



ST. PETER CATHEDRAL

Confirmation Preparation Process & Application

Year 1



SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

311 W. Baraga Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

(906) 226-6548

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

2021-2022 St. Peter Cathedral Faith Formation

In 2012, after much review, the Diocese of Marquette revised the preparation and guidelines for the Sacrament of Confirmation, setting a new standard age for the sacrament.

Standard timing for Confirmation is the spring of the **11th grade year**, *following the preparation process attached.*

- *Current 10th grade students, not yet confirmed:*

May be confirmed in the **spring of 2023, during their 11th grade year**. These students are to continue or begin preparation **this September, 2021**. Their preparation will follow a **two-year model**.

- *Current and future 9th grade students, not yet confirmed.*

The diocese high school faith formation curriculum is the catechetical portion of the Confirmation Preparation program. ***All 9th grade students must enroll in our high school faith formation program to begin their preparation for the sacrament.***

- *Current and future high school students, previously confirmed.*

We highly encourage all high school students to be a part of our faith formation program regardless of whether or not they have been confirmed. Formation in our faith is a lifelong process. "By the sacrament of Confirmation," those already confirmed "are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." (CCC #1285)

Confirmed high school students provide a powerful, vital witness to their peers preparing for the sacrament. A classroom mix of students preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation with those who have been confirmed allows these students to experience both necessary components to their formation in faith: learning and witnessing.

High School Formation & Confirmation Preparation Materials

St. Peter Cathedral will be utilizing *Be Healed* by Dr. Bob Schuchts, *Loved as I am* by Sr. Miriam Heidland and *The Wild Goose* hosted by Fr. Dave Pivonka, along with videos from Formed.org, a mix of service projects, retreat opportunities, and social outings. Some of the service projects we will be taking part in this year will have to do with the Care Clinic, St. Vincent de Paul, and providing service around our very own church.

Retreat opportunities include Youth Encounter, NET, Steubenville Youth Conferences, as well as parish retreats. We have a lot of new opportunities and activities happening. High school formation is led by Katelyn McKeen and a team of young adults.

For more information, please contact the Faith Formation Office: 906-226-6548

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

2021-2022 St. Peter Cathedral Faith Formation

Confirmation Preparation Process

9th Grade: Full year

Active participation in the life of the Church

- Regular attendance in parish High School Faith Formation program and its' activities
- Weekly attendance at Mass
- Retreat
- Service to the Church
- Service to the People of God

10th Grade:

Sept Call for Inquirers

"Those who are seeking to be considered candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation are presented to the faith community."

- ☐ Application for admission (see page 6)
- ☐ Letter to the pastor requesting to begin formal preparation for Confirmation (see page 7)
- ☐ Interview with the pastor (**new FF students**)
- ☐ Parent Meeting
 - Baptismal Certificate
 - Outline the preparation process (this packet)
 - Role of parents (utilizing the Chosen-Parent Guide)
- ☐ Selection of sponsor
 - Submit the Confirmation Sponsor Form to the Faith Formation Office (pg 12)
 - Monthly communication between candidate and sponsor
 - Periodic communication between parish and sponsor
- ☐ Celebration of Reconciliation

Full year

Active participation in the life of the Church

- Regular attendance in parish High School Faith Formation program and its' activities
- Weekly attendance at Mass
- Retreat
- Service to the Church
- Service to the People of God

OVER —————→

11th Grade:

Full year

Active participation in the life of the Church

- Regular attendance in parish High School Faith Formation program and its' activities
- Weekly attendance at Mass
- Retreat
- Service to the Church
- Service to the People of God

February Call to Reflection & Conversion

This period is intended to enlighten the mind and heart with a deeper knowledge of Christ Jesus by asking the Holy Spirit to "fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love".

- Meeting with Candidates and Sponsors
- Final interview with pastor
- Letter to Bishop (*See page 11 for guidelines*)
- Celebration of Reconciliation

April Sacrament of Confirmation

12th Grade:

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit we are sent on mission to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

Full year

Active participation in the life of the Church

- Regular attendance in parish High School Faith Formation program and its' activities
- Weekly attendance at Mass
- Retreat
- Service to the Church
- Service to the People of God

Confirmed high school students provide a powerful, vital witness to their peers preparing for the sacrament. A classroom mix of students preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation with those who have been confirmed allows these students to experience both necessary components to their formation in faith: learning and witnessing.



