



Dear Class of 2019,

You must read this letter in full as it contains important information about our Sacrament of Confirmation process!

We acknowledge that junior year is a busy year for you. Along with your normal academics, you are preparing for the ACT and beginning your college search. You are also discerning what gifts and talents you have been given, what you are being called to do with those gifts, and what college or university will prepare you to answer that call. It can seem like trying to prepare for Confirmation is just too much. The Confirmation process will help you grow in your faith and give you tools to help you discern your next steps in life. We are excited that you are considering joining us during this time of discernment!

Our faith is not just another activity to try to juggle in our busy lives between school and extracurricular activities. It is part of who we are and should drive all of our decisions. The Sacrament of Confirmation is for those who are ready to be a disciple of Christ and lead others closer to Him through their actions and words. This is why we have stressed the importance of progressing through our high school discipleship process before registering for this rigorous Confirmation preparation process. **While junior year is the first year you can seek the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is not your only opportunity. We invite you to prayerfully consider if now is the right time**, or if you should wait until your senior year or as a young adult.

As you discern if this process is right for you, I want to quickly clarify some of the misconceptions that exist about Confirmation so you can better understand the purpose of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Misconception 1. You graduate from Religious Education

This misconception is common because preparation for this Sacrament ends with a “ceremony” and can feel a lot like graduation. But the Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Initiation, meaning that it signifies the beginning of something, not the end. We never graduate from learning about and growing in our faith, it is a lifelong process.

Misconception 2. The Sacrament of Confirmation is about choosing to be Catholic by confirming your faith

We often think that Baptism is when our parents agree to raise us Catholics and in Confirmation it is our turn to “choose” the faith for ourselves. Baptism bestows an indelible mark on our soul that cannot be removed. Once we become Catholic, we are always Catholic. We can become a “non-practicing” Catholic or even a “non-believing” Catholic, but we will still always remain Catholic. Confirmation is about strengthening our faith so we can more completely share in the mission of Christ and His Church.

Misconception 3. You become an adult in the Church with the Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation is often called the sacrament of Christian maturity, but you don’t suddenly become an adult in the faith. Those who receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, however, are entrusted with more responsibility in the faith and with being a part of the Church community. **Everyone is ready for this responsibility at a different age. You may not be ready, and that’s okay; this is just your first of many opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

The next three pages give an overview of the Confirmation process, how to register, where to get answers to frequently-asked questions, and important dates. We will go through all of these things in greater detail at our **Confirmation Orientation** on **May 21, 2017 or August 13, 2017 at 4:00-5:30 p.m.** Plan on joining us at one of these two sessions and please RSVP for the orientation you will attend on our website: www.lakecountrylifeteen.com.

Our website (www.lakecountrylifeteen.com) is a **VERY** important resource. All the information and paperwork you will need during this process is available here! This includes registration, master calendar of all small group meetings, contact information for all leaders, answers to frequently asked questions, and links to all process paperwork and sign-ups (small group, retreats, ceremony, etc.) We will also include reminders in our weekly e-newsletter called “Life Teen Pulse” via Mail Chimp. You will be automatically on the list upon registering. **Please ensure you get these e-mails and they are not going to your spam box.**

We have an amazing team of adults and young adults who are going to walk with you during this process. Please know that all of us are here to help support you in this process. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or for help.

God Bless,

Andrew Schueller

Director of Student & Young Adult Ministries

Angela Sengenberger

Associate Director of Student & Young Adult Ministries

REGISTERING FOR THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Navigating the Website

