

# St. Anthony of Padua Faith Formation Confirmation Program



The following is an outline for Confirmation in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Sacraments are not individual awards. Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation are Sacraments of Initiation *into and celebration of the whole church* along with the family and youth. The Sacraments are primary means to build up the Catholic community and to experience true intentional discipleship. With this knowledge, look over the information provided intended to help you and your family make a decision about the spiritual formation that lies ahead. We invite you to prayerfully decide before embarking on this life long journey of faith formation.

## Who may receive Confirmation?

Youth who are in grade 6 or above, who have received the Sacrament of Baptism and Communion, may enter into the formation process. Under normal circumstances, formation lasts two years and students are confirmed at the end of 7<sup>th</sup> grade (or above).

## Confirmation Formation

There are three stages of discipleship within the confirmation formation process:

- **Seeking** takes place for a period of one year during the junior high or early high school years. This formation is begun in EDGE Middle School Ministry or, for those in high school, Life Teen Youth Ministry. Youth involvement in the life of parish through service and retreats is a key component during this first year.
- **Discerning** takes place for a period of one year after the candidate has adequately completed the period of Seeking (inquiry.) In addition to continued involvement in the life of the parish, this period focuses on sacramental preparation as well as formation of sponsors and family.
- **Mystagogy** takes place after Confirmation and continues into high school and beyond. Youth continue to grow in their relationship with the parish community and with Christ.

## When do classes meet?

Seeking – 1 <sup>st</sup> Year		
Grades 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	11:00 am Mass (once per month)
	Monday	6:30-8:00 pm EDGE Youth Ministry (2-3x per month)
Grades 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	11:00 am Mass
	Wednesday	6:30-8:00 pm Life Teen Youth Ministry (3x per month)

Discerning – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year		
Grades 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	11:00 am Mass
Grades 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	6:30-8:00 pm Gathering (once per month)

- If your family attends another mass time faithfully, we ask the teen join us once a month for a class mass at 11:00 am on Sunday.
- Students who miss more than three classes in a year may be delayed in receiving sacraments.

## Acts of Justice (Service)

As Catholic Christians, we are called to serve others. Confirmation students are required to participate in parish service and acts of justice each year. Parents and sponsors are encouraged to support their teen in completing the parish service and acts of justice hours. Youth Ministry offers several projects throughout the year so that your teen may participate.

Period	Hours Required
Seeking	10
Discerning	20

## Mass & Stewardship

**Family participation at Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) Mass.** Weekly Sunday Mass attendance is the most essential component in any religious formation, especially in preparation for the sacraments. Sunday Mass attendance is the heart of who we are as Catholics. Youth who do not attend Mass regularly may be delayed in receiving the sacraments.

To encourage mass participation and stewardship, youth receive dated envelopes for filling out and placing in the weekly mass collection. These envelopes are provided by St. Anthony Parish and the cost included in the fee. We encourage all youth to contribute whatever they can to help support their parish. This can be done in one of three ways, Time, Talent or Treasure.

Time	Talent	Treasure
<i>What have you given to God this week in SERVICE or devotion?</i>	<i>What ways have you shared the gifts God gave you to SERVE the community?</i>	<i>What financial treasure do you wish to GIVE this week?</i>

## Sponsors

Sponsors are people who you can rely on during your faith journey. They should be people with a deep commitment to the Catholic faith and who are active confirmed members of their parish who attend mass weekly. If married, they must have been married in the Catholic Church. They should be willing to listen to you, help answer questions, and share their faith and example with you. Sponsors are expected to maintain, at minimum, monthly contact with their candidate to not only pray, but to socialize and develop a stronger relationship. Parents cannot be sponsors for their children. Additional information can be found on the Sponsor Information Form or speak with the Confirmation Coordinator.

Confirmation Sponsors are asked to attend a half day retreat with their Candidate each year. This will give sponsor and youth a chance to connect spiritually throughout the journey along with personal time scheduled together. Please take time to prayerfully discern your Sponsor and have them complete the Sponsor Information Form in this Registration Packet. All Sponsors who are not parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Parish must have their Sponsor Information Form signed by their parish pastor and sealed with the parish seal.

## Life Teen / EDGE Youth Ministry

Confirmation is a journey you take within your faith community. St. Anthony of Padua Youth Ministry helps give a complete experience by connecting you to your faith community. Youth Ministry meetings are the **bridge** to the faith community. Youth in the Seeking phase attend youth ministry weekly during this period. Youth in Discerning are strongly encouraged to attend at least one youth ministry gathering per month.

<b>SAY EDGE</b> Middle School (Grades 6th-8th) Monday evening 6:30pm-8:00pm	<b>SAY Life Teen</b> High School (Grades 9th-12th) Wednesday evening 6:30pm-8:00pm
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## Parent Life

*“The role of parents in education is of such importance that it is almost impossible to provide an adequate substitute. The right and duty of parents to educate their children are primordial and inalienable.” Catechism Catholic Church 2221*

St. John Paul II, in his exhortation *Familiaris Consortio*, called the family the “domestic church.” This domestic church is the cornerstone of all civilization and a key piece in the New Evangelization. Parent Life seeks to lead parent(s) and their families closer to Christ by providing support and catechesis; offering opportunities to build community with other parents and families through gatherings; practical resources to help parents grow in their faith and spirituality; and provide opportunities to support and assist the youth ministry program. Parent(s) of confirmation candidates are asked to participate in three Parent Life sessions throughout the year. Beginning in January 2017, we will offer an online support component.

## Students Attending Catholic Schools

**Concern:** Many parents question the value of and/or the need for their student’s participation in the Confirmation Program because the topical information covered in the program is duplicative to the education received in the Catholic school.

**Response:** While education at a Catholic School will explore the teachings of the Church in more depth than the Confirmation Program, there is more to the preparation process than just “understanding of the Catholic Church.” There are three essential goals to Confirmation formation:

- (1) *To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today*
- (2) *To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community*
- (3) *To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.*

Since one’s relationship with God can and will grow/change over time, one cannot consider him/herself being ‘done’ or ‘finished’ with this aspect of their faith development. Therefore both Catholic and public school youth benefit from the opportunities to develop their relationship with God offered in the formation through classes and youth ministry meetings. Additionally, in appreciation of one’s role in the faith community, he/she must be present to and participate in that community. While attending a Catholic school is being a part of a faith community, it cannot and does not substitute for the parish community. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in Sunday liturgy and components of the Confirmation formation.

On a related note, we welcome the participation of the Catholic school students and the knowledge they bring to the Confirmation formation. Often times their academic knowledge, coupled with being able to share things as a teen in the small group, lends to their peers’ understanding of a given topic. The diversity of participation in the program helps everyone grow in faith!

## Confirmation Fees

Full payment is due at the time of registration. Payment includes the cost of all materials, supplies and retreat fees. Checks should be made payable to *St. Anthony of Padua Parish*. Payment arrangements can be made to accommodate those in need. **No youth is denied instruction due to finances.**

One student	Two students	Three or more
\$250.00	\$450.00	\$195.00 each additional