

Confirmation Preparation Summer Discernment Project

What does desire for Confirmation look like?

1319 A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be *prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs.*

The last section can be seen through the actions of Acts 2:42 “They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.” Therefore, desire can be determined by evaluating growth in these four areas.

1. Teaching of the apostles (study)
 - a. Is the candidate actively engaging in study of scripture and the life of Jesus? This can be in or out of traditional religious education or theology classes.
 - b. Does the candidate demonstrate a knowledge of and love for what the Church teaches?
2. Communal Life (community)
 - a. Is the candidate engaged in parish life, the family, and the community?
 - b. If so, what parish or community ministry is he or she actively participating in on a regular basis?
3. Breaking of the Bread (sacraments)
 - a. Does the candidate seek attendance of Sunday Mass with active participation?
 - b. Does he or she regularly attend confession?
4. Prayers
 - a. Does the candidate have an active prayer life? Does he or she lead grace, pray over or for family members, or pray with scripture on a regular basis?
 - b. Is he or she open to trying new forms of prayer?

Because one’s faith is actively growing throughout all of life, it is unlikely that candidates will be proficient in all four areas. In fact, their desire in one area might fluctuate as another grows. It is important that parents and sponsors encourage candidates to continue building desire in all four areas throughout the inquiry and formation periods.

Please see back of the page for summer reflection details.

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Now that 8th grade formation is complete, it is time for students to reflect with their parents on their authentic desire for the sacrament of Confirmation. Each student must reflect on his or her growth in each of the four areas of discipleship, and complete a discernment project

Students can choose how to reflect on each area for the discernment project, and we encourage them to be creative and have fun with discernment!

Some examples include:

1. Answer the questions under each heading in typed and in complete paragraphs for each and then include a list of goals for growth in each area.
2. Create a scrapbook or portfolio of examples of the answer for each question and list of future goals.
3. Record a video that explains growth in each area and includes goals for each section.
4. Some other method to address both the current status and future goals for each area of discipleship.

Finally, no matter the method, the discernment project should end with a short explanation of why he or she wants to continue in formation. It's important in our faith that we discern our desires and bring them to Jesus and trusted leaders.

Students must return the discernment project to Mrs. Salow at the beginning of Confirmation Preparation in the fall. Dates for preparation will become available in July with all classes being mandatory, so please keep an eye out for that communication.

If the student decides to delay preparation until 10th-12th grade, please contact Mrs. Salow at ssalow@stmarypinckney.org.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached year-round at ssalow@stmarypinckney.org or (734) 878-2217 (press 1 in the voicemail to be directly connected to me).

Thank you!

Sarah Salow

Director of Evangelization and Catechesis