life in harmony with the Catholic faith;
 - Not bound by any penalty of the Church;
 - Not the parent of the person to be confirmed
 - In addition, the sponsors must be able to participate in the preparation process and willing to serve as a guide, confidante and listener. This assumes the local residency of the sponsor and that he or she has a positive and comfortable relationship with the candidate.
- ***Enrollment process/ Celebration Dates and Host Parishes***
 - Annually, parishes will be asked to enroll the candidates who are seeking Confirmation within the given year. Based on this response, a specific number of Confirmation celebrations will be scheduled with Host Parishes, and the dates/locations published well in advance. In this way, most celebrations will include candidates from several parishes together.

- ***Interactions with Presiding Bishop***
 - It is no longer necessary – but encouraged – to prepare students by having them memorize a fixed set of “questions for the Bishop.” However, the Bishop will still interact with them either before Mass or during the homily, and will invite them to respond to such questions as:
 - What does receiving the sacrament of Confirmation mean to you?
 - What is one way you have seen the gospel message of Jesus being lived out in your parish?
 - How do you intend to put your faith into action over the next few years?
 - What gifts do you want to share with your parish community?
 - How can your parish community continue to support you in your faith journey?
- ***Confirmation Name***
 - It is most appropriate to be confirmed with one’s baptismal name, thereby reaffirming and bearing witness to the unity of the sacraments of initiation and the baptismal promises. Whether the young person is confirmed with his/her baptismal name, or chooses a new name for Confirmation, they are also strongly encouraged to have a very clear reason for the choice and how the patron saint or namesake provides them a model of lived faith.
- ***Service Hours***
 - The purpose of service hours for Confirmation is not simply to attain a certain number of hours but to grow in the virtue of charity, and emphasis and build community. The requirements are:
 - 10 hours in Community
 - 10 hours in Parish
 - 3 service projects with class
- ***Sacramental Catechesis***
 - Each parish is tasked with the immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. The parish program is responsible for:
 - Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
 - Promoting Participation in Liturgy and Sacraments
 - Integrating Moral Formation and Life
 - Teaching to Pray
 - Initiation into the life of the Church
 - Promoting Missionary Spirit

- In order to cover these six key areas, Most Holy Trinity Parish will hold six mandatory catechetical preparation classes for the sacrament of Confirmation. Three (3) classes will be held in the Spring of 2019 and three (3) classes in the Fall of 2019. Each class will begin with the 4pm Mass on Saturday and conclude at 8pm at the Parish Center. Attendance is mandatory and failure to participate will delay the reception of the sacrament.
- ***Confirmation Retreat***
 - Prayer is an essential part of the Christian life. Through prayer we grow in our relationship with God and we grow in faith. Liturgical prayer is the greatest prayer of the Church, and the Holy Triduum liturgies beautifully invite our contemplation of Christ's Paschal Mystery. Accordingly, our retreat for Confirmation candidates will be on Good Friday, April 19, 2019.
- ***Dress Code***
 - Confirmation is not graduation. Being Catholic means that learning to love God more deeply is a lifelong process and commitment. To help dispel the notion of the sacrament as graduation, gowns will no longer be worn.
 - The following are minimal diocesan guidelines for attire:
 - ***Young Men*** should wear dress slacks, dress shirt with tie, and dress shoes. A suit jacket may also be worn, but is optional. Shoes should be sensible for safety when walking. No jeans, sneakers or flip flops.
 - ***Young women*** should wear dresses or skirts appropriate in length and style, or dress slacks. Dresses or blouses will have a modest neckline with no bare shoulders. Shoes should be sensible for safety when walking. No jeans, sneakers or flip flops.