



**\*\*\*Information packet\*\*\***

*It is our mission to make of your confirmation experience one that will Ignite Faith and Witness God’s love!*

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***“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses!”***

***– ACTS 1:8***



**ST. LOUISE PARISH**  
**Confirmation 2019-2020**



## ***Welcome Letter***

Dear beloved young woman and man of God... Hola!

First, congratulations on discerning the sacrament of Confirmation! For most of your life, it is the faith of your parents which have presented you for Baptism and then later for First Communion and First Reconciliation. You now have the opportunity to **grow** in this faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation, this time out of your own decision.

Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation is an amazing and life changing experience. Our goal is to help you become closer to Christ and His Church, and grow in the conviction that being Christian in today's world is not only relevant, but necessary.

This said, many questions and doubts about our faith can come up, and we are here to help you! Please look over the following pages of information. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of it, please feel free to contact me. I am looking forward to meeting you.

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Dear parents/legal guardians,

What an exciting time to walk with your teen in their continual faith journey!

The Archdiocese of Seattle is currently working on putting together new guidelines for our local parishes to implement into our confirmation programs. Until then, ***no changes will be made*** for the confirmation program here at St. Louise this year for those who meet the age requirement.

In the following pages, you will find the requirements for the 2019-2020 year.

There are many activities happening during the school year, and we understand it can be busy and stressful for you and your teen, but with a spirit of joy and commitment, we can all do our part to ensure this experience is faith-filled. This said, your support is very important; not only your commitment to help them get to their classes and activities on time, but also through your example of faith and encouragement for your teen.

You are your teen's first and primary teachers, and I am looking forward to working alongside with you as they engage the gospel in their own lives and the world around them.

In Christ,

Fr. Carlos Orozco | Parochial Vicar

[frcarlos@stlouise.org](mailto:frcarlos@stlouise.org) | [youthconfirmation@stlouise.org](mailto:youthconfirmation@stlouise.org) | 425-747-4450



# ST. LOUISE PARISH

## Confirmation 2019-2020



### ***Requirements and the Confirmation Process at a Glance***

#### **Age Requirement**

You must be in high school; freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior to receive confirmation this year.

#### **The Process**

To receive the sacrament of Confirmation, the Church specifically asks that you be ***engaged*** in your faith for at least ***one year before*** you begin attending Confirmation classes, which is why we have been preparing students at St. Louise Parish through a ***two-step*** process. ***HOWEVER***, because of the new requirements which will be implemented in the next couple of years, we will be foregoing the pre-required first year for this 2019-2020 season. But, we definitely encourage you to get involved in youth ministry for those in middle school in preparation for your confirmation in the upcoming years.

This being said, to be eligible for confirmation this spring, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Be in high school and have discerned you are ready to begin Confirmation preparation:
2. Complete the *Registration Form* along with the rest of the registration packet, and return it no later than ***October 20, 2019!***
3. Attend all Confirmation classes.
4. Attend the Confirmation retreat.
5. Complete a total of 20 service hours. These can be of community service and/or participating as a minister during mass. Assisting as a minister at one mass is equal to one hour of service. If you are interested in being a minister at mass, indicate for which ministry and Amy our youth minister will assist you getting set up. These ministry opportunities are:  
Usher, Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, Minister of the Word, Sacristan, Music Minister
6. Experience the sacrament on the day of Confirmation Mass!

#### **Questions?**

There are a lot of questions about Confirmation! Please see the *Frequently Asked Questions* sections, your answer might be found there.

We will provide more details at the bilingual Parent and teen Confirmation meeting on **Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm (to 8:30)** in the Parish Hall.

Please bring all your questions to the information meeting. If after attending the meeting AND reading this document you have further questions about Confirmation please contact Fr. Carlos Orozco, at **425-747-4450** or by email at [youthconfirmation@stlouise.org](mailto:youthconfirmation@stlouise.org).



# ST. LOUISE PARISH

## Confirmation 2019–2020



### **Frequently Asked Questions about Confirmation & Program**

#### **What is Confirmation?**

*Short answer: something awesome!*

*Longer answer: Confirmation is the second sacrament of initiation and the completion of the sacrament of Baptism when we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. It is the moment in the life of a Christian when we grow in our faith and decide to answer the call to be missionary disciples. Our lives are a journey, and this is part of it.*

#### **How old do I have to be to be confirmed?**

*For the past years, the Archdiocese of Seattle has required that candidates for Confirmation be 16 years old at the time of Confirmation. This age requirements will change once new guidelines come out and are implemented at St. Louise in the future. As we slowly transition, **for this year**, you can enroll in the confirmation program if you are in **High School**.*

