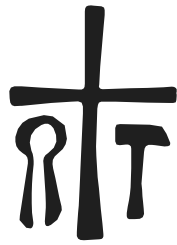


St Peters RC Church Dagenham



**Confirmation
Programme Handbook**



Confirmation Programme

Information and Requirements

Dear Parents and Candidates,

Welcome to St Peter's Roman Catholic Church Confirmation Programme.

As you want to begin the Confirmation Programme you are now committing to completing the unique process of Catholic Initiation, together with Baptism and the Eucharist you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in order to become more closely conformed to Christ and His mission.

Filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, may we always mirror Christ's presence in our relations with others, our openness to those in need and our living witness to the Gospel message of joy and peace. (Pope Francis)

The Confirmation Programme is for young adults who have been previously Baptised and have also received the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As parents of the candidates, we expect that you are both (if not one) are committed, practicing Catholics attending St. Peter's Church.

Weekly attendance and participation in Mass at St. Peter's is a vital commitment in helping you and your child to prepare for Confirmation. As well as being part of the natural rhythm of Catholic life, your weekly participation in the Mass as a family will reinforce the learning of what the Confirmation programme provides.

Co-operation between the catechists, you the parents, sponsors and the candidates is an important part of the programme. The Catechists (teachers of the programme) are volunteers, drawn from committed members of the Parish who have given up their time to prepare your children. We are available to help you with any queries you may have so please feel free to come to us with any concerns you may have regarding the Confirmation Programme and/or your child. This is an important stage in your child's continuing journey of faith and together we hope to make it a memorable experience for them.

God Bless,
St Peter's Confirmation Team

St. Peters RC Church
52 Goresbrook Road Dagenham
Essex RM9 6UR
Church Tel: 0208 595 1227

The Sessions:

Sessions are held from 10:15am after 9.00am Mass on Sunday as per the Confirmation Programme Calendar given at the beginning. Each session lasts approximately 1 hour 30 minutes.

The sessions provide a complete programme of instruction for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is essential that candidates attend all sessions highlighted on the programme calendar. The dates and times of these sessions have been agreed between the catechists and priest and cannot be changed. Please note for your convenience we have avoided holding sessions during the school holidays where practical.

Missed Sessions and Punctuality:

Our sessions are held as highlighted on the calendar to cover all aspects of the teaching and preparation. Missing 2 sessions will result in being withdrawn from the programme. Parents have to inform one of the catechists if there are any problems with attending the session giving the serious reason. Failure to provide information about the reason for a child's absence from a session will result in the absence being recorded as unjustified.

Any Candidate(s) late more than 2 times will be meeting with Father and Catechist to decide whether you should remain on the programme.

Homework:

The candidates will be given bidding prayers and readings to practice and other activities to complete and present for homework or on the Sunday Mass. Although Candidates should be old enough to be responsible for completing the work set, parents please support us by encouraging your child to respect this. It is important to the programme that you are responsible to do the homework given, any unfinished, lost, forgotten work shows your lack of commitment to take this Holy Sacrament of Confirmation and may be withdrawn from the programme and to re-register the following year.

Attending Sunday Mass:

Mass attendance is the most important way that you can help your child grow in faith; laying down the strong foundations together as a Catholic family can not only instill our youth through to adulthood, but to grow into becoming a committed member of the church. Because of the session starting straight after Mass – on Sundays when we have the session the candidates will need to attend the 9am Mass.

Mass Attendance Card:

Each candidate will be provided with a Mass Attendance Card which must be signed by a catechist each time the candidate attends Mass. The purpose of this card is to have a record

of your regular Mass attendance. Where no catechist is available to sign the card, it may be signed by the priest. The Card will only be signed if you have attended full Mass – lateness will be recorded as non-attendance. The Card must not be signed by you as parent, or any other parishioner attending Mass. If you attend a Mass in a different church ask the priest to sign the card.

Choosing a sponsor:

A sponsor is a person who encourages and assists a candidate to embrace and actively practice the Catholic faith both before and after Confirmation. This is a time in your spiritual development for you to mature in your faith and to begin making important religious decisions for yourself. Consider choosing a person that lives the spirit, as you would like to live the spirit. He/she should be someone who is over 16, a Baptised, confirmed member of the Catholic Church and has made their first holy communion, is someone that you trust and respect, and is a practicing catholic (Sponsors do not have to be the same sex as the candidate). Your parents cannot act as your sponsor. Some candidates choose one of their baptismal godparents. He/she will be by your side as you are confirmed. You are encouraged to choose a friend or a relative who will be part of your life for more than just a few meetings. Invite him/her early to be part of the process.

Choosing a Confirmation name:

A name identifies you in a unique way, not just your physical self, but who you are as a person. One of the traditional practices in the Church at the time of Confirmation is choosing a name that will remind you of this sacrament. Your prayerful reflection will help you determine that name. You might want to choose the name of a saint who represents the type of Christian you wish to be. The common advice for those trying to decide on a name is to research saint names and find one that fits their personality or spiritual goals. Those seeking confirmation are also encouraged to pray and seek a saint that is willing to guide them as they seek a closer relationship with God. It is important to learn as much as you can about your patron saint. After all, you are asking this saint to be your friend and advocate for the rest of your life. The names of the saints can be checked on line on www.catholic.org/saints