



Why do I have to do these requirements?

September 16, 2018

Dear Confirmation Candidates, Parents, and Guardians:

You are beginning a very important part of your faith journey – preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This journey takes more work than usual but the reward is great! You will be receiving the grace of God as you head to your future as a young adult in our parish community.

So why do you have to do so many things to receive the sacrament?

Our goal is to be sure that each candidate understands what it means to be an active member of our faith and parish as this final sacrament of initiation is received (the first two being Baptism and Eucharist). This ongoing process of education and community good works will provide the path to that goal.

Each requirement either teaches a valuable faith lesson or verifies information needed by the Archdiocese. When done on the schedule presented here, our goal can be achieved. The preparation process works as witnessed by many of the students' who have completed it in the past.

If you have any questions regarding the preparation for Confirmation, please contact Linda or Bill Ney or Mrs. Mascola.

God's peace to you,

Linda and Bill Ney
Confirmation Coordinators

Linda: (203)499-7931 or LNey@paychex.com

Bill: (203) 258-7208 or willeyect@yahoo.com

Wanda J. Mascola
Director, Faith Formation
(203) 888-2382 X 205
faithformation@stthomasoxford.org

Marie Pelaccia
Stewardship Coordinator
(203) 888-2382 X 202
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Weekly Attendance at Mass

*Deadline:
Every Week*

Attendance At 2 GOLF Sessions

*Deadline:
Any two Month*

MASS ATTENDANCE is the *most important* element of Confirmation preparation and is required weekly. As a Confirmation candidate and adult in the church, you are asked to join our faith community each week to worship and praise God through the Mass. This celebration and receipt of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) deepens your friendship with God and those in our prayerful community.

We are counting on your integrity, honesty and dedication to the preparation process to attend Mass weekly. Come with your parents, friends, grandparents, sponsor or godparent – you are responsible for finding a way to worship at Mass each week. As you attend Mass in the upcoming months, introduce yourself and say hello to Fr. Tom. He wants to get to know you! If we hear from him that only a few teens are introducing themselves each week, we will have to have you sign in each week to track your attendance. The Mass schedule appears on the front cover of the Parish Bulletin available in the vestibule of the church each week or on our website: stthomastheapostleoxford.org.

CLASS ATTENDANCE is mandatory each month and includes bringing any **materials** that are due. The schedule is on the back side of this sheet.

Candidates are allowed one absence at Confirmation sessions. Homework will be provided for the missed session. They also must attend two Generations of Living Faith (GOLF). Additional absences will require discussion. There are no make-up sessions so please make our gatherings a priority.

Questions regarding absences may be directed to Wanda J. Mascola, Dir. of Faith Formation, (203) 888-2382, ext. 205; faithformation@stthomasoxford.org



Saint/ Confirmation Name Chosen, Paper Written

Deadline:
***On or before
January 27, 2019***

CHOOSING YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME is a powerful symbol of you and who you are! At Confirmation, the Bishop addresses you by this name to show how important you are to our Church and faith community.

Research the Saints and their stories and determine whose name you would like to adopt as your Confirmation name. Which Saint's story speaks to you? Do you or your family have a special connection to a certain Saint? Do you know anything about the Saint you may have been named after?

You may use your Baptismal name if it is derived from the name of a canonized Saint. The name may be of either gender and doesn't need to be the same gender as your own (for example, a woman may choose St. Michael's name as her Confirmation name, *or* the feminine version of Michael).

Check out these websites for information on the Saints:

AmericanCatholic.org

Catholic.org

FaithFirst.com

Saints.com

You are asked to submit a paper about the Saint you have chosen anytime before January 27, 2019

- Papers are to be at least one full page long (*not* including the cover page), double-spaced, and typed in 12 pt font.
- Please include a cover page with your Saint's/Confirmation name and your name and telephone number.
- It must be written in your own words, not taken directly from another source.
- **Please include this information in your paper:**
 - Saint's name, date of birth and death, and geographical location
 - Is your Saint a patron Saint? Of what?
 - How did your Saint show qualities of Jesus to the world?
 - Why did you choose this Saint?
 - How can you be more like your Saint in your life now?
- Papers may be brought to Confirmation class, GOLF or dropped off at the parish center



Sponsor Qualifications

*(your sponsor
completes this one BUT
you have to tell them
about it!)*

Deadline:
April 28, 2019

**Be sure to start this
process at least two
weeks before the
deadline, if not
sooner. Your
sponsor may need
time to get their
pastor's signature.**

A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR is an adult in the Catholic Church chosen by the candidate to stand by him/her as their life-long faith journey begins and grows. The sponsor must be someone other than the candidate's mother or father.

During the Confirmation Mass, the sponsor presents the candidate to the Bishop. At the moment of the sealing with the Holy Spirit, the sponsor has his/her hand on the candidate's shoulder. This shows the sponsor recommends the candidate and "stands behind" him/her in faith.

Because of this, sponsors must know the worthiness of the Confirmation candidate and must also be worthy themselves. They represent the whole community of believers and are chosen because they serve as good examples of living actively as a Catholic.

