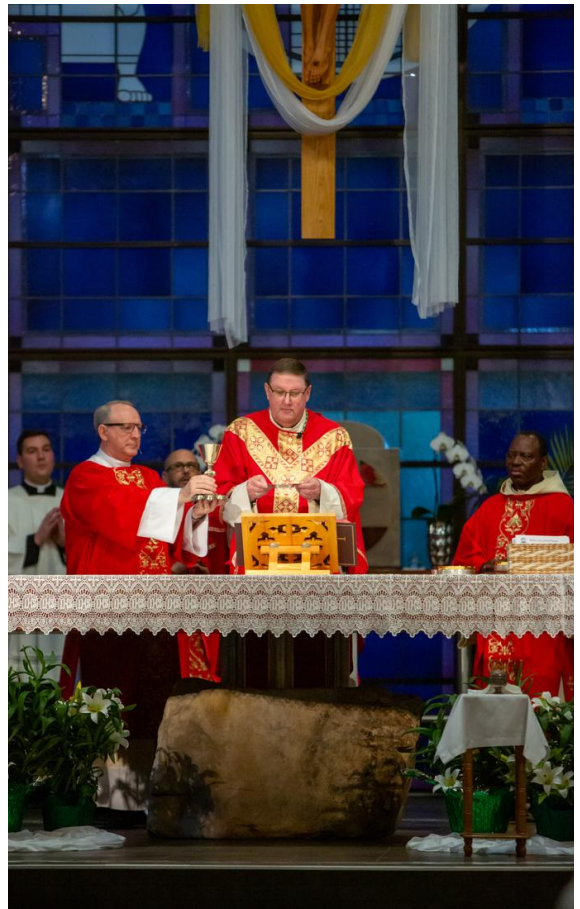




Confirmation Preparation

For 8th Grade and
High School Students



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Confirmation Students,

Welcome to this exciting year of Confirmation preparation at St. Paul Catholic Church!

My name is Mr. Jacob Guardado, and I have the privilege and joy of serving as your Middle School Youth Minister and Confirmation Coordinator. This year, our parish community has the honor of walking alongside your family as your child prepares to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a powerful and personal way.

Confirmation is not only a celebration of our faith, but also a commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Through prayer, study, community, reflection, and service, we hope that each student will grow in a deeper relationship with Christ and discover what it means to be a faithful Catholic Christian in today's world.

In this packet, you will find all of the information included in your red folder, along with important dates, requirements, and expectations for the year ahead. Our goal is for every family to feel prepared, supported, and fully engaged in this journey of faith. Confirmation is not simply a one-day event—it is a lifelong invitation to live in the power and grace of the Holy Spirit.

"Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit."

— Acts 8:17

May this year be filled with growth, grace, and a deeper awareness of God's loving and merciful presence in your lives.

With prayers and blessings,

Mr. Jacob Guardado

Middle School Youth Minister & Confirmation Coordinator

St. Paul Catholic Church – Tampa

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(813) 961-3023 ext. 3382



Confirmation Preparation Requirements

Please review the key requirements for enrolling in our Confirmation Sacramental Preparation Program. Each component is essential for preparing your student's heart and mind for this beautiful encounter with Christ.



Weekly Mass Attendance as a Family (Sunday or Saturday Vigil)

Attending Mass as a family is the most crucial aspect of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is during Mass that we meet Christ through the Word and Eucharist, experience renewal in His love, and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as courageous and faithful witnesses of the Gospel.



Religious Education Classes

Our weekly classes emphasize Christ's mission, the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit, and morality. These teachings lay the groundwork for a lifelong relationship with Jesus.

- A maximum of 3 absences is permitted.
- Classes are offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings (home-based options are available upon interview).



Middle/High School Youth Group (Sunday)

Active participation in our youth ministry will enhance your child's formation during this year of sacramental preparation.

Schedule:

- Middle School: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
- High School: 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM



Confirmation Retreat

Please see next pages for dates and additional information.



Forms & Assignments

Please see next pages for dates and additional information.



Volunteer Hours

Your child is responsible for completing 20 volunteer hours by April 16th. As Catholics, we are called to serve and assist those in need.

Any hours worked from September 26, 2026, onward will be counted; however, hours logged before this date will not be accepted.

