



# CONFIRMATION

LIFE TEEN



CONFIRMATION 2019-2020





*Pentecost, 33 A.D.*

CONFIRMATION 2019-2020



Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates,

More than two thousand years ago, the first Confirmation class met in a small crowded upper room in Jerusalem. “And when the day of Pentecost had come...there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:1-4).

And now your teen’s own journey toward Confirmation begins! The Sacrament of Confirmation is a wonderful gift that completes the work of grace God started in your teen at their Baptism. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, your son or daughter will be more perfectly united to the Church and Jesus Christ and given a special strengthening of the Holy Spirit, just like the Apostles and Mary at Pentecost, empowering them to better spread and defend the Gospel through their words and deeds. This strengthening of the Holy Spirit is necessary for us as Christians to live life “to the full” as Jesus wants for us (John 10:10).

This period of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is important for you and your teen. One of the biggest complaints I hear from youth ministers, Priests, and parents, is that after Confirmation teens seem to drift away from the Church. It doesn’t have to be this way. The more reverence, respect, and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation we model as parents, the more our children will learn the power and importance of this Sacrament and our Catholic Faith.

If you are interested in understanding Confirmation better and explaining it to your child, checkout the Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 1285-1321.

Please carefully read and review this packet. The complete list of requirements and due dates can be found on the Candidate Checklist Form. Please review completely and mark your calendars so everything can be turned in on time. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to talk.

**Checkout [sjvministries.weebly.com](http://sjvministries.weebly.com) for Confirmation for updates.**

We will be praying for you and walking with you on this journey!

+JM]

**Nick Longo**

*Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry  
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
Vancouver, Washington, USA*

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# ATTENDANCE POLICY

**We take attendance at all Life Teen/EDGE and Confirmation Sessions.**

Confirmation Candidates are asked to attend the weekly Life Teen Sessions (Sundays 4:00-6:00 P.M.) if in High School, or EDGE Sessions (Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 P.M.) if in Middle School, and Confirmation Sessions (4 additional sessions that happen during the year of prep, announced at Life Teen or EDGE and via REMIND Text Messages).

If serious circumstances beyond your control will cause you to miss a session, be sure to email Nick Longo and inform him. If a Confirmation Candidate misses more than 4 Life Teen/EDGE sessions during their Confirmation year and/or more than 1 Confirmation session, then we would suggest that the candidate wait until he or she can maintain consistent attendance to be confirmed.

There is no make-up work required for missing a Life Teen or EDGE session.

In addition to Life Teen/EDGE nights and Confirmation Sessions, teens are required to attend at least one retreat during their Confirmation year.

If you will miss a Confirmation session, you must:

- Email Nick Longo and let him know in advance (at least 24 hours, preferable, except for emergencies) at [youthministry@stjohnvancouver.org](mailto:youthministry@stjohnvancouver.org)
- Complete the Make-Up Assignment (Reading & Essay). Make-up assignment can be found at: [www.sjvministries.weebly.com](http://www.sjvministries.weebly.com) and on back of this page.
- Paper must be signed by parent and turned in at next Confirmation session.



# MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENT

## *Confirmation Preparation*

READ: Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) paragraphs 1286-1289, 1299 & 1313. (These paragraphs can also be found free online if you do not have a catechism).

READ: Acts chapter 2 (Acts 2) in the Bible.

TYPE: 500 word reflection on: How does Confirmation help us in our Catholic Faith? What stood out to you from Acts Chapter 2? Why?

PRAY: "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

*Please print your 500 word reflection (make sure your name is on it), have a parent sign it, and turn it in to your Confirmation teacher at the next class.*



# IMPORTANT CONFIRMATION DATES

## PARENT & SPONSOR SUPPORT

Parents and Sponsors of our Confirmation Candidates (students) are expected to participate in their own ongoing faith formation as well as support their Candidate throughout the preparation process.

- **Parents** should attend all Parent Meetings & help prepare their son/daughter at home before, during, and after Confirmation through prayer, discussion, and encouragement.
- **Sponsors** must meet with their Candidate in person or over the phone to complete the FOUR SPONSOR MEETINGS listed below.

Each of these sponsor meetings contains homework for the Candidate and Sponsor to complete together. Homework handouts will be given to students during class. The handouts and review content for each sponsor meeting can also be found on our [sjvministries.weebly.com](http://sjvministries.weebly.com) website.

