CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES 2019-20

As of 8/29/19

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9AM-8PM
Fri 9-4PM, Sun 8AM-12:30PM

Parish Office: (703) 494-4008

Office Fax: (703) 494-1995

Website – www.setonlakeridge.org

Sheri Suess, Interim DRE
(703) 494-3966 ext. 130
s.suess@setonlakeridge.org

Mylene Garcia, RE Secretary
(703) 494-3966 ext. 135
m.garcia@setonlakeridge.org

Stay updated through the weekly bulletin, catechist emails, and the SEAS website.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

- Regular attendance at Mass.
- Frequent reception of the sacrament of reconciliation.
- Regular attendance at RE classes at SEAS or catholic school, and confirmation preparation meetings.
- Completion of 20 service hours.
- Choice of a saint name and completion of a saint paper.
- Choice of sponsor and sponsor certificate or letter of eligibility.
- Confirmation retreat and practice.
- Letter to the Pastor.
- Knowledge of the Church's basic teachings, practices and prayers.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Candidates for confirmation must attend the confirmation preparation meetings. All classes are held at **3:00PM in the Fellowship Hall** of the church. At least one parent must attend with their student and sponsors are encouraged to attend. The dates for these meetings are:

December 15, 2019
January 12, 2020
February 9, 2020
April 19, 2020

CONFIRMATION FEE

The all-encompassing Confirmation fee for all students is $100. This fee is due at the first Confirmation Class on Sunday, December 15th. Please contact Sheri Suess if you need to make special arrangements.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

All candidates are required to attend the retreat scheduled for **Saturday, March 21, 2020 from 7:00am to approximately 9:00pm.**

*If a student is unable to attend on this date, the parents should research dates to attend at another parish. The parents must finalize these alternative arrangements themselves and notify the DRE.

BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

The Church requires proof of baptism for confirmation – a copy of your child's baptismal certificate, even if your child was baptized at SEAS. **Please do not give us the original as it will not be returned.** However, if you have the original certificate and need a copy, we will be happy to do that for you. **It is important that the address of the church where your child was baptized is on the certificate. You may write or type it in but it is essential that we are provided with this information.**

If you do not have a copy of your child's baptismal certificate, you will need to request it from the parish where your child was baptized. It may take several weeks to get a copy. If your child was baptized through the Military Ordinate you may contact them via the information below:

Archdiocese for the Military Services,
United States of America
P.O. Box 4469
Washington, D.C. 20017-0469
Phone: (202)269-9100
website: www.milarch.org

Baptismal certificates are due at the December 15th meeting.

SELECTING A SAINT NAME

Until 1973, when the revised Rite of Confirmation began to be used, it was the custom to take a new name at confirmation. Today, the Church asks that we use our baptismal name to reflect the close relationship between baptism and confirmation.

If, however, your child wishes to choose a new name, they may do so providing the name is that of a saint, a blessed or person from the Bible. Whether or not they choose a new name, your child should know the story of the patron saint or holy person whom they are honoring at confirmation. Please ask your child to choose their name prayerfully and carefully.

The saint name paper is due the February 9th meeting.

SELECTING A SPONSOR

In preparation for confirmation, your child must select a sponsor or "spiritual guide". It is recommended that your child choose a sponsor from this parish or from the northern Virginia area. If this is not possible, please encourage regular communication between them via phone, email, social media and, most importantly, personal visits. Because of the intimate connection between baptism and confirmation, it is desirable to have one of the baptismal godparents become the confirmation sponsor.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

1. Chosen by the candidate or the parents.
2. Completed their sixteenth year.
3. A confirmed, practicing catholic who can serve as a role model in the Faith.
4. Can be male or female.
5. Cannot be the father or mother of the candidate.

Please let the RE office know the name of the sponsor by February 9 even if you do not yet have the certificate. The certificate itself is due on the April 19th.

