

# The Two-Year Confirmation Process at St. Gregory the Great (also serving St. Pius X)

Confirmation preparation is an excellent time for young people to mature in their faith, grow in service to others, and renew their commitment to God as they ready themselves for a deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Please see the outline below for what to expect going forward in the two-year Confirmation process. Please note that the Confirmation process for Catholic, public, and private school students is overseen at St. Greg's by the Family Faith Formation office. Confirmation likewise takes place with the parish family, typically in May of 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade / Level I – Confirmation Process

- **9<sup>th</sup> grade religion classes**
  - Catholic high school students -->> religion class counts
  - Public or other private school students -->> participate in Family Faith Formation classes
    - Options include Disciple Camp, Generations of Faith, or weekly Monday classes. Visit [www.stgregs.org/family-faith-formation](http://www.stgregs.org/family-faith-formation) for more information.
- **Receive the orange “Faith in Action” workbook and start working on it**
  - This workbook guides the service work and faith experiences for Confirmation and is due in January of 10<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Start working on service now: ultimately 15 hours of Christian service with at least 5 hours within our family of parishes
  - Start your 4 faith experiences – examples are in the back of the orange book. Any spiritual event in the bulletin counts, including youth ministry.
- **Family Faith Formation will collect the contact info of rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders from both the school and the FFF programs to keep them updated on the Confirmation process.**
  - If you have not been receiving emails from Family Faith Formation and are concerned you may not be on the list, contact [mruszala@stgregs.org](mailto:mruszala@stgregs.org).

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade / Level II – Confirmation Process

- **10<sup>th</sup> grade religion classes**
  - Catholic high school students -->> religion class counts
  - Public or other private school students -->> participate in Family Faith Formation
    - Options include Disciple Camp, Generations of Faith, or weekly Monday classes
- **Register online for the Confirmation prep process at St. Greg's**
  - A link for 10<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation prep registration is usually sent out to prospective candidates around August
  - The form asks you to select a Confirmation name and sponsor, but you can change your selections later
  - You must be registered for Confirmation prep to attend a required parish Confirmation retreat
  - There is a \$125 fee for the Confirmation prep process. Waivers are available in cases of financial hardship. Contact [mruszala@stgregs.org](mailto:mruszala@stgregs.org).
  - The form is due either by November or before attending a retreat – whichever comes first.
- **Attend a parish Confirmation retreat**
  - Typically, three parish-level Confirmation day-retreats are offered throughout our family of parishes. School retreats do not count as the Confirmation retreat. Retreats will be announced as they are scheduled and you will be given the opportunity to select one (usually on the Confirmation form)
- **Candidate / Sponsor Workshop**
  - Two offerings are given in October for a candidate / sponsor workshop, which includes a teaching on the sacrament and reflection. Candidate / sponsor conversation guides will be handed out. Candidates and sponsors are asked to get together six times to have conversations related to the Confirmation process. Sponsors then write a short reflection about these sessions and their candidate's readiness, due by January.
- **Confirmation Mass of Enrollment**
  - A Confirmation Mass of Enrollment typically takes place at a Sunday Mass in October at St. Greg's. Teens preparing for Confirmation within the next school year make a commitment to the Confirmation process. If they have sponsors, sponsors are encouraged to join.

- **Paperwork Deadline: end of January of 10<sup>th</sup> grade**
  - **The orange “Faith in Action” workbook** is turned into the Family Faith Formation office documenting the 15 hours of Christian service (with at least 5 hours within the family of parishes) and 4 faith experiences.
  - Sponsor letters of recommendation must be submitted to the Family Faith Formation office. Sponsors request this letter from their parish.
    - **New policy: even sponsors who are parishioners of St. Greg’s or St. Pius X must request and submit a letter of recommendation.** Brian Ruh processes these requests for the pastor – [bruh@stgregs.org](mailto:bruh@stgregs.org) / 688-5678.
    - **Important note about sponsors:** the letter of recommendation is required since sponsors must meet the canonical requirements for eligibility:
      - They must be a Confirmed Catholic, at least 16 years of age
      - They must not be a parent of the candidate
      - They must be actively practicing their Catholic faith, attending Mass regularly
      - They must be following the marriage laws of the Church
        - Specifically, if they are married they must be married within the Catholic Church
  - **Sponsor reflections** on their sessions with their candidate and candidate readiness are submitted to the Family Faith Formation office or emailed to [mruszala@stgregs.org](mailto:mruszala@stgregs.org)
- **Confirmation Interviews**
  - Two options in March or April will be provided for one-on-one Confirmation interviews, which are led by various catechists in a large room simultaneously. Candidates will discuss their service, experiences, learning highlights, what Confirmation means to them, etc.
- **Confirmation Rehearsal**
  - While we are not typically informed of our Confirmation date by the bishop’s office until February, we will schedule a rehearsal prior to Confirmation once we have a date. Sponsors are encouraged to attend with their candidate.
- **Confirmation Mass**
  - We typically request a weeknight in May at St. Greg’s, but the bishop’s office will inform us of our assigned date.

Know that you are in our prayers. Please direct any questions to:

Mr. Michael Ruzala

Director of Family Faith Formation

St. Gregory the Great Parish

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