- **Sponsor Meeting #1:** Grace – Homework **Due by Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- **Sponsor Meeting #2:** Sacraments – Homework **Due by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**
- **Sponsor Meeting #3:** Confirmation I – Homework **Due by Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**
- **Sponsor Meeting #4:** Confirmation II – Homework **Due by Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**





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# CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK CHECKLIST

*Please submit all forms to Nick Longo*

- \_\_\_ Youth Group Registration Forms – **Due During Registration**
- \_\_\_ Baptismal Certificate (We copy the original) – **Due During Registration**
- \_\_\_ Copy of your Birth Certificate – **Due During Registration**
- \_\_\_ Attendance Policy Agreement – **Due Parent Meeting**
- \_\_\_ Pick a Sponsor and turn in Sponsor form – **Due Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**  
*If sponsor is from another parish, obtain a form from the parish stating that the sponsor is in good standing at the parish.*
- \_\_\_ Sponsor Meeting #1 Homework – **Due Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- \_\_\_ Sponsor Meeting #2 Homework – **Due Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**
- \_\_\_ Confirmation Letter of Intent – **Due Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**
- \_\_\_ Sponsor Meeting #3 Homework – **Due Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**
- \_\_\_ Sponsor Meeting #4 Homework – **Due Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- \_\_\_ Confirmation Saint Name – **Due Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- \_\_\_ Confirmation Service Events – **Due Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

If any of these deadlines will be a problem, please contact Nick Longo at youthministry@stjohnvancouver.org or at 360-573-3325 ext. 107





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# ATTENDANCE POLICY AGREEMENT

**Due by Parent Meeting**

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*I understand the above expectations for adequate preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and will do my best to meet them.*

Confirmation Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Candidate Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_





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# CHOOSING A SPONSOR

**Due by Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

Confirmation Candidate's Name (student): \_\_\_\_\_

A sponsor is a witness of the commitment to Christ that you are making. The sponsor can be a Godparent or any other Catholic adult, but not a parent, such as a mother or father. The sponsor presents you at your Confirmation and is with you throughout your Confirmation journey.

Requirements of the Sponsor:

- Sponsor must be sufficiently mature for the role and be at least 16 years of age
- Sponsor must be a practicing member of the Catholic Church and initiated in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist
- Sponsor DOES NOT need to be the same gender as the candidate
- Godparents may be sponsors at Confirmation
- Parents of candidates may not be sponsors, but may stand in proxy in the absence of the sponsor
- **If sponsor is NOT a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist, they must submit a letter from their parish pastor indicating they are a registered member in good standing**

It is best to choose a Sponsor with whom you can communicate. Look for someone who can walk this journey with you and help answer questions and guide you in this process. Choose someone you respect and admire. Don't be afraid to ask someone in the Church whom you respect as a faithful and devout Catholic. Most people are extremely honored and flattered to be asked to be a Confirmation Sponsor.

Your Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Parish: St. John the Evangelist or other: \_\_\_\_\_

Why have you asked this person to be your Confirmation Sponsor?





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# CONFIRMATION LETTER OF INTENT

1-page single-spaced letter, to be turned in to Nick Longo **by Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**

To be eligible for Confirmation, a candidate must be baptized and attend Confirmation preparation. One of the steps to prepare for Confirmation is requesting the Sacrament. In most churches, candidates write a letter to their Priest to formally request the Sacrament of Confirmation. Use these tips below to write a letter requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. (These are just suggestions, not a required format.)

## ***Tips on writing your letter to your Priest, asking for the Sacrament of Confirmation:***

1. Address your letter to Father Belleque.
2. Format the letter using a formal letter writing style. Include a greeting, body of the letter, and signature.
  - Type your (do not hand write it, except for the signature at the conclusion of the letter)
3. Address the Priest in the greeting. Begin your letter with "Dear," followed by the name of the Priest. Use the title of "Father" when addressing the priest. If your Priest's name is Tom Belleque, the letter should begin, "Dear Father Belleque."
4. Introduce yourself in the first paragraph. Tell the priest your name, gender, age, year in school and what school you attend. Include some information about your background, family, activities and interests. *This paragraph shouldn't be a long biography, but a brief description of who you are.*
5. Request the Sacrament of Confirmation in the second paragraph. Tell the Priest why you want to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church. Explain what Confirmation means to you and why it is important that you receive the Sacrament. The second paragraph should provide specific information about why you want to be Confirmed.



