

Mary, Queen of Peace Confirmation Program

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Dear Candidates and Families;

Mary, Queen of Peace invites young people who are between the ages of 13 and 18 to begin the preparation process for Confirmation. That preparation is defined by the Archdiocese of Seattle Confirmation Guidelines in two “Periods of Formation” as follows:



1. **Proximate Formation:** (Formation Period - typically ages 13 to 15)

This involves the formal, systematic, ongoing Catholic faith formation a young person receives through being enrolled and actively participating in the following: ongoing catechesis at home, Catholic schooling, parish faith formation and youth ministry programs. Emphasis is on the study of Sacred Scriptures, specifically on the life and ministry of Jesus. This is also a time for affirming Catholic identity and providing young people with an age-appropriate and integrated way of **Seeing, Celebrating and Living** life as a faithful disciple, grateful steward and active witness of Jesus Christ. This is typically a two year period which precedes an invitation to be Confirmed in the Catholic faith.

2. **Immediate Formation** (Sacramental Period - typically Ages 16 to 18)

This is the defined period of formation that a young person completes upon expressing a desire to be Confirmed and completing a period of proximate formation. **One enters this period of formation after proximate formation is complete—this is not a starting place. The focus now is on preparing candidates for celebration of the sacrament itself with special emphasis on the significance of Christian Initiation, the role and activity of the Holy Spirit, and the actions, words and gestures of the Rite of Confirmation.** The teen will attend Confirmation classes twice a month, be involved in service projects, engaged in the study of the faith within the home and family, will grow in faith and fellowship with his or her peers while on retreat, and will be engaged in all of these things while seeking to grow closer to Christ and witnessing the gospel in their everyday life. With the increasing support and involvement of peers, parents, sponsors, catechists and the entire parish community, candidates are encouraged during and after the process to embark on their life-long journey of faith and to grow in relationship with Christ and his Church. **Candidates in the Archdiocese of Seattle are typically at least 16-years-of-age at the time the sacrament of Confirmation is conferred.**

In helping your teen consider his or her readiness, please keep in mind these minimum expectations for young people presenting themselves for Confirmation:

1. Have participated fully in a process of preparation with attitudes and understandings appropriate to adolescence.
2. Be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Jesus, his teachings and the values and practices of the Catholic faith as defined by the *Adolescent Confirmation Curriculum*.
3. Be faithfully attending Mass and receiving Eucharist weekly.
4. Be able and willing to express their free decision to accept Confirmation and a desire to continue to nurture their relationship with the Jesus Christ.
5. Be in a state of grace having participated in the sacrament of Reconciliation as part of immediate preparation for celebration of Confirmation.

Our intention is to provide appropriate preparation over the months leading up to Confirmation so that each young person will be prepared according to these expectations. The guiding principles for our Confirmation Program are attached to this letter.

We hope you will take time to review this information with your son or daughter, and that you also feel free to ask one of us for more information if that is helpful. This can be a rich and important step in the spiritual growth of young people. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call one of us. You are in our prayers as you continue to commit yourselves to the growth and spiritual development of your children.

Many Blessings,

Fr. Kevin Duggan

Pastor

Chelsea Madura

Pastoral Assistant for Senior High Youth Ministry

Confirmation Requirements: include participation in Confirmation Classes, retreats, liturgies, and parish life, including regular attendance at our ANCHOR Sunday Night youth ministry program. Candidates who are beginning their immediate preparation process must also attend individual meetings prior to beginning Confirmation Classes. All candidates must be 16 years old by the date of their Confirmation Liturgy.

Confirmation Classes – these are listed on the schedule. If there is ever a week when you are not able to attend either class, please let us know in advance. All preparation classes must be completed before Confirmation. Candidates may not miss more than one class during their preparation period.

Retreats –The MQP confirmation retreats are shown on the schedule. The retreats are required.

Liturgies – As Catholics, we are called to full, active and conscious participation in Liturgy. As you prepare for the celebration of a sacrament, this must be a priority in your life. You are expected to attend Mass every Sunday. You may attend any Sunday Liturgy (including the Saturday Night Vigil), but we would like to extend a special invitation to attend the Sunday Night Teen Mass at 5pm at MQP. Please be an active participant and make yourself known to Chelsea Madura, Michael Marchione or Fr. Kevin. This way we will know that you are attending the liturgy regularly.

