

Confirmation Dates – 2018-2019

Confirmation Information Meeting (w/ Parent)	Sun. 11/4/2018 - 3:40pm to 5pm (Pine Room)
Confirmation Registration Due – Register Online www.ascensionoakpark.com/parish/confirmation-grades-7-12	Mon. 11/12/2018
Confirmation Inscription Service and 5pm Mass (w/ Parent or Sponsor)	Sun. 12/2/2018- 4pm to 6pm (Pine Room & Church)
Confirmation Service Retreat @ Feed My Starving Children (20 adult chaperones needed)	Sat. 12/8/2018 – 9:45am to 6pm (Offsite – meet @ Pine Room)
Sponsor Form Due – Submit Online	Fri. 12/14/2018
Confirmation Meeting #1	Th. 1/24/2019 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm (Pine Room) or Sun. 1/27/2019 - 3pm to 5pm (Pine Room)
Confirmation Meeting #2	Th. 2/7/2019 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm (Pine Room) or Sun. 2/10/2019 - 3pm to 5pm (Pine Room)
PADS Service Project –providing dinner for PADS guests – more information will be given out at the January meetings	Sun. 2/24/2019 – Euclid Methodist Church, 405 S. Euclid, Oak Park, IL
Confirmation Meeting #3 Paper #1 Due	Sun. 3/7/2019 - 3pm to 5pm (Pine Room) or Th. 3/10/2019 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm (Pine Room)
Confirmation Meeting #4 and 5pm Mass (w/ Sponsor) Paper #2 Due	Sun. 5/19/2019 - 3pm to 6pm (Pine Room & Church)
Paper #3 & Logs Due	Fri. 9/6/2019 (Parish Center)
Bishop's Letter Due	Fri. 9/13/2019 (Parish Center)
Confirmation Meeting #5	Sun. 9/29/2019 - 3pm to 5pm (Pine Room) or Th. 10/3/2019 - 6:30pm to 8:30pm (Pine Room)
Confirmation Vigil(w/ Sponsor)	Fri. 10/18/2019 - 7pm to 8:30pm (Church)
Confirmation (w/ Sponsor, Parent, Family)	Sat. 10/19/2019 – Time TBD
Post-Confirmation Retreat	Date TBD – likely late October or early November
Mentor Meeting Dates	
Mentor Meeting #1	Sun. 1/20/2019 – 11am-12:30pm
Mentor Meeting #2	Sun. 2/3/2019 – 11am-12:30pm
Mentor Meeting #3	Sun. 3/3/2019 – 11am-12:30pm
Mentor Meeting #4	Sun. 9/22/2019 – 11am-12:30pm

Adult Roles:

Greeter – An adult who volunteers at the Confirmation meetings to greet the Candidates and help with logistical aspects of running the meetings.

Mentor – A fully-initiated Catholic in good standing who works with a small group of candidates at the Confirmation meetings. A Mentor can be youth, parents, or sponsors but will be expected to attend additional meetings.

Sponsor – This person is a fully-initiated Catholic in good standing who guides the Candidate in faith development. Each Candidate picks a Sponsor, often a Godparent or another person close to the Candidate.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Family	Sacraments - Attend Mass weekly & receive Reconciliation regularly
Candidate/ Family	Religious Education - During 6 th , 7 th , & 8 th grades (both before and after Confirmation), do either of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attend Ascension school and receive a passing grade in Religion Class. Or2. Attend Religious Education classes at Ascension.
Candidate/ Sponsor/ Family	≥15 hours of Service Work – Make service a habit. Serve in many ways (esp. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy) around the parish and in the surrounding community. The Candidate is to complete a Service Log detailing at least 15 hours. At least 5 of the hours should be spent serving each of the following (overlapping) categories: the Parish, the wider community, and the poor. The RE office will send out emails with available service opportunities. Here are a few examples: perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy (e.g. feed the hungry, pray for the living and the dead), serve at Housing Forward (PADS), help at the parish community garden, or participate in some role in addition to being part of the congregation during the Mass (e.g. sing in the choir, be an altar server, etc.).
Candidate/ Sponsor/ Family	≥5 Faith Boosters – Grow your faith life. Participate in many faith based activities that are outside of the normal life of the Candidate. These should enliven the Candidate’s faith and/or introduce them to some aspect of Catholic faith life with which he or she is unfamiliar. These should also help the Candidate get into the good habit of living a vibrant faith life. A minimum of 5 faith boosters must be detailed in the Confirmation Log. It is suggested that at least one faith booster is done multiple times and that there are at least two different types of faith boosters. For example, the Candidate could attend Taize Prayer twice and three other faith boosters. The RE office will send out emails with available suggested activities. Here are a few examples: attend a prayer service (e.g. Taize Prayer) or daily Mass, perform an examination of conscience as part of nightly prayers, or spend an hour at Eucharistic Adoration.
Candidate/ Sponsor/ Parents	Bible & Faith Conversations - Read and reflect on the selected passages from the Bible. Discuss them as well as questions the Candidate has about his or her faith. Questions will be provided to help prompt the conversations. Please complete a Bible reflection each month. A longer paper synthesizing these summaries will be due later in the year. See below for more information on the paper.
Candidate/ Sponsor/ Parents	3 Written Reflections - Complete three typed reflections discussing aspects of our faith. Formal descriptions of the papers will be in the Confirmation Log. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Patron Saint & Call To Holiness2. Bible Reflections & Faith Conversations3. Faith & Works
Candidate/ Sponsor/ Parents	Request to be Confirmed in a Letter to Bishop - Write a typed letter to the Bishop asking to be Confirmed. More detailed instructions will be sent out over the summer, in August.