- Our Website is www.lakecountrylifeteen.com
- Click on the Tab that Says “Confirmation Process” at the top of the page.
 - During April and May, since we are still concluding our 2016-2017 Process, a drop-down will appear for you to select between “2016-17 Confirmation Process” and “2017-18 Confirmation Process.” You will want to select “2017-18 Confirmation Process.”
- Take a few minutes to get acquainted with this page – this is the main hub of everything you will need for this process.
 - You will see the process laid out there as it is on the next page of this packet.
 - On the right hand side are important links for the year
 - Links to online and by-mail registration forms and a link to RSVP for an orientation session.
 - Links to sign-ups: for your small group, retreat, optional group dinner with Fr. Ken, and end of year reflection. (The sign-ups unlock on certain dates).
 - Sponsor Designation Form (online form).
 - Sponsor Letter of Reference (a form your sponsor needs to take to their Church to be signed).
 - Saint Name Report (.pdf that needs to be printed and turned in).
 - Service Experience Report (.pdf that needs to be printed and turned in).
 - Outline for writing your letter to the Bishop (released in late Fall).
 - Additionally, you will find some resources that will be useful during the Confirmation process, such as:
 - Examples of Service Experiences.
 - Additional Information to help you pick a sponsor and a saint name.
 - General information about our Confirmation retreats.
 - Finally, there is also a link to our Staff & Core Team page where you are able to e-mail any core team member directly.

How to Register Online

NOTE: To register online, you will need to have your candidate's e-mail address and cell number, along with their Baptismal Information (Exact Baptismal date, church name, and church address).

- STEP 1.** Go to www.lakecountrylifeteen.com and click on “Confirmation Process.” On the right hand side is a box with links.
- STEP 2.** First, sign-up for an orientation meeting by clicking on Orientation Sign-up. A pop-up to a sign-up genius form will appear. RSVP for one of our two meetings with a parent and hit submit. After that, close that window and continue via our website.
- STEP 3.** Print out an **Emergency Medical Treatment Form** for each teen you have and a **Parish Payment Worksheet** for your family. Fill these out and turn in to the Student Ministries office located in the Life Teen Café along with a check made out to “St. Charles.”
- STEP 4.** Click on “Confirmation Registration Form.” A pop-up will pull up a google document. Please fill out this form. At the end of the form hit submit. If you have more than one candidate, there will be a link on the bottom to “Submit another response.”

How to Register by Mail

- First, sign-up for an orientation meeting by clicking on Orientation RSVP. A pop-up to a sign-up genius form will come up. RSVP for one of our two meetings as a family and hit submit. After that, close that window and continue via our website.
- Click the link that says “Register by Mail.” A .pdf packet will pop-up. Print off this packet **double sided** and fill out all the paperwork and submit it together with a check made out to “St. Charles” to our office. These forms are also available to pick-up in both the Parish Office and the Student & Young Adult Ministries Office.

What You Need to Know For Confirmation Process at St. Charles

STEPS FOR THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS

STEP #1: Discernment Process (April to May)

- Start thinking and praying about enrolling in the Confirmation program for the fall.
- Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- You may consider meeting with Andrew, Angela, or a Core Team member to discuss the Confirmation program.
- Start looking for a Confirmation sponsor [Online FAQ #14 & #15] and for a Confirmation (saint) name [FAQ #16]. Information on both are available on our website on the Confirmation page.

STEP #2: Register for Confirmation (April to June)

- Both electronic and paper forms are available online at: www.lakecountrylifeteen.com
- Fill out all the information. Mail or drop off the Medical Treatment Form and the Payment Information Form with check (and paper registration form if NOT registering online). **Due July 1, 2017!**
- Complete the pre-program statement (both candidate and a parent) and turn in [FAQ #17]. **Due September 1st**
- Attend Parent and Student Orientation: Either **May 21st or August 13th at 4:00p.m. until 5:30 p.m. in the Church (May) and Borromeo Room (August) respectfully.** Please RSVP for one of these two sessions.

STEP #3: Beginning of Preparation (May to September)

- Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- During the late summer you will get an e-mail to sign-up for a particular small group (max 10 candidates per group). This will be your group for the entire year. [FAQ #4-6]. **Deadline August 21st**
- During early September you will get an e-mail to sign up for a particular weekend Confirmation retreat: **October 27-29, 2017; December 8-10, 2017; or February 2-4, 2018** [FAQ #8-9]. **Deadline September 20th**
- Start completing service experiences [FAQ #10].