ST. PETER CATHEDRAL

Confirmation Candidate Application Form

2021-2022

(For office use: Scheduled Date: _____)

FIRST NAME

MIDDLE NAME

LAST NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

HOME PHONE

CELL PHONE

EMAIL

GRADE

FATHER'S NAME

MOTHER'S NAME

CURRENT PARISH

ADDRESS OF PARISH

CHURCH OF BAPTISM*

ADDRESS OF CHURCH

Candidate's signature: _____ Date: _____

Guardian's signature: _____ Date: _____

Attach to this form:

1. *a copy of your baptismal certificate, if you were not baptized at St. Peter Cathedral.*
 2. *Candidate's Letter to the Pastor requesting to begin formal preparation for Confirmation*
- Submit the complete packet to the St. Peter Cathedral Faith Formation Office.***

Confirmation Priest Letter

Letter to Pastor (attach to your application, pg 6)

- A youth, together with his/her parents, who desires to enter into the formal process of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, must make their request in writing to their pastor.
- This letter must be typed neatly!
- The letter should be submitted prior to December 1 of their 10th grade year.

Suggested format for letter to Your Pastor

Date

Rev. Monsignor Michael Steber
St. Peter Cathedral
311 Baraga Ave
Marquette, MI 49855

Dear Msgr Steber,

Sincerely in Christ,

(Signature here)

OUR FORMAL NAME



ST. PETER CATHEDRAL

For Candidate- Candidate & Sponsor Information

CHOOSING A SPONSOR:

This is an important role and careful consideration and prayer should be involved in selecting your sponsor. The Church requires the sponsor be:

- a. Of sufficient maturity to fulfill the role of sponsor (at least 16 years of age)
- b. A member of the Catholic Church
- c. A practicing Catholic in good standing (this may require a letter from their pastor to your parish)
- d. Be a fully initiated Catholic, i.e, have been baptized, confirmed, and received Eucharist
- e. May not be the father or mother of the candidate

Please see your “Chosen-Parent Guide” for additional guidance selecting a Confirmation sponsor.

After careful, prayerful consideration by both the candidate and sponsor, the candidate should give the sponsor:

1. the Confirmation Sponsor Form (page 12)
2. the Sponsor’s copy of sponsor/candidate Monthly Communication Suggestions (pg 14)
3. The “Chosen- Sponsor Guide”

Items 2 & 3 are for the sponsor to keep and will help candidate and sponsor in sharing and growing in faith.

Item 1, the Confirmation Sponsor Form, should be completed and returned along with the items noted on the form. Please submit these to the St. Peter Cathedral Faith Formation Office as soon as possible.

OVER —————>

CANDIDATE'S COPY: SPONSOR/CANDIDATE MONTHLY COMMUNICATION SUGGESTIONS

In today's culture, technology makes communication, especially long distance communication easier than ever. It is recommended that you take advantage of email and social media to communicate with all involved in this process. The hope is that this will allow the sponsor to be more deeply involved in the preparation process.

It is important that open communication take place between the candidate and sponsor. Through the entire preparation process, the sponsor is an example of faith for the candidate. Below is a list of conversation starters and suggested questions to encourage this communication. This is not an all-inclusive list, both sponsors and candidates can choose other topics or questions as appropriate.

1. Candidate should contact the person they desire to have as their sponsor. They should tell them why they are asking them. Some reasons may be: You are my baptismal god parent; You are a model of faith, etc.
2. Discuss confirmation names. The Baptismal name is the norm, but another Christian name may be chosen.
3. Talk to your sponsor about baptism: Were they present at your baptism? Who were the sponsor's god parent's? Why do you (the sponsor) think my parents chose you?
4. Share with your sponsor the requirements for Confirmation. Ask if they can help in some way.
5. Ask who is their favorite saint and why?
6. Contact your sponsor and provide them with the details of the celebration of Confirmation. Don't wait until the month before; do it as soon as you get those details. Remind them again several times!
7. Share some of your struggles with the concept of the Trinity or other teachings of the Faith.
8. Tell your sponsor about your retreat experience(s).
9. If the candidate lives close to you, invite them to participate in a service project with you.
10. If your sponsor lives far away and comes to visit you, take the time to go to Mass with them, celebrate reconciliation, and just spend some one on one time.
11. Ask your sponsor how many sacraments they have celebrated; ask which one was the most memorable.
12. Pray the rosary together.
13. Ask your sponsor if they have a favorite sacramental.
14. Did your sponsor ever consider another vocation or state of life?
15. Ask your sponsor what memories they have of growing up Catholic. How does that compare to your experience?
16. At what age was your sponsor Confirmed? What do they remember? Who was bishop when they were confirmed?
17. After a little research, share some information about your patron saint (the saint with whom you share a name).
18. What is your favorite prayer and why?
19. Have a discussion on political topics that affect a life of faith.
20. Share the struggles of living a chaste life.