Confirmation Preparation Requirements



Forms & Assignments (Copy of All Forms Included in Red Folder)

Sponsor Form Due Jan. 23, 2027

A confirmation sponsor serves as a spiritual role model, supporting and guiding the candidate on their faith journey. Sponsors must meet the following criteria:

- Be an active and practicing Catholic
- Be at least 16 years old
- Be registered at a parish
- Have received Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation
- Cannot be the biological mother or father

The form can be found in your red folder. **Please ensure the bottom portion is completed, signed and sealed by the parish where the sponsor is registered.**

Saint Report Due Jan. 23, 2027

Each student will choose a saint as their Confirmation name, one that resonates with them or whom they aspire to emulate. Students have **two options for their report**:

1. A 2–4-page written report explaining the reason for choosing the saint and their significance. The report must be typed, double-spaced, with a 1-inch margin and a font size no larger than 12 points.
 2. A PowerPoint presentation detailing why the saint was chosen, their life story, and how they serve as a model for living.
- **Note: If AI is used in any of these assignments, the student will be removed from the program and must re-enroll next year.**

Letter to Father Morley Due Feb. 20, 2027

Compose at least two paragraphs, handwritten or typed, explaining what the sacrament of Confirmation means to you. Additionally, include two more paragraphs discussing why you believe you are ready.

Copy of Baptism Certificate Due Jan. 23, 2027

If your child was not baptized at Saint Paul, please submit a copy of their baptism certificate or a certified letter confirming when and where they were baptized.

Three Mass Journals Due March 13, 2027

Students are required to write three journal entries, each consisting of two paragraphs, reflecting on what they heard or learned while attending Mass. (The form is included in the red folder.)

Service Hour & Service Reflection April 16, 2027

Students must submit a two-paragraph reflection on the service hours they completed. This can be either written or typed. (The form is included in the red folder.)

One Hour of Eucharistic Adoration Due April 16, 2027

Students must complete one hour of Eucharist Adoration to grow deeper in their prayer life and relationship with Jesus.

2026 - 2027 Confirmation Preparation Calendar

Please Note: Some Events require you to RSVP or register when prompted

September 26, 2026

Parent & Student Orientation Meeting

Both students and parents must attend. Saturday, September 26th, 10 AM – 12 PM.

January 23, 2027

Workshop #1: The Sacraments & the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The first workshop will concentrate on the sacraments and the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. We kindly request that both the student and their sponsor/parent attend.

Please note that this is a mandatory meeting; there will be no makeup session.

- Time: 9 AM - 12 PM
- Location: St. Paul Family Center
- Due: Saint Report, Sponsor Form, and Baptismal Certificate

Feb 20, 2027

Workshop #2: The Charisms of the Spirit & Prayer

The second workshop will concentrate on the Charisms and the importance of daily prayer. We kindly request that both the student and their sponsor/parent attend.

Please note that this is a mandatory meeting; there will be no makeup session.

- Time: 9 AM - 12 PM
- Location: St. Paul Family Center
- Due: Letter to Father Morley

Feb 22 & 24, 2027

Clergy Conversation #1

Students will meet with one of our priests or deacons to discuss their faith journey. As the date approaches, a Sign-up Genius link will be shared. Please remember to bring your Clergy Conversation Sheet with you.

March 8 & 10, 2027

Clergy Conversation #2

Students will meet with one of our priests or deacons to discuss their faith journey. As the date approaches, a Sign-up Genius link will be shared. Please remember to bring your Clergy Conversation Sheet with you.

March 13, 2027

Confirmation Retreat

This retreat is designed as a true escape from the “real world.” Your child will experience a day of connection with the Lord and reflect on what it means to be a disciple of Christ. This day will be filled with games, community, personal growth, and a meaningful experience with our Lord.

- Time: 10 AM - 8 PM
- Location: Good Counsel Camp

All participants are kindly requested to wear appropriate clothing for movement, closed-toed shoes, and to bring a Bible, journal, pen, and water bottle.

Confirmation Mass & Rehearsal

We are thrilled to celebrate this sacred and unforgettable day with you as the Sacrament of Confirmation is received, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed. Please review the details below carefully to ensure that the celebration is smooth, meaningful, and filled with joy for everyone involved.

Thursday, April 29, 2027

Confirmation Mass Rehearsal

Time

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM in the Church (Please arrive by 5:50 PM)

Attendance Requirements:

- Confirmandi and their sponsors are required to be present at the rehearsal.
- If a sponsor cannot attend, a parent must take their place.