6. Explain your spiritual preparation for Confirmation in the third paragraph. Note any formal preparations within the church setting, such as Confirmation or catechism classes. Address how you are preparing for Confirmation through prayer. Indicate how often you are attending Mass, and how the worship services are helping you to prepare for Confirmation.
  - Explain how any service events deepened your spiritual life so far. Take time to honestly evaluate your spiritual life and note areas where you are strong in your faith, as well as areas needing improvement.
  - Tell your priest why you feel you are ready to accept the Sacrament of Confirmation. Explain why you are ready for Confirmation.
7. Apply Confirmation to your future in the fourth paragraph. Explain how you plan to stay connected to God throughout your life. Evaluate the role the Holy Spirit will play in your spiritual growth. Tell how you will continue to serve others and God in your life. Tell your priest how you plan to live out your Confirmation promises in the future.
8. Thank your Priest in the fifth paragraph. Thank your Priest for his role in preparing you for Confirmation. Tell him that you appreciate his spiritual leadership and teachings. If you have a personal relationship with your Priest, note a specific attribute or quality that he shares for which you are thankful.
9. Conclude the letter. Use the words “Sincerely” or “Best Regards” before your signature line. Be sure to sign the letter with your complete name using a blue or black ink pen.

***Please complete and return by Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>***





# CHOOSE A CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME

**Due by Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Confirmation Candidate's Full Legal Name:

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There is a great tradition in Salvation History of God changing someone's name to represent a new role or direction or purpose for the individual's life. Abraham (Abram), Peter (Simon), and Paul (Saul), are all examples of people God set apart and destined for a great plan.

Your Confirmation name should reflect your new role as a mature Christian in the Catholic Church. Select the name of a Saint who you admire or would like to imitate.

After you decide on a name, use the space below to explain your choice. **For example**, if your name were Dominic Robert Mitchell, and you picked St. Michael as your Confirmation name, **your Confirmation name would be Dominic Robert "Michael" Mitchell.**

Confirmation Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please explain below why you chose this Saint's name for your Confirmation name.**





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# CONFIRMATION SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Confirmation year is an opportunity for Candidates to serve in their community and spend some time exploring how their gifts and talents can be used within their parish community and family. There are tons of ways you can get involved and serve at our parish.

This year, candidates for Confirmation will complete 12 events, having the leader of the event or ministry sign the service sheet below. (For family events, parents can sign off.) These events can be completed and tracked between April of the previous Spring through Session 9 of a student's Confirmation year.

There are three areas that Confirmation Candidates can look for opportunities to serve in the Church parish and in their family. This list on the back of this page outlines all recommended and acceptable events. Service events outside of the family and our Parish are not counted as service events for Confirmation.

When volunteering for an event or ministry, please refer to the Parish website, bulletin, or email to contact the ministry or event coordinator for details on volunteering.



# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST & WITHIN THE FAMILY

*3 events minimum per category are required*

## **Liturgical Ministry**

Liturgical Ministries: Altar Server, Usher, Greeter, Lector, Sacristan, etc.  
Music Ministry  
Hospitality at Mass  
Stations of the Cross

## **Mission Ministry**

Vacation Bible School (VBS counts for 2 event requirements in this category)  
Assistant Catechist for K-6  
Walk for the Poor  
Walk & Knock Food Drive  
Feeding the Homeless  
Prison Ministry  
Thanksgiving Baskets  
Stewardship Projects – Contact Deborah Bourque at (360) 573-3325 ext. 101  
Any other St. John the Evangelist Mission Ministries

## **Social Events**

Welcome Dinners  
Fun on the Run  
Lenten Soup Suppers (kitchen duty)  
Tear down and set up for Life Teen or EDGE, any Church events, etc.  
Helping with Knights of Columbus  
Rummage Sale  
Parish Picnic

## **Family and Personal Faith**

Lead a family Rosary  
Lead your family in Liturgy of the Hours (such as Night Prayer)  
Lead your family in Lectio Divina (reading and meditating on Scripture)  
Go to Confession as a family  
Go to a Holy Hour of Adoration as a family  
Attend the Parish Mission as a family

*For more info, be sure to visit [stjohnvancouver.org](http://stjohnvancouver.org)*

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# SERVICE EVENTS WORKSHEET

Due by Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

(Horas de Servicio)

Service Hours of 12 Events due by Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>

Confirmation Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (Fecha)	Service Event (Evento de Servicio)	Event Supervisor Signature (Supervisor de evento)





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# FINAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

*(To keep, for reference)*

Interviews will be **Scheduled End of April**

During your last Confirmation session, you will have a final interview to assess your readiness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. These are some of the questions, but group leaders reserve the right to ask other questions from material covered throughout the year.

**What Confirmation session most affected your spiritual life, and why?**

**Why do you want to be Catholic?**

**What is the difference between a mortal and venial sin?**

**What are the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit?**

**What does the Sacrament of Confirmation mean to you? What do you hope it will do in your life? How have you prepared spiritually to receive it?**

**What is discipleship?**

**What service events have you done in preparation for Confirmation? What did you learn from them?**





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