

# **Saint Patrick Religious Education**



## **Confirmation 2 Handbook Grades 8+**

**Saint Patrick Parish Stoneham  
Religious Education  
71 Central Street  
Stoneham, MA 02180  
Phone: 781-438-1093  
[reled@stpatrickstoneham.org](mailto:reled@stpatrickstoneham.org)**

Faith Formation Director: Deacon Frank Dello Russo  
Religious Education Coordinator: Brenna Langenau  
Coordinator of Confirmation 2/Grades 8+: Kim DeCrescenzo  
Coordinator of Confirmation 1/Grade 7: Laura Cronin

# **Preparation for Sacrament of Confirmation**

Congratulations on taking the next step in your faith formation! Confirmation is really the fulfillment of the promises your parents made for you at your baptism. Now, you as a teenager, are freely choosing to become a full member of the church.

The goal of the Confirmation Program at Saint Patrick Parish is to help you to identify the gifts you possess and challenge you to put these gifts to use in fulfilling the mission of the Church. The requirements of the Confirmation program will give you a greater understanding of the teachings of the faith, as well as the tools you will need to be able to grow in faith after having received the sacrament of Confirmation. The entire faith community at Saint Patrick's is eager to welcome you fully into the Body of Christ.

## **Program Components**

Candidates, together with their families, must read over and discuss the expectations and requirements of the Confirmation preparation program outlined in this handbook. Entry into the program assumes the candidate fully intends to fulfill these requirements.

## **Your Faith Starts in the Home**

The Eucharist is central to Catholic life. It is the means by which we nourish our faith and worship God. It is also through hearing the Scriptures read and discussed that we learn more about our faith and about God. The Confirmation preparation program is intended to complement the faith formation that takes place in the candidate's family home. Therefore, the program assumes that candidates are: 1) attending mass, and 2) exploring and learning about their faith on their own and with their family.



# **Detailed Information for Confirmation 2 Grades 8+**

## **Required Masses**

Confirmation candidates are expected to attend Mass every weekend. Approximately once a month from October through February, candidates and their families are required to attend the 6pm Mass to build community and celebrate our faith as a group. Dates for these Masses are listed on the Important Dates and Deadlines page of this handbook.

In addition, there are two Masses that hold special significance for the program. The **Commitment Mass on October 5 at 6 pm** is a celebration where parents and candidates promise to work together toward the goal of Confirmation for the student. The **Sponsor Mass on December 14 at 6 pm** is a time where Confirmation 2 candidates bring their sponsor (or a parent if the sponsor is not able to attend) and enter into an agreement where the Sponsor promises to guide the candidate along a path toward living a Christian life.

## **Confirmation Meetings**

Confirmation meetings will be held from 7:00-8:15 pm in Our Lady of Providence Hall. Dates are available at the end of this handbook on the Confirmation Meeting Dates page.

The Confirmation Program this year is using a mix of programs that rely on video content to educate, inspire, and inform our children. These videos will be used to spur small group discussion during our meetings. As such, attendance is very important so the child may have the opportunity to interact with peers and leaders. Please make every effort to have your child attend every session.



## Missed Meeting Policy

Candidates should make every effort to attend every meeting. However, if a student is unable to attend a session for a legitimate reason, he or she must complete the following and turn in the writing assignment by email before the next meeting:

- Attend Mass and write 1-2 paragraphs on how the homily or readings spoke to you. (If student is ill, he or she can watch the Mass on [www.catholicTV.org](http://www.catholicTV.org)).

The writing assignments can be emailed in PDF format to us at [reled@stpatrickstoneham.org](mailto:reled@stpatrickstoneham.org). Please do NOT send as a Google Doc as we are unable to open them.

## Christian Service Hours

Christian Service is the donation of time to help others in ways that reflect the **Corporal** or **Spiritual Works of Mercy**.

- **The Corporal Works of Mercy** address physical and material needs: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, and burying the dead.
- **The Spiritual Works of Mercy** focus on the heart, mind, and soul: admonishing the sinner, instructing the ignorant, counseling the doubtful, comforting the sorrowful, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving injuries, and praying for the living and the dead.

The goal of service is to help children and teens discover the joy that comes from giving their time and talents to others in need. If a service activity does not clearly fit under a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, it must be approved by the Religious Education Coordinator.

Confirmation 1 & 2 candidates are required to complete **5 hours of service** by **March 1, 2026**. Hours must be submitted online through the Confirmation Webpage: [Confirmation Preparation](#).