CANDIDATE'S COPY

CHOOSING A CONFIRMATION NAME

Many people choose an additional saint's name at Confirmation. The preferred name, however, is the baptismal name because it expresses the relationship that exists between Baptism and Confirmation.

If a new name is chosen it should be the name of a recognized saint of the Catholic Church. If the baptismal name is not that of a recognized saint a new name should be chosen for Confirmation.

Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron saint's name, not because of the attractiveness of the name but because of the attractiveness of the Christian life that the person led.

Below is a worksheet which will help you in selecting a saint. Consult the Church, the Church library, parents, your sponsor, catechists/youth minister, pastor or select Catholic websites for information about our many saints. *This form is for your use only.*

SAINT'S NAME: _____ **FEAST DAY:** _____

PATRON OF: _____ **(You may like to celebrate this each year.)**

SAINT'S PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

Family Life: _____

Occupation: _____

LIFE AND/OR DEATH: _____

SAINT'S SIGNIFICANT VIRTUES: _____

WHY YOU PICKED THIS SAINT? _____

What can you do to better follow your patron saint's example? _____

Confirmation Sample Letters from the Diocese of Marquette

Letter to the Bishop

- A youth, seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation must write a formal letter of request to the Bishop following the guidelines listed below.
- It must be typed neatly and free of grammatical and spelling errors!
- ***The letter must be submitted to your pastor/parish catechetical leader prior to the Period of Formation, which begins in February of the 11th grade year.*** The pastor/parish catechetical leader will then send any requests to the Office of the Bishop, 1004 Harbor Hills Drive, Marquette, MI 49855 no later than March 1 of that same year.

GUIDELINES FOR LETTER TO THE BISHOP

Greeting to be used: Bishop (Name) or Your Excellency,

Body of the letter:

Paragraph 1-State your name and parish. Say something personal about yourself, your family, and or your background.

Paragraph 2-Formally request the sacrament. Provide the Bishop with several reasons why you are seeking to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3-Share some of your experiences during the preparation process. Be specific about: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service to the parish and people of God, and what you learned that touched your heart.

Paragraph 4-Tell the Bishop how you will continue to carry out your life of discipleship through the power of the Holy Spirit. Tell how you plan to draw on your Confirmation and continue the mission of the Church.

Conclusion: Use an appropriate closing salutation such as “Sincerely in Christ” and write your complete signature.

Confirmation Sponsor Form

A confirmation sponsor must be at least 16 years of age & be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the church. This means that the person follows the commandments of God by participating each week in Sunday Mass, frequents the Sacrament of Reconciliation and their marriage has been blessed by the Catholic Church. The sponsor must have received all sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) and may not be a parent of the Confirmation Candidate.

Name of Confirmation Candidate: _____

Sponsor Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Birth date: _____

Name of parish you attend: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Phone: _____

What is your relationship to the candidate? _____

How long have you known the candidate? _____

Sacraments

Have you been baptized?	Yes/No	<input type="checkbox"/> I have included a letter from my parish validating that I am a Catholic in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church.
Have you received First Penance?	Yes/No	
Have you received First Eucharist?	Yes/No	
Have you been Confirmed?	Yes/No	

Responsibilities

The confirmation sponsor's role is one of a mentor in the Catholic faith. He/she will present the candidate to the Bishop on the day of confirmation and in doing this, state that the candidate is fully prepared to not only receive the sacrament of Confirmation, but also to live the Christian life. The sponsor should continue to support the candidate in his/her Catholic faith in the years ahead.

Any questions about your responsibilities: _____

What you can do

Pray for your candidate daily. Participate in service project with your candidate.
Live an exemplary Catholic lifestyle. Go to adoration, confession or Mass together & share your own faith.
The candidate received a list of conversation ideas. Ask them about the list each time you talk.

Sponsor Signature

Date

Please turn this form along with a **letter of good standing from your parish** to Katelyn McKeen, St. Peter Cathedral, 311 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette MI 49855. Fax: 906-226-8683 Phone: 906-226-6548 x207.

SPONSOR'S COPY

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If you have questions about Confirmation, please feel free to contact the St. Peter Cathedral Youth Minister, Katelyn McKeen, at katelyn.mckeen.youthministry@gmail.com or 226-6548.

