

**St. Luke the Evangelist
Roman Catholic Church**



**Teen Confirmation
Preparation Handbook**

2021 – 2022

What is Confirmation?

St. Luke's will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **March 20, 2022.**

Confirmation, also known as the sacrament of Christian maturity, completes the grace given to us at Baptism.

“For ‘by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit’”. (CCC # 1285)

Confirmation is closely linked to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost:

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” (Acts 2:1-4)

We must prepare to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. As with any gift, we must open it; with the Holy Spirit it is no different. We must open ourselves more fully to the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Confirmation is not the end of our faith journey; rather it is a new beginning and a chance to be sealed in the faith. To read more about Confirmation, go to paragraphs 1285-1321 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Confirmation Preparation

The Archdiocese of Atlanta requires participation in formation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, which is *separate and unique* from the minimum of 1 year of foundational religious education (9th grade). Here at St. Luke the Evangelist, this is completed within the 10th grade Sunday PSR classes prior to reception of the Sacrament.

Confirmation Check List

The Sacraments of the Catholic Church are free gifts of God, yet we still need to prepare ourselves to receive such an awesome gift of grace so that the seed dies and rises to bear much fruit (John 12:24).

- _____ Weekly attendance at Sunday Mass
- _____ Faithfully attend two years of Religious Education
(Parish School of Religion, Catholic school, or Catholic Homeschool)
- _____ Attend (with parents) Confirmation meeting **(Wed., Oct. 27th)**
- _____ Turn in Baptismal Certificate **(Due by Wed., Nov. 17th)**
- _____ Turn in Sponsor Name &
Sponsor Affirmation Form **(Due by Wed., Nov. 17th)**
- _____ Turn in Sponsor Letter **(Due by Sun., Jan. 16th)**
- _____ Turn in Patron Saint Name & Paper **(Due by Sun., Feb. 6th)**
- _____ Complete volunteer service hours
(Due by Sun., Feb. 13th)
- _____ Attend Our Confirmation Retreat
(Sat., Feb. 19, 2022 at Life Teen's Camp Hidden Lake: Dahlonega)
- _____ Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Confirmation
(Any of St. Luke's scheduled times, or during the retreat)

Weekly Sunday Mass Attendance

At a minimum, students are required to attend Sunday Mass weekly, as well as on Holy Days of Obligation. This is not just a requirement for reception of this sacrament, but an obligation of all baptized Christians in obeying the Third Commandment: “Remember to keep holy the Lord’s Day”.

Two Years of Religious Education

To ensure that you have the proper background in the teachings of the Catholic Church, you are required to have been active in our High School PSR Program during the year prior to and the year of Confirmation. This can be through an approved Catholic Homeschooling program or a Catholic School education as well.

Baptismal Certificate

We need a copy of your baptismal certificate (if you were not baptized at St. Luke’s). We will also need your mother’s maiden name and your city/state of birth, if not listed on your baptismal certificate. **(Due by Nov. 17th)**

Sponsor Name & Sponsor Affirmation Form

Your sponsor should be someone in the Church who you can look up to and someone who can encourage you to grow in your Catholic faith. Particularly, they must be a baptized and confirmed Catholic, at least 16 years old, and a practicing member of the Church. They should be a person you interact with frequently. They don't have to be married, but, if they are, they need to have been married in the Catholic Church. (And they cannot be your parents.) The sponsor must complete the Affirmation form and it must be turned in by deadline. **(Due by Nov. 17th)**

Sponsor Letter

In preparing for your Confirmation, you should meet with your sponsor periodically to determine if you are ready to receive the sacrament. If so, your sponsor will need to write a letter to Fr. Matt, supporting your decision and attesting to your preparedness. **(Due by Jan. 16th)**

Patron Saint Name & Paper

All of us are called to holiness, and the saints give us the examples and the inspiration to lead holy lives. Research the saints and find one you can relate to, or one that inspires you. Once you have chosen your patron saint, write a **1-page** (typed, double-spaced, 12pt font) paper about them. Include where and when they lived, what they are the patron of, when their feast day is, why you chose them, and what you can gain from their example. **(Due by Feb. 6th)**

Volunteer Service Hours

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me...Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:34-40).

As Catholics, we are called to work for justice in our world. We are also expected to support our church community. For this reason, in preparing for your Confirmation, we require you to complete 4 volunteer service hours of your choosing at our parish. Some suggestions of events that could require assistance may include:

- Christmas Pageant
- Women’s Guild Cookie Walk
- Women’s Guild Yard Sale
- Landscape Committee
- Gold Rush Festival
- Ushering at Sunday Mass
- Cleaning and sanitizing after Mass

(This must be completed by February 13th, 2022, before the retreat)

Attend Our Confirmation Retreat

Retreats are great opportunities to grow in faith and listen to God. To help you prepare to receive God’s gifts through Confirmation we will be attending a **mandatory** 1-day Confirmation Retreat. Our retreat is scheduled for **February 19th, 2022** at Life Teen’s Camp Hidden Lake, here in Dahlenega. More details will follow.

Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

“To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit. More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act” (CCC 1310)

Therefore, in preparation for the sacrament, we should be cleansed by going to Reconciliation. **(There will be opportunities for Reconciliation during the retreat and Confessions are regularly offered 30 minutes before each Mass or by appointment with Fr. Matt.)**

Communication

Students must complete all requirements in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you have legitimate extenuating circumstances, please contact the Director of Religious Education well in advance to coordinate an alternate assignment; failure to do so may result in delaying your Confirmation.

Dress Code for Confirmation Mass

(Please refer to PSR 2021-2022 Policies and Information Handbook under the heading “Dress”.) Out of respect for ourselves, other churchgoers, and our clergy, clothing guidelines *for both candidates and sponsors* for the Confirmation Mass are as follows:

- ❖ Boys: Dress shirt, dress pants (no shorts), tie, and dress shoes. Suit coat is encouraged but not required.
- ❖ Girls: Dresses are to have sleeves (not sleeveless), not low-cut (no cleavage showing), and meet the fingertip rule when shoulders are relaxed and arms extended down to the side.)

Note: We will have shawls on hand for use if they should be needed.

Post-Confirmation

Candidates are encouraged to assist in many aspects of parish life, for example being a reader at Mass, joining the choir, or becoming an assistant catechist with our Parish School of Religion.

Please feel free to contact our Director of Religious Education with any questions:

Kelley Peffer at kpeffer@stlukercc.org or (706) 864-4779 extension 7004.