



Confirmation 2019-2020

*St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Arlington, TX*

CONFIRMATION 2019-20



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Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates,

More than two thousand years ago, the first Confirmation class met in a small crowded upper room in Jerusalem. “And when the day of Pentecost had come...there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:1-4).

And now your child’s own journey toward Confirmation begins! The Sacrament of Confirmation is a wonderful gift that completes the work of grace God started in your child at their Baptism. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, your son or daughter will be more perfectly united to the Church and Jesus Christ and given a special strengthening of the Holy Spirit, just like the Apostles and Mary at Pentecost, empowering them to better spread and defend the Gospel through their words and deeds. This strengthening of the Holy Spirit is necessary for us as Christians to live life “to the full” as Jesus wants for us. (John 10:10)

This period of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is important for you and your child. One of the biggest complaints I hear from youth ministers, Priests, and parents, is that after Confirmation teens seem to drift away from the Church. It doesn’t have to be this way. The more reverence, respect, and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation we model as parents, the more our children will learn the power and importance of this Sacrament and our Catholic Faith.

If you are interested in understanding Confirmation better and explaining it to your child, checkout the Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 1285-1321.

***The complete list of requirements of preparation and due dates can be found on the Candidate checklist form. Please review them completely and mark your calendars so everything can be turned in on time.

Checkout svdpcc.org/confirmation for updates!

We will be praying for you and walking with you on this journey!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to talk.

I can be best reached at ngutierrez@svdpcc.org

Pax,

Nic Gutierrez and the Confirmation Team

Director of Youth Evangelization and Discipleship

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

Arlington, Texas

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IMPORTANT DATES & INFO

Registration (Online)

Confirmation Registration - \$100 (High School Night + Confirmation Book and Ascension Online Preparation)

High School Night Sessions

Sundays, 6:30 – 8:00pm in the Basement – Activity Center
Food is provided. See the dates online.

Online Confirmation Prep Sessions

At least one parent must accompany their child with each video lesson. Each assignment will be due by the first Saturday of every month. Book will be supplied at the High School Night. The Ascension online log-in will be emailed to you.

Nov. 2	Ch. 1 & Ch. 5 Who is Jesus?
Dec. 7	Ch. 6 Why be Catholic?
Jan. 4	Ch. 10 Why tell my sins to a Priest?
Feb. 1	Ch. 12 Who is the Holy Spirit?
Mar. 7	Ch. 13 What does the Holy Spirit do for me?
Apr. 4	Ch. 14 Why have I been Chosen?
May. 2	Ch. 24 Where do I go from here?
May. 6	Interviews 6:00-8:00PM in the Basement

August 20, 2019	Parent Session, In the Basement 6:00-7:00 PM
September 3, 6-8PM	Pre-Preparation Candidate Interviews, In the Basement 6:00-8:00 PM
May 6, 6-8PM	Post-Preparation Candidate Interviews, In the Basement 6:00-8:00 PM
August 2020 (TBA)	Confirmation Mass, St. Vincent de Paul

Parent Session

Sponsors are also welcome!

August 20 | 6:00-7:00PM in the Basement

RSVP ONLINE
www.svdpc.org/confirmation

Parents are the primary catechists of their children. We know how important the role of the parents is in the formation of the youth of our Church. We are offering two parent sessions to help equip parents to be more effective at leading their children in the journey of faith.

We understand families are busy and parents attending these sessions can be a hard commitment. We ask that you make your best effort to attend the parent session. Only one parent needs to be present, but we also encourage both parents and sponsors to attend if it is possible.

Expectations & Attendance Policy:

We take attendance at all High School nights and keep track of the online Confirmation Sessions.