#### **What if I want to be confirmed earlier?**

*For this year, **only** high school age teens are eligible for confirmation. **No exceptions** will be made for those in middle school.*

#### **Can I attend confirmation preparation and be confirmed at another parish?**

*If you are a registered parishioner at St. Louise but would like to be confirmed at another parish, you can do so as long as both pastors are made aware. Once both pastors approve, Fr. Carlos will provide a letter of consent for you to give to the pastor of the other parish. The letter can be printed, or come as an email from this parish.*

#### **I am from another parish. Can I do my confirmation at St. Louise?**

*Yes. First please talk to your home parish pastor and Fr. Carlos to ensure it is okay. Then, get a written consent from your parish pastor and present it to Fr. Carlos. The letter can be printed, or come as an email from the parish.*

#### **Do I have to choose a Confirmation name?**

*In the Bible, conversion is often symbolized by a name change (ex: Saul became Paul, Simon became Peter). While your parents gave you a name at Baptism to symbolize your new life in Christ, in Confirmation you choose a symbolic name based on a saint that you've come to learn from his/her example, and this saint becomes one of your role models in the Christian life. We will be introducing you to some awesome saints through the program to help you choose a confirmation name. Note, you will still be confirmed with your actual name.*

#### **I struggle with my faith... should I be confirmed?**

*We are here to help you. If you are unsure about getting confirmed because you have doubts about your faith, I encourage you to take the preparation course, be open to God's grace in your life, and make a decision at the end. In either case, you can count on our support!*



# ST. LOUISE PARISH

## Confirmation 2019–2020



### **Why do we have a confirmation retreat?**

*Retreat is a moment to purposely put aside time to enter more deeply into dialogue with God, our faith, and others. While we can do this every day, putting a longer amount of time in retreat allows us to come in deeper contact since we allow ourselves to put away some of our usual daily distractions. It is in moments of retreat that our senses are heightened, and that can be a source of incredible grace. More information about the retreat will be provided separately.*

### **What if I cannot go to the retreat?**

*Because of the importance of the retreat, we ask you do everything possible to attend. However, we understand circumstances can happen. If you cannot attend our retreat days, we can find another parish for you to join their retreat, or find an alternative. But, only as last resort!*

### **Do I need perfect class attendance? What if I miss a class?**

*Being present at all classes is required, but again, things can happen that can make us miss one or two. If an emergency rises and you cannot make a class, please contact Fr. Carlos as soon as you know, either by phone or email. You can then make up your class with a one-on-one 30min conversation with Fr. Carlos regarding the topic missed. This make up session must occur within two weeks of your missed class and before the next class session. You and Fr. Carlos will arrange a time that works best. That way you stay current with the rest of the class.*

## **Questions about Confirmation Mass and Sponsors**

### **When is Confirmation Mass?**

*The Confirmation Mass will be in May 2020, either on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>. The Archdiocese will notify us of the exact date sometime in November, and will let you know.*

### **Do I need a sponsor for Confirmation?**

*Yes, you need one sponsor for Confirmation. See the section “Sponsor Requirements and Expectations” for more details*

### **Is there a dress code for the Confirmation Mass?**

*Like in any important event, we dress for the occasion. We ask that you come dressed modestly and formal. We suggest dressing in all white, or a mix of black and white.*

*Men: Dress pants, button-down shirt, a tie/bowtie and dress shoes. Suit jacket not required but optional. If you have long hair please make sure it is off your face as the bishop will need access to your forehead for the anointing.*

*Women: Modest dress, skirt or dress pants with a nice shirt, sweater or jacket. Your shoulders, back and chest need to be covered. If you are comfortable walking in heels, please feel free to wear them! If you have long hair, please make sure it is off your face as the bishop will need access to your forehead for the anointing.*



# ST. LOUISE PARISH

## Confirmation 2019-2020



### **Frequently Asked Questions about the Registration Process**

#### **How do I register?**

Two simple steps:

1. *Get a registration Packet, fill it out and return it to the office.*  
*Where do I get one?*
  - You may pick one up at the parish office, or
  - Download a registration packet in PDF format to print and fill out at: <https://stlouis.org/confirmation-preparation>  
or,
  - Request a PDF copy to print by emailing [youthconfirmation@stlouis.org](mailto:youthconfirmation@stlouis.org).
2. *Turn in your packet*
  - You may turn it in at any time; at the information meeting, to Fr. Carlos, drop it in at the parish office, or you may mail the packet to:  
St. Louise Catholic Church  
Att: Fr. Carlos Orozco, for Confirmation  
141 156th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98007