Important Note:

Please arrive by 5:50 PM to locate your assigned seat, as the rehearsal will start promptly at 6:00 PM.

Friday, April 30, 2027

Confirmation Mass with Bishop Parks

6 PM Mass in the Church. All Confirmandi and sponsors are required to gather at the Family Center by 5:30 PM.

Each Confirmand will be seated alongside their sponsor in a designated reserved section. Parents and extended family members are kindly asked to occupy the remaining seats. A reception featuring cake and drinks will follow in the Family Center, where confirmation certificates will also be available for pick-up.

Dress Code for Confirmation

To help maintain the beauty and reverence of this special day, please adhere to the following attire guidelines:

All Students:

- Wear red or white if possible.
- Other colors are acceptable if they are neutral and not distracting.
- Only closed-toed shoes are allowed (no sandals).
- Dress modestly from head to toe.

Boys:

- Formal attire is required (button-up shirt and dress pants).
- No polos, t-shirts, or shorts are permitted.

Girls:

- Dresses or outfits must be below the knees.
- Attire should fully cover the body (no revealing or overly tight clothing).

Thank you for helping us keep this day reverent. If a student is not dressed appropriately, we will provide a catechumen garment to ensure modesty during the Mass.

Photography

To preserve the sacredness of the Mass, we have hired a professional photographer who will take photos before and during the liturgy - including the moment each candidate receives the Seal of the Holy Spirit. We kindly ask that parents and family members **refrain from taking photos during Mass** or approaching the altar.

- **Mass photos** will be shared with all families via a downloadable link sent by email, a gift from St. Paul.

Middle School and Confirmation Class Dates

2026 — 2027

MONDAY

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

6th Grade, First &
Second Year Conf.

SEP 14, 21, 28

OCT 5, 12, 19, 26

NOV 2, 9, 16, 30

DEC 7

JAN 4, 11, 25

FEB 1, 8, 22

MAR 1, 8, 15

APR 5, 12, 19, 26

MAY 3

WEDNESDAY

6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

First & Second Year Conf.,
HS Conf., OCIA (MS & HS)

SEP 16, 23, 30

OCT 7, 14, 21, 28

NOV 4, 11, 18

DEC 2, 9

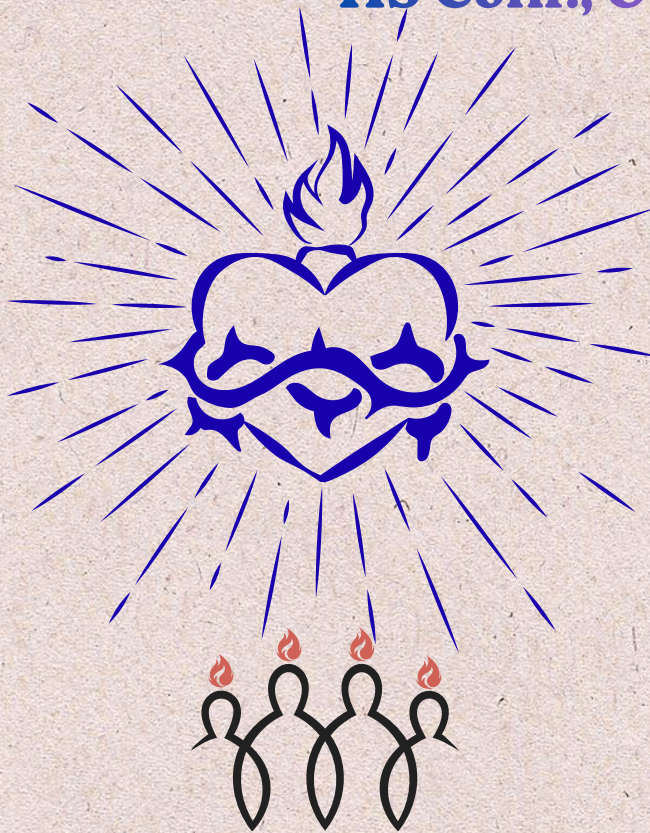
JAN 6, 13, 20, 27

FEB 3, 17, 24

MAR 3, 10, 17

APR 7, 14, 21, 28

MAY 5



For More information
stpaulchurch.com/sacraments/confirmation/
Or contact: Jacob Guardado
jguardado@stpaulchurch.com