- Confirmation Candidates are required to attend the weekly High School Night (Sundays 6:30PM-8PM in the Basement).
- If serious circumstances beyond your control will cause you to miss a session, be sure to email Nic and inform him.
- There is no make-up work required for missing a High School Night session.
- Complete each online Ascension Chosen chapters with at least one Parent. Make sure to comment a 3-5 sentence reflection in the discussion tab about the video lesson.
- Your workbook will be reviewed during the Confirmation Interviews in May and will be returned to you at a later date.
- An additional chapter will be added if an assignment is late or incomplete.
- If a Confirmation Candidate misses a majority of youth group and is not tending to their online preparation then we would suggest that the candidate wait a year to be Confirmed.

Confirmation Candidate Checklist

_____ Attend weekly High School Nights

_____ Complete the online scheduled Confirmation Preparation Sessions

_____ Attend any Spiritual Retreat/Camp/Conference SVDP offers

_____ Turn in a copy of your Baptismal & First Communion Certificate by **November 2**. Send us an email if you were baptized at St. Vincent's and we'll verify.

_____ Turn in a Letter of Intent to Fr. Philip & Candidate Commitment by **February 1** *One page single-spaced explaining why you want to be Confirmed.

_____ Pick a Sponsor and turn in Sponsor form by **March 7**
If from another parish, obtain a letter from the Sponsor's parish stating that they are Catholic, in good standing, and suitable to be a Sponsor.

_____ Pick a Confirmation Name and turn in form by **April 4**

_____ Attend Confirmation Interview in the Basement **May 6**

_____ Serve and record 15 Service Events due **July 31**

_____ Arrive for Confirmation Mass 1.5 hrs early – **Aug 2020 @ 5PM**

Everything should be turned in or emailed to Nic or any Adult during the High School Night/Confirmation Sessions. Documents may be dropped off at the front desk of the office.

If any of these deadlines will be a problem, please contact Nic at ngutierrez@svdpcc.org

Confirmation Post-Interview

May 6, 2019 6:00-8:00PM in the Basement

During our May session, each candidate will be given a final interview to assess their readiness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. These are some of the questions, but Catechists reserve the right to ask other questions from material covered throughout the year.

What High School Night session impacted your spiritual life the most and why?

Why do you want to be a fully initiated Catholic?

What is the difference between a mortal and venial sin?

What are the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

What does the Sacrament of Confirmation mean to you? How have you prepared spiritually to receive it?

What is discipleship?

What service projects have you done in preparation for Confirmation? What did you learn from them?

Candidate Commitment & Letter of Intent

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” – Jeremiah 29:11

As a baptized Catholic, I am preparing for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, by which I will be more perfectly bound to the Catholic Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the Faith as a witness of Christ.

As a candidate for Confirmation, I promise the following:

- I will approach my Confirmation journey with an open mind and an open heart.
- I will attend and will fully participate in all Chosen sessions and activities.
- I will be respectful of the leaders and facilitators of the program and show appreciation for their time and effort.
- I will show respect to those in my class who are on the journey with me.
- I will attend Mass every Sunday and on all holy days of obligation.
- I will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before my Confirmation.
- I will accept more responsibility in my family, parish, and community by putting my talents and gifts at the service of others.
- I will commit to daily prayer, praying especially for growth in faith, hope, and love.

As I make these promises, I ask God to give me the grace to be open to his plans for my life—plans he reveals to me in prayer, in my talents and aspirations, and in the encouragement of those who know and love me. I place myself in the loving embrace of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in asking for help in fulfilling this commitment.

*****Please attach Letter of Intent to Father Philip to this Commitment Form*****

One page, single-spaced, explaining why you want to be Confirmed.

Name of Candidate (Print)

Signature of Candidate

Date

Witnessed by: _____
Signature(s) of Candidate's Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s)

Please complete and return by: February 1, 2020



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Choosing a Sponsor

Confirmation Candidate's Name: _____

A sponsor is a witness of the commitment to Christ that you are making. The sponsor can be a Godparent or any other Catholic adult, but not a parent, such as a mother or father. The sponsor presents you at your Confirmation and is with you throughout your Confirmation journey.