STEP #4: Preparation (September to April)

- Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Attend small group sessions [FAQ #4-6].
- Attend a small group dinner with Fr. Ken.
- Attend your Confirmation retreat
- Submit Saint Name Paper, Sponsor Forms, and Service Experiences by due dates to our office.
- Before Christmas you will get a link to sign-up for your Confirmation Ceremony.
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. We provide XLTs during these seasons, but other opportunities are available [FAQ #18].

STEP #5: Wrapping Up of Preparation (April and May)

- Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Candidate writes letter to the Bishop (Andrew also reads) reflecting on the Confirmation program (information online).
- Complete end of process interview with Andrew or a Core Team member.
- Candidate, Sponsor, and a parent attend rehearsal for Confirmation Mass. For a Saturday or Sunday Confirmation, rehearsal will be the day before (Friday night or Saturday afternoon). For a weekday Confirmation, rehearsal will be the Sunday afternoon before.
- Attend the Confirmation Mass – Dates TBD by the Archdiocese
- Candidate registers for parish membership.



2017-18 CONFIRMATION PROCESS

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Time	Event	Location
May 21 or Aug. 13	4:00-5:30 p.m.	Confirmation Orientation Session These sessions give an overview of the Confirmation process and allow us to answer your questions.	Church (May 21) Borromeo Room (Aug 13)
July 01, 2017		Registration Due	Student Ministries Office
August 21, 2017		Last Day to Sign-Up for a Small Group	Online
August 27, 2017	4:00-7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Kick-Off Large Group Gathering to cover lesson 1, meet your small group, and receive the rite of welcoming at Mass. Starts with a light dinner.	Borromeo Room & Church
September 01, 2017		Candidate & Parent Pre-Program Statements Due	Student Ministries Offices
September 09, 2017	TBD	Parent & Core Team Mixer Parents are invited to join us at St. Charles' Fall fest to meet the adults who lead our confirmation small groups.	Fall Fest – Location TBD
September 20, 2017		Last Day to Sign-Up for Confirmation Retreat	Online
October 22, 2017		Deadline to Designate Your Confirmation Sponsor	Online
October 22, 2017		Service Experience #1 Due	Student Ministries Office
October 22, 2017	Noon-1:00pm	October Retreat Parent Meeting Meeting for parents to go over the retreat, packing lists, and answer questions.	Life Teen Café
Oct. 27-29, 2017	5:15-2:30 p.m.	October Confirmation Retreat	Offsite
December 3, 2017	Noon-1:00pm	December Retreat Parent Meeting	Life Teen Café
Dec. 8-10, 2017	5:15-2:30 p.m.	December Confirmation Retreat	Offsite
December 14, 2017		Saint Name Report Due	Student Ministries Office
December 14, 2017		Service Experience #2 Due	Student Ministries Office
January 12, 2018		Deadline to Sign-Up for Confirmation Ceremony	Online
January 28, 2018		Service Experience #3 Due	Student Ministries Office
January 28, 2018	Noon-1:00pm	February Retreat Parent Meeting	Life Teen Café
February 2-4, 2018	5:15-2:30 p.m.	February Confirmation Retreat	Offsite
February 11, 2018	4:00-7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Large Group Session with Sponsor Large Group Gathering with Confirmation Sponsor or parent to cover lesson 14 and receive a blessing at Mass. Evening starts with a light dinner. Sponsor Letter of Reference Due!	Borromeo Room & Church
February 25, 2018		Service Experience #4 Due	Student Ministries Office
March 25, 2018		Letter to the Bishop is Due	Student Ministries Office
April 8, 2018		Service Experience #5 Due	Student Ministries Office
April 2018		End of Year Interviews	Various Sites
TBD	TBD	Confirmation Rehearsal	Church
TBD	TBD	Sacrament of Confirmation	Church

Please Note:

This Calendar is tentative, **it can and will change** as we get closer to the fall and throughout the year.
Please consult our online calendar throughout the year for updated times and locations of all meeting.