***Registrations are due by Sunday October 20<sup>th</sup>***

#### **What do the service hours consist of?**

*Being an active member of the community and our faith is important. As part of our program, we ask that all students complete a total of 20 service hours during their confirmation course. This is not because we want you to have more things to do, we know you are busy enough! But because being at the service for others is part of our Christian call, and we learn a lot about ourselves, others, and God in the process.*

*The service hours for confirmation can happen in many forms. If you are already doing community service for school, use those as part of your 20 hours for our program. You can also volunteer at a food bank or other organized community service activities. Keep a log of your service hours in the "Service Hours Log Sheet" provided at the end of this packet, and be sure to get it signed by the supervisor after each service.*

*Through the course, we will also provide you with service opportunities in case you need more hours.*

*If you would like to participate in mass as part of your service hours, you may also sign up to be a minister. Each mass you serve as a minister counts as one service hour. Ministry includes:*

- Ushers
- Ministers of the Word
- Music Ministers
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Sacristans
- Altar Server

***If you would like to participate at mass or are already doing so, indicate which ministry in the Registration Form. We'll get you set up. Mass ministry participation begins late November 2019.***

**Remember:** The Registration Packet contains a check list of all you need for registration. Please ensure you check all the needed requirements.



# ST. LOUISE PARISH

## Confirmation 2019–2020



### **Why do I need to bring my baptism certificate? What if I lost it?**

*In order to present you to receive the second sacrament of initiation in Confirmation, we are required to verify that you are a baptized catholic by receiving a copy of your baptism certificate. If you have lost your baptism certificate, simply contact the church at which you were baptized, and have them send you an official copy. If you were baptized in the United States this should probably take one to two weeks. If you were baptized outside the United States, the process is the same, but it may take a month or more to receive the document.*

### **What if the place I was baptized does not have a record of my baptism?**

*If the church you were baptized at does not have the record of your baptism there is an affidavit process that we can help you with. Please let us know as soon as possible, as this will take more time to complete.*

### **Why is there a fee?**

*The sacraments are free, there is no price to God's grace in our lives. However, we still need to pay for costs for the retreat facilities and meals, for transportation, books and materials. The \$150 registration fee covers all of these costs.*

### **How do I pay?**

*Pay by check made out to St. Louise Catholic Church, with cash, by card at the information meeting or office, or online at: <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1368/DirectDonate/48221>*

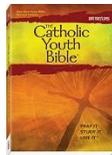
### **What do I do if I do not have the money for the fee?**

*No person will ever be denied a sacrament due to an inability to pay. If you have concerns about the fees, please contact Fr. Carlos.*

### **What books will we use?**

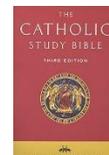
*We will be working with the DOCAT, a book that will be provided to you on the first day of class and which you will need to bring with you at every following class. In addition, please bring your own bible. If you do not have a bible, we suggest purchasing any of the following:*

*The Catholic Youth Bible*



*or*

*The Catholic Study Bible*



*You may purchase these through your local catholic book store, or online, including Amazon.*

### **Can I get text reminders of confirmation dates and events?**

*Yes! We will be able to send you texts via Flocknote. Don't worry, we will not bombard you with unnecessary texts, only event reminders.*

### **How do I sign up for Flocknote?**

*Instructions on how to sign up to receive texts via flocknote will be given during the Information Meeting on October 10.*





**ST. LOUISE PARISH**  
**Confirmation 2019–2020**



## ***Information for Parents***

**What does it mean as a parent to commit to being the primary educator of the faith for your teen?**

*God does not call us to know everything; God calls us to have a personal relationship with Him! To be the primary educator of the faith means that you take your teen to mass regularly and pray together. You model loving behavior toward God, self and others. Even if you don't know very much about the faith, you commit to learning the faith with your teen.*

**We are here to walk with you in the faith formation of your teen. Here are some things you can do to support this effort:**

- **If you are the driver of your student please be sure to arrive on time for class sessions.** We have them for such a short time that every moment is precious. We also encourage you and your teen to attend the 6pm LifeTeen mass on Sunday and sit together as a community if your family does not already regularly attend Mass at a different time.
- **Make this time of discernment and Confirmation a priority in your family life, as well as in the life of your student.** Parents are their children's primary catechists, and are BY FAR the most influential force in their children's lives—we cannot prepare your child for Confirmation without your help! We encourage you to join your student in discussion regarding the topics we cover in class. Your student will be asked some of the following questions this year, which they will in turn be asking you—these questions are designed to begin regular conversation about faith in your home and to help your child know WHY their faith is important!
- **Encourage your student to fulfill all of the course expectations.** When you and your student sign and return the Registration Packet, you have committed to supporting your student in ALL aspects of the Confirmation Preparation program, including program-specific events, and in your student's chosen ministry. If for some reason your student is having difficulties fulfilling the expectations for the course, encourage them contact Fr. Carlos directly—he is more than happy to set up a time to talk with them about their particular situation!
- **Finally, offer prayers of support and encouragement.** Your student is making a very important decision by choosing to be Confirmed. It is not always the easiest spiritual journey, so your love and support goes a long way!



