**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Parish School of Religion**

Father Arockiam Arockiam, Pastor – 225-383-2537

Martha Davis, Director of Religious Education – 225-357-4108

Rudolph and Darlene Richard, Confirmation Coordinators – 225-752-5101

**Dear Interested Parents and Confirmation Candidates,**

**Please find below the responsibilities and requirements of High School** **students seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation. High School students** **who wish to participate in the Confirmation Celebration this year must be attending regularly a Catholic School or parish-level religion classes, and their parents/legal guardians must be registered members of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Parish.**

**Requirements for High School Students Seeking Confirmation**

**Baptism:** Baptism is the first sacrament conferred on a person, and it is therefore required for thesacrament of Confirmation. *A copy of the candidate’s baptismal certificate is required*. This is a requirement of the universal church.

**Parent’s Parish Membership:** If your parents are registered as members of another Catholic church, we will need a letter from the pastor of that church giving St. Paul permission to oversee the child’s preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. If Catholic parents/legal guardians are not registered at any church, we encourage them to please register as soon as possible, and seek further information.

**Sponsor:** A sponsor must be:

* a baptized, confirmed, practicing Catholic (church law).
* at least 16 years old (church law).

The candidate’s parent or adoptive parent may not be the candidate’s sponsor; grandparents and siblings are fine (church law).

We encourage sponsors to attend as many of the Confirmation preparation sessions as possible. The sponsor should be also someone the candidate can turn to for spiritual support throughout the candidate’s life. Sponsors may be either male or female; there is no gender restriction.

**Age:** In the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Catholics who were baptized as infants may be confirmed at age 16, or when the candidate is in High School.

**Sponsors**: All sponsor names must be submitted by November 17, 2024.

**Interview:** Candidates should call Father Arockiam to schedule an interview.

**Presentation of Confirmation Candidates:** The 2024 Confirmation candidates will be presented to the community of the faithful at St. Paul on **Sunday, January 12, 2025, at the 10:30 am Mass. Eligible Confirmation candidates and their sponsors are expected to be present. No specific attire or seating is required.**

**Sponsor Meeting – A mandatory meeting for all sponsors will be held on January 12, 2025 at 9:00 am.**

**Mandatory Retreat for all candidates – TBD**

**2025 North Central Deanery Joint Confirmation Form:** This form is **due to Martha Davis by January 12, 2025**. It may be submitted in class or emailed to marthad34@yahoo.com or dropped off at the parish office.

**Saint Reflection**: A reflection on the name chosen for your Confirmation must be completed and submitted by January 12, 2025.

**Letter to the Pastor:** Each candidate is to write a one-page, double-spaced typewritten letter addressed to the Pastor to indicate the reasons for requesting to be confirmed. The deadline for submitting the letter to Father Arockiam is **Sunday, February 9, 2025**. Letters should be addressed and submitted to **Father Arockiam Arockiam, Pastor (St. Paul Catholic Church, 3912 Gus Young Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or letters may be submitted to the parish office, or submitted in class)**. The Parish Office telephone number is 225-383-2537.

**Service Project:** Diocese of Baton Rouge has asked that service hours be a component of preparation for Confirmation and delegates each parish to determine what that component may require. So, 10 hours of service, recorded on the Service Hour Form for St. Paul the Apostle, must be completed by March 16, 2025. Service hours may submitted in class or emailed to the DRE or dropped off at the parish office.

**Reconciliation/Confession** – TBA – all candidates must receive the Sacrament of Confession before Confirmation preferably at the Lent Communal Reconciliation.

**Rehearsal for Confirmation:** There will be a **required rehearsal for Confirmation candidates and their sponsors on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.**

**Confirmation Liturgy Celebration:** Confirmation will take place on **Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**

**Confirmation Attire:** Ladies: White blouses & white skirts or white dresses, white jacket or sweater if

 top is sleeveless, knee-length dress/skirt, and white or neutral shoe

 Men: Red neck or bow tie, white collared dress shirt, black or dark navy dress

 pants, black socks, and black dress shoes

 Sponsors: Mature, adult church attire

**Specific Expectations of the Candidate:**

* Weekly Mass Attendance
* 98% Attendance of Parish Religion classes held on Sunday
* 100% Attendance of the Confirmation Preparation Classes

**Important Dates: Requirements for Confirmation**

**Attendance at Religious Education classes**

**Covenant to Preparation Process due** – November 3, 2024

**Baptismal certificate due:** October 13, 2024 (if candidate was NOT baptized at St. Paul**)**

**Sponsor names and contact information submitted by** November 17, 2024

**Interview** scheduled with Father Arockiam

**2025 North Central Deanery Joint Confirmation Form due** January 12, 2025

**Saint Reflection due** January 12, 2025

**Proficiency Survey due** January 7, 2024

**Mandatory Sponsor Meeting –** January 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

**Godparent Sponsor Form due**– (only for sponsors who are **not** active members of St. Paul) – January 12, 2025

**Confirmation Candidates Presented to the Church –** January 12, 2025 at 10:30 mass ***(Sponsors must be present at Mass)***

**Letter to the pastor due** February 9, 2025

**Day of Reflection and Reconciliation (Retreat for Candidates) - TBD**

**Service Hours due** March 10, 2024

**Morning of Recollection for candidates and sponsors** – March 16, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

**Reconciliation/Confession** – TBA – All candidates must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Confirmation preferably at Lent Communal Reconciliation.

 **Confirmation Practice – Monday, May 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic**

 **Church**

 **Confirmation – Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**