

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROCESS BASIC ELEMENTS

Teens in Grades Nine, Ten, Eleven and Twelve are to be invited to enter into a One-Year Process.

The invitation will be extended every year in the spring.

The Teens are expected to be:

- Attending Sunday Mass
- Attending Parish Religious Education Faith Formation, Catholic School, or are being Home Schooled in Catholic theology.
- Willing to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ in relationship and action.
- Willing to engage in and accomplish expectations of the preparation process.
- Willing to continue to live and be active as a disciple of Jesus Christ sharing the fullness of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church and their community, including ongoing Faith Formation.

The Teen along with their Parents/Guardians are expected to attend:

An informative meeting held in the spring at the parish to learn about the sacramental preparation process

The Teen along with their Parents/Guardians:

Use the Guides and hand-outs including a Personal Faith Inventory, **"Am I Ready to be Confirmed?"** given at the meeting to use in the summer during a discernment period (summer) to make their decision

The Teens can then follow up by:

- Writing a simple letter of introduction in his or her own words to the Pastor or Administrator, or make an appointment, to express their intentions to seek the Sacrament of Confirmation and why they feel they are ready to be Confirmed.

One parents/guardian must accompany the teen to an in-person meeting especially in the case of a teen who is a person of disability.

- **Returning in the fall at a parish scheduled meeting** and bring the completed **"Commitment to Discipleship Form"** which includes their personal information and the Name of their Sponsor and the Confirmation Name they have prayerfully chosen.
- Working on their Community Service Proposal to submit for approval
- Meet their assigned Mentor at a scheduled parish gathering

Determination for Readiness

Teens are expected to be actively engaged throughout the preparation year:

- Perform an intentional and substantial community service project or outreach and submit the ***Confirmation Service Project Proposal Form*** to the Confirmation Team for approval. This may be done alone or in small groups.
- Attend a minimum of 2 approved Discipleship Events provided by the parish, deanery, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, or Catholic High School/Academy.
- Attend any other parish scheduled gatherings to meet and share time with their Mentor and be in prayer engagement with the other Teen Candidates.
- Attend Sunday Mass regularly and be open to celebrating Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation.

After the Confirmation Team meets to share comments and review submitted letters of *Determination of Readiness*:

Teens will take part in immediate Confirmation Mass preparations as determined by the parish, such as reflections on the Rite of Confirmation including the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, meetings with Sponsor, Mentor, and celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.

Teens who have been determined to be “not ready” should be gently deferred in a meeting with Pastor and a member of the Confirmation Team and their parent/guardian to set a plan for future or completing Confirmation preparation goals.

Attend Confirmation Mass rehearsal

Celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown at a scheduled Confirmation Mass.

Persons of Disabilities

Teen candidates who are persons with disabilities should be included along with others during the Mass rehearsal and celebration of the sacrament. At times, Pastoral need may necessitate an accommodated setting and simpler manner.

Teen Candidates in the process of *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*

Teens in the OCIA process should be invited to the Discipleship Events with their peers, scheduled by and with the parish group.