

Lower Burrell and New Kensington Catholic Communities Confirmation

Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates,

More than two thousand years ago, the first Confirmation class met in a small crowded upper room in Jerusalem. “And when the day of Pentecost had come...there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:1-4)

And now your child’s own journey toward Confirmation begins! The Sacrament of Confirmation is a wonderful gift that completes the work of grace God started in your child at their Baptism. Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, your son or daughter will be more perfectly united to the Church and Jesus Christ and given a special strengthening of the Holy Spirit, just like the Apostles and Mary at Pentecost, empowering them to better spread and defend the Gospel through their words and deeds. This strengthening of the Holy Spirit is necessary for us as Christians to live life “to the full” as Jesus wants for us. (John 10:10)

This period of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is important for you and your child. One of the biggest complaints I hear from priests, and parents, is that after Confirmation teens seem to drift away from the Church. It doesn’t have to be this way. The more reverence, respect, and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation we model as adults, the more our children will learn the power and importance of this Sacrament and our Catholic Faith.

. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions! My email is hhensley@dioceseofgreensburg.org and my phone number is 980-258-3492.

Below you will find a list of requirements for Confirmation

1. ***Copy of the Baptismal Certificate:*** You will need to provide a copy of your candidate’s baptismal certificate if they were *not* baptized or received their first Holy Communion at Mount Saint Peter, St. Mary’s, Saint Joseph’s or Saint Margaret Mary’s.

2. ***Sponsorship:*** Candidates must select a Sponsor. *Keep in mind that a sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, fully initiated in the Catholic Church, 16 years of age or older, and may not be the teen's parent.* This should be someone that can guide their teen during this important sacrament preparation and throughout their faith journey.

3. ***Confirmation Name & Saint Essay:*** Candidates select a saint, and take their name at confirmation. We challenge teens to pick a saint that they connect with—the more they take the time to research a saint and pick someone who makes an impact on them, the better. The chosen saint will be their confirmation name which is entered into the Church records and will be the name the bishop will use when anointing at Confirmation. All candidates must submit an essay, 250-300 words, about the saint they have chosen, a brief biography of their life, when their feast day is, and why the candidate chose them as their confirmation saint. It may be helpful to answer these questions: How does your chosen saint impact your life? What about them or their lives makes you want to be like them?

4. ***Service & Spiritual Hours Log:*** We want to ensure that teens are spiritually preparing for the sacrament as well as beginning their mission as disciples. There are two types of hours that need to be completed—12 Spiritual hours and 12 Church, Community, and Service hours. Spiritual hours and Community & Service hours may be logged starting in September 2021.

5. ***Attend Diocesan Confirmation Retreat:*** The diocese of Greensburg provides opportunities for your child to attend a confirmation retreat over the course of the year. Please have your candidate look into attending one of the scheduled retreats. Below is a link to the diocesan page with the times, dates, and locations for the retreats. Please register your candidate for one. There is no cost for virtual retreats. In person retreats are \$10.00 per person.

<https://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/formation/Pages/confirmation-retreats.aspx>