Parish Life Involvement –As Catholics, we are called to participate in the life of our parish community. During your Confirmation preparation year you are required to participate as an active member of the Mary, Queen of Peace parish community and/or the wider Catholic Archdiocesan community. Many options are open to you. Please see the list of possibilities. You may also read the bulletin or call the parish office to find out about ways that you can get involved in the parish, or talk with Chelsea for additional ideas.

ANCHOR Youth Ministry Program – you are required to register for ANCHOR and to be regularly attending the ANCHOR “Harbor Nights” on Sunday evenings and participate in other ANCHOR events. Attendance will occasionally be taken to ensure students who are in their proximate or immediate year of formation are attending ANCHOR. ANCHOR is your weekly catechism and faith formation; Confirmation classes cover your more immediate sacramental preparation.

Service – As Catholic Christians we are called to express our faith through loving service. As Jesus modeled, there is particular value in serving the poor and under-served. If you have been a regular participant in our youth program, you have been invited to be part of service opportunities. Therefore it is expected that if you are beginning the period of immediate formation for Confirmation, you have been involved in service already. However, since our faith must be expressed in service at all times in our life, it is required teens participate in one additional ANCHOR service trip or retreat outside of the what is done within confirmation before receiving the Sacrament. Students can attend one of the following to fulfill this requirement: the Summer Mission trip: Agape: July 5-9, CYO Camp Hamilton with MQP: August 3-9, participate in the Catholic Youth Convention: November 7 & 8, or participate in another ANCHOR service Saturday before Confirmation.

Individual Meetings – each candidate is required to attend one individual meeting with Chelsea. These will last about 15-20 minutes each. These meetings will give Chelsea and the candidates an opportunity to talk about this important step before classes begin in September. *Please be sure to schedule this meeting with Chelsea sometime during the two weeks **PRIOR** to when Confirmation classes begin in September.*

Sponsors: All Confirmation Candidates must choose a sponsor. Sponsors must be at least 16 years old, fully initiated (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation), active Catholics who are in good standing with the Church. Parents may not be sponsors for their own children. Ideally, a sponsor will be someone who is active in your life. Someone you can talk to and share your faith with. Your sponsor is your “companion in faith.” Please take some time to reflect prayerfully on your choice for sponsor. If your sponsor does not live locally or is not able to attend any of the required events, you may choose a proxy to stand in for him/her. A sponsor form (available on the MQP website) must be turned in.

Verification of Sacraments: You must provide MQP with a copy of your baptismal certificate with notation of the Sacrament of Eucharist. You must also provide the parish with a copy of your sponsor’s baptismal certificate. Please note that this can take a while, depending on where you received the sacraments. Please begin this process immediately.

Parent involvement: This program cannot be successful without parent involvement. Both the candidates and the parish need your help!! All parents are **required** to help in some way. Below are the different options to help as parents. Please choose at least one and mark it on your Confirmation registration form, along with your contact information:

PARENTS OF “PROXIMATE FORMATION” TEENS:

Confirmation Reception Volunteers—Parents whose teen is in the “proximate formation” stage are required to help with the Confirmation reception. We will need volunteers to help set up, and to help take down that night. Please mark which you would like to help with on your form when you register your child for ANCHOR.

PARENTS OF “IMMEDIATE FORMATION” TEENS:

Small Group Leaders— Confirmation candidates will be placed in small groups during the Wednesday evening meetings. The small group leaders will be in charge of facilitating discussions and activities within their group, as well as being a role model in their faith. To be a small group leader you must be able to commit to all of the Wednesday evening meetings, as well as the two retreats. There will also be optional planning meetings.

Snack Providers – we will need snacks provided for evening classes, and lunch for the Saturday retreat. Snack providers, and those assisting with lunch will purchase the snacks (receipts may be turned in for reimbursement), set-up, serve, and clean-up.

Drive on the Confirmation January retreat—we will need drivers to help transport our large group of teens from MQP to the retreat location in Stanwood, Washington. Please let us know if you would like to be a driver to drive teens that Friday night, and pick them up again on Sunday afternoon.

Adolescent Confirmation: A Parish Model

A Vision

Seven Guiding Principles

Confirmation marks a unique moment in a person's life when one is invited to grow in faith and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, embrace a *new maturity** where all that has gone before takes on richer and deeper meaning further forming one as a faithful disciple, grateful steward, and active evangelist of the Risen Christ.

