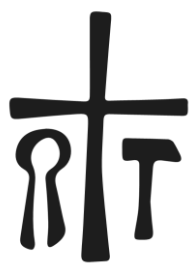


St Peters RC Church Dagenham



**Confirmation
Programme Handbook
2018-2019**



Candidates' Requirements:

Choose a sponsor. A sponsor is a person who encourages and assists a candidate to embrace and actively practice the Catholic faith both before and after Confirmation.

This is a time in your spiritual development for you to mature in your faith and to begin making important religious decisions for yourself. Consider choosing a person that lives the spirit, as you would like to live the spirit. He/she should be someone who is over 16, a baptised, confirmed member of the Catholic Church and has made their first holy communion, is someone that you trust and respect, and is a practicing catholic (Sponsors DO NOT have to be the same sex as the candidate.) Your parents cannot act as your sponsor. Some candidates choose one of their baptismal godparents. This person will attend a few meetings with you as you prepare for your Confirmation. He/she will be by your side as you are confirmed by the Parish Priest or Bishop. You are encouraged to choose a friend or a relative who will be part of your life for more than just a few meetings. Invite him/her early to be part of the process. Let them know ahead of meeting dates.

Choosing a Confirmation name.

A name identifies you in a unique way, not just your physical self, but who you are as a person. One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a name that will remind you of this sacrament. Your prayerful reflection will help you determine that name. **You might want to choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to be.** The common advice for those trying to decide on a name is to research saint names and find one that fits their personality or spiritual goals. Those seeking confirmation are also encouraged to pray and seek a saint that is willing to guide them as they seek a closer relationship with God. It is important to learn as much as you can about your patron saint. After all, you are asking this saint to be your friend and advocate for the rest of your life. Take the time to research and explore the root meaning of the name, for as Scripture says,

"God calls each of us by name."

Service projects within the parish community.

The adult team leaders will help with suggestions. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities in the parish community including assisting with children's liturgy, mass readings, coffee mornings, church charity fundraising and such. Use your interests and your talents to help in your parish community. These projects will hopefully provide a valuable experience that will extend beyond your Confirmation preparation into your adult life.

A Personal Statement to the Parish.

You will write a short personal statement which will include an introduction of yourself, what voluntary projects you are/were involved in within the church, what Confirmation name you have chosen and what led you to that choice and how you hope to live your faith after Confirmation. This gives you an opportunity to be thoughtful in your decision; to represent the youth in our church and it gives the parish community a bit of insight into you as a person of faith (Keep it between 100-150 words).

Check out saints on line: www.catholic.org Choose 'saints'

Dear Parents and Candidates,

Welcome to St Peter's Roman Catholic Church Confirmation Programme 2017-2018.

As you are now registered for the Confirmation Programme you are now committing to completing the unique process of Catholic Initiation, together with Baptism and the Eucharist you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in order to become more closely conformed to Christ and His mission.

"..filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, may we always mirror Christ's presence in our relations with others, our openness to those in need and our living witness to the Gospel message of joy and peace."

-Pope Francis

The Confirmation Programme is for young adults who have been previously baptised and have also received the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As parents of the candidates, we expect that you are both (if not one) are committed, practising Catholics attending St. Peters Church.

Weekly attendance and participation in mass at St. Peters is a vital commitment in helping you and your child to prepare for Confirmation. As well as being part of the natural rhythm of Catholic life, your weekly participation in the mass as a family will inform and reinforce the learning of what the Confirmation programme provides.

Co-operation between the catechists, you the parents, sponsors and the candidates is an important part of the programme. The Catechists (teachers of the programme) are volunteers, drawn from committed members of the Parish who have given up their time to prepare your children. We are available to help you with any queries you may have so please feel free to come to us with any concerns you may have regarding the Confirmation Programme and/or your child.

This is an important stage in your child's continuing journey of faith and together we hope to make it a memorable experience for them.

God Bless,

Father Edward

Confirmation Catechists- Clara and Emmanuelle

St. Peters RC Catechist Team

52 Goresbrook Road

Dagenham

Essex RM9 6UR

Church Tel: 0208 595 1227

Clara- 07947464596 (Text only)

The Sessions

Sessions will be held from **9:30** and will conclude with 11am mass each Sunday on the dates as per the schedule attached.

The sessions provide a complete programme of instruction for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is essential that candidates attend **all** sessions and masses highlighted on the programme calendar. The dates and times of these sessions have been agreed between the catechists and priests and cannot be changed.

Please note for your convenience we have avoided holding sessions during the school holidays where practical.

Missed Sessions and Punctuality

Our sessions are held **every fortnightly** to cover all aspects of the teaching and preparation.

Missing 2 sessions will result in being withdrawn from the programme. You can message the catechist via text if there are any problems attending.

Being punctual is important. The session will start **9:30 prompt**. Again, the programme is tight on time and catechists work very hard to plan each session, covering each topic within the one hour before finishing with Mass. Please respect this request and be on time. The Hall will be open from 9:20 before each session begins.

Any Candidate(s) late at any one time will be told to prepare a 5 minute presentation to present in front of the rest of the group in the next session.

Homework

The candidates in turn will be given bidding prayers and readings to practice and other activities to complete and present for homework, sessions and Mass. Although Candidates should be old enough to be responsible for completing the work set, parents please support us by encouraging your child to respect this. Thank you.

It is important to the programme that you are responsible to do the homework given, any unfinished, lost, forgotten work shows your lack of commitment to take this Holy Sacrament of Confirmation and may be withdrawn from the programme and to re-register the following year.

If at any time you want to discuss any queries that you may have about the homework or anything else, please do not hesitate to speak in confidence with the catechists.

Attending Sunday Mass

Mass attendance is the most important way that you can help your child grow in faith; laying down the strong foundations together as a Catholic family can not only instill our youth through to adulthood, but to grow into becoming a committed member of the church.

Because of the session starting at 9:30am, the candidates will be attending the 11am service.

PARENTS- if your child attends mass on the Saturday with the family then please let the Catechists know on induction.

As we promote unity and integration within our parish young and old, we would rather prefer that your child re-join the family to celebrate mass together. Candidates will have reserved seating at Youth Mass, Reconciliation Mass and Confirmation Mass which we would be expecting **all** candidates to attend.

Parents Meetings

An important part of our preparation is a series of around 3 meetings in total. It is necessary that the candidates' sponsor attends as well as the parent, not only to discuss practical arrangements but to re-inforce your own commitment and support for your child and their progress in what is a key milestone in their journey through the Catholic faith. We will inform you of dates shortly.

Joining the Catholic Church

If you are the non-Catholic parent in the family and would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, you may be interested in joining our parish's RCIA programme (Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults). Please ask Fr. Edward for more information.

PRAYER

Lord God, as we begin this journey of faith together, we ask you to guide us along the way, and be patient with us as we follow. Support us, Lord, as we begin to ask questions, as we discuss issues and as we grow in our faith. We pray that you inspire us, Lord, to be open to your leadership in our lives.

Amen