# ST. LOUISE PARISH

## Confirmation 2019–2020



### ***Sponsor Requirement and Expectations***

#### **What is the roll of a confirmation sponsor?**

*We all need encouragement and guidance. Confirmation sponsors assist your parents in being witnesses of faith, in praying for you and encouraging you in your own journey with God.*

#### **Who is eligible to be a sponsor?**

*Because of the important role of the sponsor, your sponsor must be:*

- *18 years or older*
- *Active in their faith: someone who attends mass every week, has received the sacraments of baptism, first eucharist and confirmation. Someone who expresses their faith in the way they care about and treat people.*
- *If the sponsor is married, the marriage must have taken place in the Catholic Church.*
- *A sponsor cannot be a boyfriend or a girlfriend of the candidate for Confirmation.*
- *A sponsor cannot be the candidate's mother or father. However the candidate's parents can be a sponsor to other candidates. A godparent from baptism is a good choice.*
- *A Confirmation sponsor is a person who is a good listener, prayerful, open, dependable, loving, and is comfortable sharing their faith.*
- *The sponsor must be willing to make the time and be committed to take this faith journey with the candidate as a guide and as a friend.*

### ***A few words to the candidate regarding your sponsor...***

Selecting a sponsor that lives close would be ideal because they are expected meet with you and be able to provide support to you outside of our events. If you select a sponsor who is not local you need to select an additional proxy sponsor and submit another Sponsor Information form. Your sponsor is expected to be present at the Confirmation: Sponsor Night and Presentation of Candidates at the 6pm Mass on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> which will include rehearsal, and of course the Confirmation Mass.

Just remember that being asked to be someone's sponsor is an honor; please don't think it would be an imposition to ask. Being a sponsor is a great opportunity to grow in faith.

*Prayerfully consider your choice of a sponsor and invite them as soon as possible. Your sponsor's information is due with your registration, but please let Fr. Carlos know if you think you may need more time.*



# ST. LOUISE PARISH

## Confirmation 2019-2020



### Confirmation Program Schedule

<i>Day</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
<b>Thu. Oct. 10</b>	<b>Bilingual Information Meeting with Candidates and Parents</b>	<b>6:30-8:30pm</b>	<b>Parish Hall</b>
<i>Thu. Nov. 7</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> Confirmation class	7pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall
<i>Fri. Nov. 15 – Sun. Nov. 17</i>	Confirmation Retreat	TBA	Camp Arnold
<i>Thu. Dec. 5</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Confirmation class	7pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall
<i>Thu. Dec. 19</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Confirmation class	7pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall
<i>Thu. Jan. 2</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation class	7pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall
<i>Thu., Jan. 16</i>	5 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation class	7pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall
<i>Thu. Jan. 30</i>	6 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation class	7pm-8:30pm	StL Room
<i>Thu. Feb. 13</i>	7 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation class	7pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall
<i>Thu. Feb. 27</i>	8 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation class	7pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall
<i>Thu. Mar. 12</i>	9 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation class	7pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall
<i>Thu. Mar. 26</i>	10 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation class	7pm-8:30pm	Sch Library
<i>Thu. April 9</i>	Holy Thursday Mass	7pm	Parish Hall
<i>Thu. April 23</i>	11 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation class (sponsor names due)	7pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall
<i>Thu. May 7</i>	12 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation class (Confirmation name + service hours due)	7pm-8:30pm	StL Room
<i>Thu. May 14</i>	13 <sup>th</sup> and Final Confirmation class!	7pm-8:30pm	Parish Hall
<i>Sun. May 17</i>	Sponsor & Candidate Sacramental Prep and Rehearsal followed by mass and dinner	3:00pm-8pm	Church/ Parish Hall
<b>May 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Confirmation Day!</b>	<b>TBD (Evening)</b>	<b>Church</b>

***Attendance to all dates listed above is required.***

*If for some reason the student cannot make it to a confirmation class, please contact Fr. Carlos for a 1-1 make up session to be done before the next class session.*

