

Prince of Peace Catholic Church
6439 Spouts Springs Road
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
Religious Education
Confirmation Program

When young people prepare for Confirmation during their teen years, this sacrament concludes initiation into full membership in the Christian community. We are hoping that as a family you take this opportunity to become involved in our Parish community at Prince of Peace and support our Confirmation Program. We look forward to teaching your son or daughter more about their faith in the coming year as they prepare for this precious sacrament.

What does the Program Require of Candidates, Parents and Sponsors?

What is the Role of Candidates in the Classroom?

1. **Keep Confidential** what others share in your group. Confidentiality is a matter of trust. What any person says in a group stays in the group.
2. **Listen Attentively** to other teens and catechists. Don't be afraid of silence. Please don't interrupt anyone who is speaking.
3. **Attend All Classes.** Participation is key to the process of preparing for confirmation. To participate, you must do more than sit in class. You need to listen and share your faith. Make-up assignments must be completed for all classes missed.
4. **Respect Each Other's Point Of View.** Everyone has the right to his or her opinion. Respect other's feelings and experiences.
5. **Celebrate and Play Together.** We learn from each other in many different ways. Discussions and faith sharing are important in preparing for confirmation, but joining in activities will help everyone get to know one another and feel comfortable together.
6. **Don't Be Afraid to Question.** Questioning will help you develop a more adult understanding of Christian beliefs and make your own commitment ultimately stronger.
7. **Complete the Service Requirement and all required home study.** Details will be discussed.

Physical/Psychological Readiness is shown by:

1. **Willingness to receive the Sacrament**
 - a. This involves a desire on the part of the candidate to fully participate in the preparation and to receive the sacrament with reverence and appreciation appropriate to his/her age. Must freely choose to be confirmed and make their desire known.
2. **Ability to attentively participate in the liturgy**
 - a. This involves the capacity to be attentive and reverent, and to participate in the ritual by responding with understanding and reverence according to his/her age and ability.

Liturgical/Readiness is shown by:

1. **Attend the Eucharist Liturgy Regularly**
 - a. This involves a familiarity with the worship life of the parish community and participation in the Mass with regularity. (Minimally this includes Holy Days of Obligation as well as Sunday liturgy.)

2. Ability to participate in the Eucharistic and reconciling life of Parish Community.

- a. This involves the ability to participate in ritual celebration of Eucharist, Penance, and Confirmation, in a way according to his/her age and to understand the requirements for receiving sacraments. Must participate in the Confirmation Liturgy. Also, must be committed to continuing the faithful practice and study of their religion.

What is the Role of Parents?

Many people help bring candidates to the moment of deciding to be confirmed. Many people have nurtured their faith, first and foremost, candidates' parents. Parents bring their children to weekend worship, pray with them over the years at home, and include them in the works of mercy and justice they do.

Parents play a vital role in their children's continuing invitation into full membership in the Christian community. We encourage you to not only drop off your kids at confirmation sessions, but to drop in for at least one session yourself. Dropping in will show your commitment to your teen's process and keep you abreast of our program's content.

Parents, and well as sponsors, represent the Church by showing their children Christian example and the importance of faith to them. Normally, parents have more opportunity to influence their children than sponsors.

Confirmation programs benefit from parents' support - their help with assignments, their support for the program's disciplinary policy, their involvement in service hours, and their participation in class sessions. Parents should also encourage and enable their children to worship with the parish community.

What is the Role of a Sponsor?

When a youth chooses a sponsor this person represents the entire parish community. The candidate should take the sponsor selection role seriously. Only those parishioners who are willing to journey through the preparation process with the candidate as living examples of what it means to be a Christian should be sponsors. Once you have made your decision, discuss it with that person and make sure he/she is willing to make the commitment and is able to attend both the training session and the celebration of the sacrament. Ultimately, the roles of a sponsor are listed below.

1. Support the candidate in the process of becoming an active member of the church and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate.
2. Must be a member of the Catholic Church and be fully initiated themselves, having received Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.
3. Must be sufficiently mature in their own faith commitment.
4. Must be at least 17 years old
5. May be either female or male for any candidate.
6. Must obtain a statement of eligibility from the pastor of their parish.
7. May be baptismal Godparents, thus emphasizing more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation.
8. Help the candidate prepare for Confirmation.
9. May assist the candidate in choosing and carrying out the candidate's service project commitment.
10. Must be reasonably informed on current church teachings.
11. May accompany the candidate to special liturgies and preparation programs.
12. May NOT be the parent of the candidate.
13. May assist in determining the candidate's readiness for the sacrament.
14. May present the candidate to the minister of Confirmation.