Confirmation Mentor: Role Description

Purpose:

The purpose of a Confirmation Mentor is to be a small group leader, facilitating conversations and activities, and helping a small group of Confirmation Candidates (ideally, groups of 5-8) grow in faith and community.

Responsibilities:

- Leading Small Group conversations with Candidates
- Providing guidance and help in Confirmation activities
- Growing the small group from a set of separate individuals (potentially strangers) into a faith community
- Attend Confirmation Candidate Formation Meetings (arriving 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting)
- Attend Confirmation Mentor Formation Meetings (usually within the week prior to each Candidate Formation Meeting)
- Form a faith community with the other Confirmation Mentors
- Read the papers that the Candidates in your group have written & return them to the Confirmation Coordinator
- If possible, have at least one social event for the group over the course of the year, prior to Confirmation. This could be to go see a movie and have ice cream and talk about the movie afterwards, get together for a bbq, go to the zoo, etc. The purpose of this is to help form a community, which simply can't be done during in the few hours that they have together as a Confirmation group.

Requirements:

- Active, fully-initiated member of the Catholic Church
- Desire to work with youth/teens
- Successfully Completed (or willing to complete) Background Check and Virtus training

Confirmation Mentor Formation Meetings:

Confirmation Mentor Formation Meetings are approximately an hour to an hour and a half long meetings where the Mentors get a chance to:

1. Learn what will be covered in a forthcoming Confirmation Candidate Formation Meeting,
2. Get a chance to experience/work with the materials/activities so that they can help the Candidates during the Confirmation Formation Meeting, and
3. Pray together and grow in their faith.

Confirmation Greeter: Role Description

Purpose:

The purpose of a Confirmation Greeter is to welcome the Candidates, help with attendance, and other logistical aspects of the Confirmation meeting.

Responsibilities:

- Attend Confirmation Candidate Formation Meetings (arriving 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting)
- Help organize materials for the meeting
- Welcome the Candidates as they arrive at the meeting
- Help with attendance
- Answer simple questions the Candidates might have about the meeting
- Ensure that any materials that need to be submitted by the Candidates are turned in prior to the start of the meeting
- Record/log any materials that have been turned in
- Help with organizing/cleaning up from the meeting (not more than 15-30 minutes meeting after the meeting has concluded)

Requirements:

- Friendly
- Organized
- Successfully Completed (or willing to complete) Background Check and Virtus training

Confirmation Service Retreat: Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville

Description:

On Sat. Dec. 8, 2017, we will travel by bus to the Libertyville, IL site of Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) (<https://www.fmsc.org/>). FMSC is a Christian non-profit that provides healthy meals for malnourished children around the world. The Candidates and chaperones will get to pack bags of food that are shipped to hungry children around the world. This experience of providing food to needy children has been a formative and enjoyable part of the Confirmation process for many teens over the last few years at Ascension. After the service part of the retreat, we will go to St. Joseph Catholic Church to have lunch, do some activities, and discuss the event. After lunch, we will proceed to Marytown for a short time of prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Finally, we will head back to Ascension in time for the 5pm Mass. Families are encouraged to go to this Mass with their Candidate as the crowning part to the Retreat.

Itinerary:

9:45am - Meet at Ascension
10am - Bus leaves for FMSC in Libertyville, IL
11am - Arrive at FMSC and begin packing food – 11:30 am start time
1:30pm - Finish at FMSC, Board bus for St. Joseph Catholic Church
1:45pm - Pizza Lunch, Activities, & Discussion
3pm - Leave Civic Center and head to Marytown
3:40pm – Leave Marytown and head back to Ascension
4:40pm - Arrive at Ascension in time for 5pm Mass with your family

Costs:

This retreat's cost has already been covered by the Confirmation fee. There is no additional fee for this retreat. However, FMSC accepts monetary donations, if you have the means to do so.

Additional Notes:

- We need 20 Virtus-trained adults to help chaperone this event.
- This is a required part (1 of 2 retreats) of the Confirmation Program.

Please contact Matt Goto via the Religious Education Office (religious.ed@ascensionoakpark.com) for more information or with any questions.

Confirmation Candidate Information Sheet

To be filled out by Candidate – Due at the Parish Center by November 12, 2018

Full Name: _____

Age: _____

How do you like to spend your free time?

What do you want to do with your life? or How do you want to be remembered?

In your words, what does it mean to be Catholic?

What would you like to learn this year during Confirmation Preparation? or
What big faith question do you hope to have answered?

What part does prayer have in your life right now?

Who is God?

What are your reasons for going through Confirmation Preparation at this time?

What is the most important thing you need to do to prepare for Confirmation?