*As defined in *Secularity and the Gospel* by Rev. Ronald Rolheiser

1. We regularly and personally invite and welcome all baptized Catholic young people registered in the Archdiocese of Seattle between the ages of 13 and 18 to begin the Confirmation preparation journey.
2. We faithfully prepare young people to **See, Celebrate** and **Live** life as Catholics so they may know and embrace their Catholic identity and understand what it means to live life as a faithful disciple, grateful steward and active evangelist.
3. We accompany young people and their parents on their spiritual journey—marking a clear path uniting Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and emphasizing catechesis as an initiation and apprenticeship of the entire Christian life.
4. We create and foster in young people a commitment to the Risen Christ by sharing, affirming and modeling the lifelong faith practices of worship, prayer, study, stewardship and moral decision-making.
5. We regularly identify, evaluate and implement best practices and resources adaptable to a variety of parish settings to enrich and complement adolescent Confirmation preparation.
6. We appreciate the vital role the entire Church assembly plays in effective evangelization and take our cue from the Baptismal Catechumenate for creating a Confirmation preparation journey which—through relationships, ritual and worship—involves parents, sponsors and the entire parish community in modeling and nurturing the faith of our young people.
7. We value the faith commitment of our paid and volunteer ministers and provide them with the formation, resources and support they need to guide and prepare young people, their parents and sponsors to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This framework for adolescent Confirmation is responsive to Seattle Archdiocesan policies and guidelines and addresses the needs of young people, their parents, sponsors and the entire faith community.

The recommended parish best practices that follow support seven essential components:

1. (Is) Theologically Sound
2. Models the Baptismal Catechumenate
3. Affirms Catholic Identity
4. Invites, Welcomes and Forms
5. Builds Relationship
6. (Is) Celebrated as a Parish Liturgy
7. Supports the Newly Confirmed

The preparation model recommended defines proximate formation for Confirmation as typically occurring in Grades 9 and 10, with immediate preparation and celebration of the sacrament in grade 11 (i.e., 16-years-of-age).

Mary, Queen of Peace
****TENTATIVE** Confirmation Schedule 2015-2016**
Confirmation Mass –TBA

Please note: It is required teens pick and attend one of the service or retreat trip options below. Full and generous scholarships are available for all overnight trips.

Day	Date	Event	Time	Room
July 5-9		Service/retreat option 1: AGAPE Mission Trip		Bellingham WA
August 3-8		Service/retreat option 2: CYO Camp Hamilton—(be sure to register with MQP—for cabin groupings)		Camp Hamilton, Monroe WA
Aug 18 th -Sept 3 rd		Individual Meetings with Chelsea	As Scheduled <small>(please contact Chelsea to schedule)</small>	TBA
Wednesday	Sept 9	Confirmation 1 st Class (with parents)	6:30-8:00PM	N 147
Saturday	Sept 19	Strengths Day Retreat	9AM-5:00PM	TBA
Wednesday	Sept 23	Confirmation Class	6:30-8:00PM	N147
Wednesday	Oct 7	Confirmation Class	6:30-8:00PM	N 147
Wednesday	Oct 21	Confirmation Class	6:30-8:00PM	N 147
Wednesday	Nov 4	Confirmation Class	6:30-8:00PM	N 147
Sat Nov 7 & Sun Nov 8		Service/retreat option 3: High School Youth Convention		Bellevue College
Wednesday	Nov 18	Confirmation Class (with Sponsors)	6:30-8:00PM	N 147

Wednesday	Dec 9	Confirmation Class	6:30-8:00PM	N 147
Saturday	Dec 19	Service/retreat option 4: Christmas Service Day		Burlington WA
Wednesday	Jan 6	Confirmation Class	6:30-8:00PM	N 147
Fri Jan 22- Sun Jan 24		Confirmation Retreat/ Overnight	6pm Friday- 1pm Sunday	TBA
TBA	Feb	Confirmation Rehearsal	TBA	Church
TBA	Feb	Confirmation Celebration	TBA	Church & Social Hall
Wednesday	Feb 24	Confirmation Mystagogy Class	6:00-8:00PM	N 147

Please note:

*You are only ALLOWED to miss one Confirmation class.
In addition to attending the classes and other requirements on this schedule,
we would like to see you at ANCHOR on Sunday nights. See you there! ☺*