To serve as a sponsor, the adult must:

- Believe and accept all the teachings of the Holy Catholic Church
- Be at least 16 years of age and fully initiated into the church (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation received)
- Attend Mass regularly on Sunday and Holy Days
- Receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist on a regular basis
- If married, have been validly married in accordance with Canon law
- Contribute to the ongoing support of their parish and have been a member of a parish for at least one year
- Not be the candidate's parent
- **Provide a Sponsor's Certificate** from the sponsor's home parish to Wanda J. Mascola **by April 28, 2019.**

Sponsors from St. Thomas the Apostle

If your Sponsor is a **REGISTERED parishioner** of **St. Thomas the Apostle**, s/he need *not* get a certificate from our parish but may receive a call from Fr. Tom to verify the information above. Please submit this page with the information completed below by **April 28, 2019:**

Candidate's Name: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Address: _____

Sponsor Tel.: _____

Sponsor Mobile: _____



Confirmation Conversation with a Confirmation Coordinator, Mentor or Fr. Tom

Dates to be
scheduled by
in
June 2019

A CONVERSATION WITH FATHER TOM OR A CONFIRMATION COORDINATOR OR MENTOR must be completed in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This discussion gives us an idea if the candidate understands the sacrament and is willing to move forward in the Catholic faith as an adult.

Topics for discussion will be provided to the candidate prior to their meeting with an Interviewer. Also, please be sure you are familiar with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they can work in your life. See below.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- **Wonder and Awe of God** – Draws us from sin to God
- **Piety** – Awakens us to God's love
- **Knowledge** – Helps us to see how things come from God and lead back to God
- **Fortitude** – Strengthens us to pursue our journey to God with joy and courage
- **Counsel** – Helps us discern the right path of action especially in difficult situations
- **Understanding** – Empowers us to penetrate more deeply into the meaning and beauty of God's revelation
- **Wisdom** – Enables us to see and relish God's presence in all things and discern how they fit together

Wanda Mascola or Bill & Linda Ney will be in contact with you with more information as it gets closer to June.



Community Works and Parish Ministry

Deadline:

***Monthly; forms due
by Sept. 1, 2019***

MONTHLY COMMUNITY SERVICE/MINISTRY HOURS

must be completed in order to receive the Sacrament. Serving others and performing good works are an integral part of being an adult in the Catholic Church. **Community service is on-going and stewardship is an integral part of being part of the parish family. As you participate in various ministries please complete a service hours form.**

Please use the forms included in your packet to track your hours and note that you need a signature from an adult verifying that the service was provided. You may submit the completed forms to Mrs. Mascola, or Mrs. Pelaccia, Stewardship Coordinator.

Questions regarding the service you have in mind? Call Mrs. Mascola, (203) 888-2382, ext. 205, to verify eligibility.

Eligible good works are actions you take to serve the community as a whole or an individual in need. Charitable acts that benefit an individual/community are eligible.

- Join a parish ministry! Altar serving, choir, lector or usher (you keep track and verify these hours with the ministry leader)
- Helping with a parish event or fundraiser
- Helping at a soup kitchen, diaper bank or food pantry
- Teaching or assisting with GOLF
- Teen Ministry activities involving service to the parish or community
- Coaching a team as a volunteer, assistant coach or teaching sports skills to youngsters
- Babysitting for a family in need, **for free**
- Helping an elderly neighbor with cleaning, shopping, yard work or shoveling **for free**
- Actively volunteering in a community event while a member of Scouts or other club
- Vacation Bible Camp
- Helping at a nursing home, community or senior center

Ineligible service

- Extra-curricular activities or clubs (for example: sports, drama, band or student government)
- Helping with family responsibilities (for example: babysitting, shoveling snow, yard work, chores, etc.)
- Scouts (unless the troop is providing some kind of community service)



Retreats and Other Events

Rite of Enrollment

*June 9, 2019,
9:00 am Mass*

Mandatory

**9th-Grade Retreat
Rally in the Valley
November 18, 2018
1:00 p.m. -8:15 p.m.**

**Group Check in
12:30 p.m.**

Mandatory Retreat #2

*Sunday, March 24, 2019,
10:00 am – 3:00 pm*

Confirmation Rehearsal and Mass

*Date announced
from the Archdiocese*

SEVERAL MANDATORY EVENTS will be held for the Confirmation candidates. These special get-togethers will feed our faith and complete the preparation process.

Rite of Enrollment, June 9 at the 9 a.m. Mass

Please arrive by 8:45 a.m. to sign in. You will not be allowed to sign in after Mass begins. You may sit with your family. Candidates will sign the parish enrollment book, a sign to our community of their commitment to our parish.

Confirmation Retreat (*for 2019 candidates*), March 24, 2019

This day of activities, prayer and reflection helps the candidates prepare for their ongoing journey as Catholics. Lunch will be served.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Candidates should be in a “state of grace” when receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation so going to confession and receiving absolution is expected prior to Confirmation.

Confirmation Mass Rehearsal:

All Confirmation candidates and their sponsors (or a proxy for their sponsor) must attend. Date to be announced once the Confirmation date is set by the Archdiocese.

Confirmation Mass 2019:

The dates for this special and Holy event will be announced in August 2019 after we receive it from the Archdiocese. Please watch the parish bulletin for the date.

**Watch the Parish Bulletin for
upcoming, important dates!**