## Choosing a Confirmation Name

It is traditional to take a new name at Confirmation signifying your new awareness of how Confirmation will help you live as a disciple of Christ. Candidates often choose the name of a saint for whom they have an affinity. This saint will then act as the person's patron and guide on his or her faith journey through life.



Although most people choose to take a new name it is not required. Instead, you may want to reaffirm your baptismal name since the sacrament of Confirmation seals and strengthens the faith and grace you received at Baptism.

## Saint Assignment

In preparation for choosing your Confirmation name, all Confirmation 2/ Grade 8+ candidates are required to research the lives of saints and choose one as their patron. Candidates are asked to complete a brief report about the saint they have chosen. This will be submitted online via the Confirmation Webpage [Confirmation Preparation](#).

The Saint Report includes questions on:

- Name and dates of the Saint's life
- What he or she did as a follower of Christ
- Why you chose this Saint
- How you identify with the Saint and/or their actions

A child who has chosen to reaffirm his or her Baptismal name as their Confirmation name must still choose a saint to act as his or her patron. The student should complete the Saint Assignment on the saint they have chosen as their patron.

## Choosing a Sponsor

The person you choose as your sponsor for Confirmation should serve as a lifelong role model for your own faith formation journey. Therefore, it is important, that you choose a sponsor who is well suited to the role and who will be an integral part of your faith journey.

It can be desirable to have one's baptismal sponsor (a godparent) act as your sponsor at Confirmation. However, this is not always possible or ideal. It is more important to choose a sponsor who is available and involved in your life in a significant way and is able to offer an authentic example of how to live a Christian life.

In accordance with the Code of Canon Law, a sponsor may NOT be your parent or stepparent/guardian and must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing and eligible to receive Communion. Sponsors must be at least 16 years old. The Sponsor Form must be completed and attested to by the sponsor. *Please leave your Sponsor enough time to get this done so it can be returned to us by Dec. 14.*

## Confirmation Retreat

A parish-based retreat experience is required of all candidates enrolled in Confirmation 2/Grades 8+ who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation even if they attend a Catholic high school.

The Confirmation Retreat will be at St. Patrick Parish on **Sunday, March 1, 2026** roughly, **1-7 pm**. More details and exact times will follow.

## Important Paperwork and Forms

Please take care to accurately complete the online **Confirmation Information Form** (*due Jan. 25, 2026*) and the **physical Sponsor Form** (*due Dec. 14, 2025*). The information you provide will be added to the official Church records for your child. Candidates with missing forms or unpaid fees will not be assigned to a Confirmation Rite until we receive all forms and payments.

# Letter Requesting Confirmation

Confirmation 2 candidates are expected to write a one-page letter explaining why they wish to be Confirmed. Please pay attention to grammar and punctuation. Unsatisfactory letters will be returned to the student to rewrite. Parents are encouraged to proof-read the letters. Letters must be typed, signed and either emailed in PDF format or printed and turned in by January 25, 2026.

When writing your letter, be sure to include:

- **The date**
- A Greeting: **“Dear Bishop O’Connell,”**
- A description of who you are.
- How you are practicing your faith and all the things you have done to prepare for Confirmation.
- An explanation of why you wish to be confirmed.
- Include the Christian Service you have performed and what impact it has had on you.
- Your *handwritten signature* and your **name typed below.**

## Sample Letter: DO NOT PLAGERIZE THIS EXAMPLE!

December 6, 2025

Dear Bishop O’Connell,

My name is Joseph Nazareth and I am currently preparing for Confirmation at Saint Patrick Parish. I am 14 years old and an eighth grader at Stoneham Middle School. I have learned a lot about Confirmation this year and I want to tell you why I wish to be confirmed...

---BODY OF LETTER HERE

I have learned that Confirmation is not the end, but just the beginning of my faith life. I am ready to take my faith seriously, become active in my parish, and live my faith through service.