Requirements of the Sponsor:

- Sponsor must be sufficiently mature for the role and be at least 16 years of age
- Sponsor must be a practicing member and in good standing with the Catholic Church and initiated in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.
- Sponsor DOES NOT need to be the same gender as the candidate.
- Godparents may be sponsors at Confirmation
- Parents of candidates may not be sponsors, but may stand in proxy in the absence of the sponsor.
- **If sponsor is not a parishioner of St. Vincent, they must submit a letter from their parish pastor indicating they are a registered member in good standing.**

It is best to choose a Sponsor with whom you can communicate. Look for someone who can walk this journey with you and help answer questions and guide you in this process. Choose someone you respect and admire. Don't be afraid to ask someone in the Church whom you respect as a faithful and devout Catholic. Most people are extremely honored and flattered to be asked to be a Confirmation Sponsor.

Your Sponsor's Name: _____

Why have you asked this person to be your Confirmation Sponsor?

Please complete and return by: March 7, 2020

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Choosing a Confirmation Name

Confirmation Candidate's Legal Name: _____

There is a great tradition in Salvation History of God changing someone's name to represent a new role or direction or purpose for the individual's life. Abraham (Abram), Peter (Simon), and Paul (Saul), are all examples of people God set apart and destined for a great plan.

Your Confirmation name should reflect your new role as a mature Christian in the Catholic Church. Select the name of a Saint who you admire or would like to imitate. Your Saint must also match your given sex determined on your birth certificate.

After you decide on a name, use the space below to explain your choice. **For example**, if your name were Paige Cecilia Gutierrez, and you picked St. Kateri as your Confirmation name, **your Confirmation name would be Paige Cecelia "Kateri" Gutierrez.**

Confirmation Name: _____

Why you chose this Saint's name for your Confirmation name:

Please complete and return by: April 4, 2020

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Confirmation Service Opportunities

Confirmation year is an opportunity for Candidates to serve in their community and spend some time exploring how their gifts and talents can be used within their parish community and family. There are tons of ways you can get involved and serve at our parish.

This year, we are not requiring or tracking the completion of **service hours**, but **service events**. Candidates for Confirmation will complete 15 events, having the leader of the event or ministry sign the service sheet below. (For family events, parents can sign off.) These events can be completed and tracked between April 1, 2019 – July 31, 2020.

There are three areas that Confirmation Candidates can look for opportunities to serve in the Church parish and in their family. This list outlines all recommended and acceptable events. **Service events outside of the family and our Parish are not counted as service events for Confirmation.**

When volunteering for an event or ministry, please refer to the Parish website, bulletin, or email to contact the ministry or event coordinator for details on volunteering.

List of Service Opportunities at St. Vincent de Paul and within the Family

Church Ministries

Liturgical Ministries: Altar Server, Usher, Lector
Middle School Night Core Team
Vacation Bible School
Assistant Catechist for K-6
Music Ministry
Outreach
Hospitality
Any other St. Vincent de Paul Ministries

Social Events

Parish Picnic
Fall Festival
Set-up and Tear-down for: High School Night, Middle School Night, any Church events, etc
Helping with any Church Event(s)

Family and Personal Faith

Lead a family rosary
Lead your family in Liturgy of the Hours (such as Night Prayer)
Lead your family in Lectio Divina (reading and meditating on Scripture)
Go to Confession as a family
Go to a Holy Hour of Adoration as a family
Pray as a Family for Vocations for one week
Attend the Parish Mission as a family
Attend Fall or Spring High School Retreat (excluding Confirmation Retreat)

Youth Department

Be a Youth Ministry Intern! (Email Nic at ngutierrez@svdpcc.org for more info)

For more info and ideas, be sure to visit www.svdpcc.org

Service Events Worksheet

(Horas de Servicio)

Service Hours for April 2019 – July 2020

15 Events due by July 31 2020

Confirmation Candidate's Name:

Date (Fecha)	Service Event (Evento de Servicio)	Event Supervisor Signature (Supervisor de evento)