

We missed you at the Confirmation Parent Meeting!

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation after Baptism and First Communion. The baptized person is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ.

Confirmation is NOT Catholic graduation, becoming an "adult" in The Church or something that should be treated as an item to check off a list.

Confirmation is not a one size fits all process. What is most important is that each candidate's heart is open to the process and they truly desire to be confirmed.

As parents we can desire and encourage our children to have an active faith life. By modeling our own faith, attending Mass and making time to pray with and for our children we can help them see what a rich faith can bring to their lives. **We encourage you to discern for you and your family, is this the right time for our child to be a Confirmation Candidate?**

We all know there is no magic age that is going to guarantee a confirmation process will be meaningful to a candidate. If someone isn't willing or able to get anything out of their prep it will be a rough few months. You know your child best. Not yet doesn't mean never! Everyone's faith grows at a different pace.

Confirmation Sponsors

The requirements for Confirmation Sponsors are straightforward.

- Must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic
- Must be over 16 years old (Strongly encourage 18+ and not a sibling)
- Cannot be a parent of the Candidate

Their sponsor can encourage them and walk with them as a faith role model for the next year!

Confirmation Preparation Large Group Meetings

Just as you wouldn't join a sports team, miss several practices and expect to still play, Confirmation preparation meetings are important to the process. They allow candidates to build their own faith community.

During the meetings phones and smart watches will be collected so we can give our full attention to God.

A parent or sponsor should attend the meetings with candidates. As the primary faith educator of your child, there is much to be gained from taking this confirmation journey alongside them. There is also much to be gained from the sponsor/candidate relationship and growing in faith together.

We ask that you look at the dates on the calendar and make them a priority before filling out the confirmation application. We will work with families individually if necessary but **excessive absences may delay receiving of the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

Important Dates

- Applications from Candidates who have discerned they are ready are due Monday, February 16.
- We will not meet this summer.
- REQUIRED Confirmation Retreat on Saturday, October 10th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Confirmation Mass is scheduled for October 11, 2026 at 2:00 pm here at St. Paul the Apostle. Candidates and sponsors will have to be here by 12:30 pm

The Application

We do ask that you take your time with the application. Everything we ask is there for a reason. (Example: mom's middle name gets skipped over but we need that for the formal sacramental records.)

There are no right or wrong answers to these questions!

We encourage you to discern for you and your family, is this the right time for our child to be a Confirmation Candidate?

As parents, you are the primary faith educator for your child and know them best in coming to an informed discernment. However, we are always here for you as additional support. If it would help, please reach out to us to set up a time to meet and talk!

Madeline Dudziak

davstpauldre@diodav.org

If through prayer and discussions you determine your child is ready to begin prep to be Confirmed in October of 2026, please fill out an application and return it to the parish office by Monday, February 16.

Take some time as a family in prayer to discern whether Confirmation is the right step for your family at this time. There is no "one size fits all" process. For some

the answer might be “not yet.” For others you may feel called to a resounding “yes!”

Questions to Help Parents to Discern Confirmation Readiness

1. Why is it important to me for my child to be Confirmed?
2. Does my child actively participate in Mass?
3. Is your child open to talking about faith topics?
4. Why do I desire for my child to be fully initiated in the Catholic faith?
5. Will we make Confirmation preparation a priority this year?
6. Does my child *want* to be Confirmed or do I just expect them to be Confirmed?
7. Am I comfortable and confident in acknowledging my role in being the primary faith educator in my child's life?

Questions to Help Potential Candidates Discern Confirmation Readiness

1. Am I ready to approach the Confirmation journey with an open mind and heart?
2. Am I willing to attend and fully participate in the Confirmation classes and activities?
3. Can I commit to daily prayer, especially for growth in faith?
4. Is growing in faith, my relationship with Jesus and the Church important to me? Why or why not?
5. Why is being Catholic important to me?
6. Do I meet the criteria as set forth by the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1319:
 1. age of reason (7)
 2. professing the Faith
 3. being in the state of grace
 4. having the intention to receive Confirmation
 5. being ready to be a witness of Christ both in my church community and by my actions

Confirmation 2026 Application

Please return to the parish office by February 16th

Full Name _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

DOB: _____ Preferred Name: _____

Date of Baptism (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

Church of Baptism: _____

Church Street Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

School Candidate Attends: _____

Current Grade: _____

Father's Name (Include Middle Name): _____

Mother's Name (Include Middle and Maiden Name): _____

Primary Phone: _____

Primary Email: _____

Secondary Phone: _____

Secondary Email: _____

Your family's most typical Mass time:

Saturday 4:30 _____

Sunday 9:00 _____

Sunday 11:00 _____

We attend Mass somewhere other than St. Paul's _____

If you are a registered parishioner of a different Parish, we will need permission from your pastor for them to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation with us. Please email Madeline at davstpauldre@diodav.org for more information.

Questions for the Candidate to Answer

What is one thing you love to do for fun?

What do you hope to gain from the Confirmation prep process?

What does it mean to you to live as a Catholic outside of church and school?

Why do you want to be confirmed?

Is there something with your faith that you struggle to understand or want to know more about?

Questions for the Parents to Answer

Why is it important to you that your teen receives this sacrament?

What challenges do you face when sharing your faith with your teen?

What is the hope or vision you have for your child after he or she receives this sacrament?

Thank you for taking the time to discern your commitment to your faith. We hope through this process you deepen your relationship with Christ, connect with other believers, discover your talents, grow in your faith and see what impact you can have on the church, community and world.

St. Paul the Apostle invites all who wish to receive this special Sacrament to join in our preparation. Our parish community is excited to walk with you on this road to confirmation and welcomes you as confirmation candidates. We ask that you read and agree to the Confirmation Prep criteria found below.

By signing the bottom of this form I commit to:

- **Deepening my relationship with Christ and the Church by fully participating in the large group preparaton nights and the confirmation retreat.**
- **Understanding cell phones, smart watches and other devices will be collected at the beginning of each meeting to give God our full attention.**
- **If there needs to be an absence from a meeting, parents/guardian should contact Madeline as far in advance as possible for make up options.**
- **Faithfully attending Mass on the weekends and celebrating it with the St. Paul the Apostle community as much as possible.**

By signing this commitment form, I fully understand and agree to participate fully in the Confirmation preparation process so that I can joyfully experience the grace of the Sacrament.

I understand that if I am absent from 2 or more sessions, a follow up meeting with parish staff will be required. **Excessive absences may delay my receiving of the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

Canidate's Signature_____

As a parent, I understand by signing this commitment form that I agree to walk with and support my child in the Confirmation preperation process so that they can joyfully expereince the graces of the Sacrament.

I also understand that if my child does not fulfill each commitment, the date on which he or she is confirmed might be delayed.

Parent's Signature_____

Parent's Signature_____