Sincerely,

*Joe Nazareth*

Joseph Nazareth

## **Important Dates & Deadlines:**

| Date:      | Time:  | Description:   |
|------------|--|--|
| 9/21/2025  | 7:00-8:30 pm                                   | <b>Confirmation 2/Grades 8+ Parent Meeting</b><br>*This REQUIRED meeting is for <u>Parents Only</u>  |
| 10/5/2025  | 6 pm Mass                                      | <b>Monthly Fellowship Mass: Commitment Night</b><br>*All families in the Confirmation 1 & 2 should attend. Student and parent/guardian required. Family welcome.   |
| 11/9/2025  | 6 pm Mass                                      | <b>Monthly Fellowship Mass:</b> Grade 7 will do the Mass Jobs for this Mass.   |
| 12/14/2025 | 6 pm Mass<br><br>Forms Due:                    | <b>Monthly Fellowship Mass: Sponsor Night Mass</b><br>*Conf 2 candidate and sponsor required. If sponsor is unable to attend a parent/guardian must attend in the sponsor's place.<br>* <b>Sponsor-Student Reception</b> to follow 7-8:00 pm.<br><br><b>Sponsor Form &amp; Saint Report</b> Due by this date.<br>*Sponsor form is a physical form<br>*Saint Report is an online submission |
| 1/25/2026  | Forms Due:                                     | <b>Letter to the Bishop &amp; Information Form is Due</b><br>*Letter to the Bishop is a physical letter & must be hand signed.<br>*Information Form is an online submission  |
| 2/1/2026   | 6 pm Mass                                      | <b>Monthly Fellowship Mass</b><br>*All families in the Confirmation 1 & 2 should attend.   |
| 3/1/2026   | Retreat Day<br><br>6 pm Mass<br><br>Forms Due: | <b>Retreat</b> Confirmation 2/Grades 8+ only: time TBD but plan 1-7 pm. More details to follow when finalized.<br><br><b>Monthly Fellowship Mass:</b> All families in the Conf 2 program should attend as part of the Retreat.<br><br>5 Hours of <b>Christian Service</b> are due. Online form to be completed with questions about service.   |



## **Important Dates & Deadlines Continued:**

|          |                  |  |
|----------|------------------|--|
| 3/3/2026 | 6:30-8 pm        | <b>Confirmation Rehearsal</b> date for 9:30 am Rite  |
| 3/4/2026 | 6:30-8 pm        | <b>Confirmation Rehearsal</b> date for 11:30 am Rite |
| 3/7/2026 | 9:30 or 11:30 am | <b>Rite of Confirmation*</b>                         |

\*Ceremony times will be assigned in January.

\*If you have a legitimate scheduling conflict with the Confirmation Date please contact the office by email ASAP.

\* Siblings will be put in the same ceremony. If you have other family in the program, please notify the office in December so they can be put in the same ceremony.



## **Confirmation Meeting Dates**

**Sunday: 7:00-8:15 pm**

| <u><b>Date</b></u> | <u><b>Session Description</b></u>                            |
|--------------------|--|
| 9/21               | Confirmation 2/Grade 8+ Required Parent Meeting              |
| 10/5               | 6pm Commitment Mass (Required) Confirmation 1 & 2: Session 1 |
| 10/12              | <b>No Meeting</b> -Columbus Day Weekend                      |
| 10/19              | Session 2  |
| 10/26              | Session 3  |
| 11/2               | Session 4  |
| 11/9               | 6 pm Fellowship Mass (Required) Session 5                    |
| 11/16              | Session 6  |
| 11/23              | Session 7  |
| 11/30              | <b>No Meeting</b> -Thanksgiving Weekend/1st Sunday of Advent |
| 12/7               | Session 8  |
| 12/14              | Sponsor Night Mass (Required) and Reception                  |
| 12/21-1/4          | <b>No Meetings</b> -Christmas Break                          |
| 1/11               | Session 9  |
| 1/18               | <b>No Meeting</b> -MLK Day Weekend                           |
| 1/25               | Session 10   |
| 2/1                | 6 pm Fellowship Mass (Required) Last Session: Session 11     |
| 3/1                | Retreat Confirmation 2 only                                  |

## **Sponsor Form: Attestation of Sponsorship Eligibility**

### **St. Patrick Parish Confirmation Program**

**CANDIDATES NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

**SPONSOR'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

I, the sponsor, am aware of the grave responsibility to support the candidate who is receiving the sacrament of Confirmation by my active participation in the Catholic Church and public witness to faith in Jesus Christ.

I understand and accept the Church's requirements for being a Sponsor and affirm that:

- I am at least 16 years of age
- I am not the parent, stepparent, or guardian of the candidate
- I have received the sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation in the Catholic Church
- I practice the Catholic Faith by attending Mass and receiving the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation (confession)
- I strive to follow all the moral teachings of the Catholic Church
- If married, that union is officially recognized by the Catholic Church (I was either married in a Catholic ceremony or given dispensation from the Church for another form)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Office of Religious Education, St. Patrick Parish  
71 Central St., Stoneham, MA 02180 Phone: 781-438-1093 Fax: 781-435-0075

## **NOTES:**