

*St. Luke the Evangelist
Catholic Church*



**TEEN
CONFIRMATION
PREPARATION
PROGRAM
2011-2012**

What is Confirmation?

St. Luke's will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at the **5:00pm Mass on Saturday, April 28, 2012** with Archbishop Wilton Gregory .

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, through proper preparation, 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 Check List:

- _____ Turn in Baptismal Certificate **(Due by Oct. 26th)**
- _____ Turn in Sponsor Name **(Due by Oct. 26th)**
- _____ Turn in Sponsor Letter **(Due by Apr. 21st)**
- _____ Turn in Patron Saint name and Paper **(Due by Feb. 29th)**
- _____ Attend Initial Parent Meeting
(August 21st after the 8:00 Mass or after the 10:45 Mass)
- _____ Faithfully attend two prior years of Religious Education
(Life Teen, Catholic school, or Catholic homeschool program)
- _____ Attend “Preparing for the Spirit” Classes
(6:45 - 8:30pm on Oct. 26th & 27th and Feb. 29th & Mar. 1st)
- _____ Attend Our Confirmation Retreat
(April 21st from 9:00am-5:00pm in the Parish Center)
- _____ Attend The Parent/Student Meeting at the end of the retreat
(April 21st from 4:30-5:00pm in the Parish Center)
- _____ Complete a group service project organized by our teen program
(Due by Apr. 21st)
- _____ Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Confirmation
(Any of our scheduled times or at the retreat on April 21st)
- _____ Meet with Fr. Neil **(April 21st during the retreat)**

Baptismal Certificate

We need a photocopy of your baptismal certificate. Let us know if you were baptized at St. Luke's, we should have it on file then. Also if it is not on your baptismal certificate we need: your mother's maiden name and your city/state of birth. We record these in our books.

(Due by Oct. 26th)

Sponsor Name

Your sponsor should be someone you can look up to in the Church, and someone who can spur you on to grow in your faith. Particularly, they should be confirmed Catholics, at least 16 years old and practicing members of the Church, while not being your parents. They should also be a person you interact with somewhat frequently.

(Due by Oct. 26th)

Patron Saint

You should research and choose a patron saint. All of us are called to holiness and the saints give us examples and inspiration to lead holy lives. Research saints (go to the church's library for books or search online) and find one that you can relate to or one that particularly inspires you. Once you have chosen a saint **write** a **1-page** typed 12pt font **paper**, about your saint. Include where and when they lived, what they are patron of, when their feast day is, why you chose them, and what you can gain from their example. **(Due by Feb. 29th)**

Sponsor Letter

As you are preparing for this sacrament you should meet with your sponsor periodically, if you decide you are ready to receive the sacrament this year your sponsor should write a letter to Fr. Neil in support attesting to your preparedness. **(Due by April 21st at the retreat)**

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 Life Teen program during the year prior to and the year of Confirmation. This can be through Life Teen, approved home schooling or Catholic School education.

“Preparing for the Spirit” Classes

These classes will cover topics related to the sacrament of Confirmation and will be held Oct. 26th & 27th and Feb. 29th & March 1st from 6:45 - 8:30pm in the downstairs double classroom of the parish center. Mark your calendar now as these classes are mandatory to prepare you for Confirmation.

Attend Our 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 offering a mandatory Confirmation retreat. The Confirmation retreat will be April 21, 2012 from 9:00am - 5:00pm in the parish hall.

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 Confirmation we require you to attend and participate in one service project. Several group service project opportunities will be made available throughout the year. **(Due by April 21st at the retreat)**

Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Catechism tells us:

“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 opportunity for Reconciliation at the retreat.)**

Meet With Fr. Neil

It is the pastor’s duty to ensure that all who receive the sacraments are prepared to do so. Fr. Neil is also very interested in each of your faith journeys. This will give you an opportunity to meet with him and ask questions you might have. **(At the retreat on April 21st)**

Communication

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

Additional Questions?

Contact Confirmation Coordinator:

Isaac Hathaway

ym@stlukercc.org

706-864-4779