IF THE SPONSOR CANNOT ATTEND THE CONFIRMATION MASS:

If your child's sponsor is not able to attend the Confirmation Mass, a proxy is needed. The proxy must be a confirmed, practicing Catholic following all the other sponsor requirements. It may not be a parent. When a proxy stands in for a sponsor, the Middle School RE office must be notified of the proxy's name for the confirmation register.

SPONSOR CERTIFICATE

Every sponsor must provide the RE office with a sponsor certificate or letter of eligibility. This certificate is obtained by the **sponsor from the parish where he/she is registered**. All parishes have slightly different forms.

Sponsors who are parishioners here at SEAS still need to obtain and turn in a sponsor certificate of eligibility. To obtain the certificate, please contact the Parish Office at (703) 494-4008. The sponsor will be asked to stop by the office to meet with Father Bashista or Father Dort.

The sponsor certificate of eligibility is due at the April 19th meeting.

CONFIRMATION ROBES

All confirmandi are required to wear a confirmation robe in order to be confirmed by the Bishop. The boys will wear a red robe and the girls, white. Students will be measured at the January and February confirmation preparation meetings. **All measurements must be completed by February9th meeting. Robes will be distributed at the confirmation retreat on March 21st.** Please inform Sheri Suess if you plan to use a sibling's robe or a borrowed robe.

SERVICE HOURS

Each candidate is to complete 20 hours of service to the community in preparation of receiving the sacrament of confirmation. **Service hours should be completed and documentation turned in by the retreat on March 21st.**

The RE office will make every effort to suggest service opportunities for your child. This will most often be accomplished through the bulletin, the website, flyers, letters and emails, and through your child's catechist. Ultimately, it is up to your child to decide on the type of service in which he/she would like to take part. Remember, service need not be a complicated affair. It can be simply helping out a parent or friend above and beyond what one would normally do. If there is some question as to whether a particular activity is suitable for service hour credit, please have your child contact Sheri Suess to discuss it. Please wait until your child has completed all 20 hours of service before sending the documentation to our office.

Always remember to keep a copy of the service hours earned for your own records. To document service hours, you may turn in a service hour's form **or** simply email the details of your child's service to Sheri Suess at s.suess@setonlakeridge.org.

LETTER TO THE PASTOR

Each confirmand is asked to write a personal letter to the pastor of SEAS. Please address the letter to Reverend Brian G. Bashista. In this letter, your child is formally asking the pastor to present them to the Bishop for their reception of the sacrament of confirmation. Each letter should include five parts:

1. Why do you want to be confirmed?
2. Why did you decide to keep your baptismal name or choose the confirmation name that you did?
3. Explain your preparation (e.g. service project, retreat, RE classes) and what this has meant to you.
4. Why did you choose the confirmation sponsor that you did?
5. Complete the following "As a full member of the Church I promise to strive to…"

Your letter should be about a page long and written in ink or typed on white 8 ½ inch by 11 inch paper. The letter should be addressed to Father Bashista and **must include the student's name, home address and phone number.** Please do not mail the letters directly to Father Bashista. Instead, turn in the letter to the RE office where the letters will be collectively bound and presented to Father before confirmation.

Please submit the letter to Father Bashista at the last Confirmation Preparation meeting on Sunday, April 19th.

IMPORTANT DATES

Confirmation Prep. Meeting #1 – 12/15/19

Confirmation Fee – 12/15/18

Copy of Baptismal Certificate – 12/15/18

Confirmation Prep. Meeting #2 – 1/12/20

Confirmation Prep.Meeting #3 – 2/9/20

Sponsor Name – 2/9/20

Robe Measurements completed – 2/9/20

Saint name paper due – 2/9/20

Confirmation Retreat– 3/21/20

Service hours due – 3/21/20

Confirmation Prep. Meeting #4 – 4/19/20

Sponsor Certificates due – 4/19/20

Letter to the Pastor – 4/19/20

MANDATORY CONFIRMATION PRACTICE – Thursday,May 7, 2020 at 6:00-8:00pm in the main church. Your child's sponsor or a parent must attend the practice.

CONFIRMATION WILL BE ON TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 AT 7:00PM.