Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation. These sacraments, (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation), welcome a person into the community of believers in Jesus Christ – the Church, and initiates that person into the Mission of Jesus Christ. Often called the sacrament of the Holy Spirit, Confirmation strengthens and celebrates the presence of the Spirit in one's life. Baptism is confirmed as the presence of the Spirit is intensified in the person. In other words, candidates have already received the Holy Spirit in Baptism. Confirmation renews the Spirit’s presence so that they can live out their baptismal call to share God’s life with others in their own unique way.

As candidates grow in maturity, they become more aware of themselves as a one-of-a-kind individual. Confirmation affirms the fact that they are an important, Spirit-filled member of the Church community. Relying on the Spirit’s presence, they seek to be their best self, the person God has created them to be (which, by the way, is what holiness is), as they help make the world a better place by building God’s kingdom on earth. The sacraments are celebrations in which the Christian community proclaims the presence of God among us in a specific way. Celebrating Confirmation, or any of the sacraments, is essential to being a spiritually healthy person. Just as a person matures physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually, they also mature spiritually.

At St. Pius X, preparation for Confirmation is a two year process which often begins in 9th grade, consisting of regular meetings with other candidates. The goal is to deepen their connection to the parish and broader Church through participation and to give each candidate a chance to discover the role of Christ and the Church in their own life.

Candidates Role Candidates are expected to:

- Participate in ongoing Faith Formation through regular meetings or one-on-one mentorship. (2 years)
- Turn in all required paper work to the parish office (Found at www.piusx.org/confirmation.html).
- Go to Mass weekly and on Holy Days of Obligation (Both years)
- Evaluate the ways in which you are called to serve and choose two projects as a way to begin living out your service to Christ. (Both years)
- Choose an appropriate sponsor to help them on their journey by working with them, praying for them, and being able to support their decision that they are ready to take on the Mission of Christ.
- Choose a Confirmation Name. (Year 2)
- Attend a pilgrimage, retreat, similar approved experience. (Both years) YEAR 2 RETREAT IS NOV 16-17
- Write a letter to the Bishop of our diocese requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. (Year 2)
- Upon completion of their action plan, candidates must decide if they are ready to commit to participating in the Mission of Christ, and, if they are, present their readiness during an interview prior to receiving the Sacrament with Fr. Russ. (Year 2)
Parents/Guardians
Candidates have been told that their parents said “yes” to God for them at their Baptism, but at Confirmation, it’s the candidates turn to make their own Christian commitment. They are beginning to take responsibility for their faith journey, but as it is with the other areas of their life, they do not have complete control yet. Parents or guardians are still the first and best teachers of their children. While parents encourage their child to want to be a full member of the Church, the young person will make the final decision themselves about whether or not they are currently ready to fully commit to participate in the mission of Jesus Christ through the Church. By accompanying them through the process of preparing for Confirmation, parents/guardians try to guide the Candidate along a path of wholeness and happiness for life. During their preparation, parents can help the young person make good Ministry choices, attend Mass and parish events and see the ways that belonging to the parish and Church are important to the family. At the end of this time, the young person must determine their readiness for Confirmation. The young person takes on responsibility for their own Christian development as they grow and mature.

Choosing a Sponsor (Due by Oct 23, 2019 for Year 2, April 8, 2020 for Year 1)
A sponsor serves the Confirmation candidate in three ways.

- First, the sponsor will serve as a role model in faith. Because of this, the Church requires that a sponsor be at least sixteen years of age, be fully initiated in the Catholic Church (has received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), and be a practicing member of the Catholic Church. He or She does not have to be the same gender as the Candidate.
- Second, the sponsor is a companion on the faith journey, supporting the candidate in prayer and in their search for the Holy Spirit. The sponsor can best help them if he or she is someone whose Christian lifestyle they admire, someone with whom you feel comfortable, and someone who has the time and willingness to be involved with them in this process.
- Finally, the sponsor will witness for the Candidate before the entire Church. Standing by them as they are confirmed, he or she proclaims by that gesture that they are ready and will accept the responsibilities and privileges of being a fully initiated member of the Catholic Christian community. Since Confirmation is so linked with Baptism, you may consider choosing a Godparent for the Confirmation sponsor. As with Baptism a sponsor is someone other than a parent because he or she will assist the Candidate and parents in their continued faith formation. The candidates will be required to provide sponsor information so that St. Pius X can affirm that the chosen sponsor is eligible.

If you are having difficulty in finding a sponsor, please contact the Director of Faith Formation and Confirmation.

Choosing a Confirmation Name (Due in January 22 of Year 2)
Whether it is in of friendships, athletics, or science, or politics, or even parenting (maybe especially parenting) all of us need role models that we can look up to and emulate. Confirmation candidates will choose the name of a real, legitimate saint who is well known to that individual. Since Confirmation completes the initiation begun at Baptism, a young person may choose to be confirmed under his/her Baptismal name or the candidate may choose a new Saint name for Confirmation. This Saint must be one that the young person finds inspirational. They may choose the saint’s name their parents or grandparents carry or a saint whose life they have read about and whose example they wish to follow. But the name they choose should link them with the communion of saints in heaven with whom we worship God, the Father, every time we participate in the Mass. Two websites that you might find helpful: www.catholic.org or www.newadvent.com.
Ministry Involvement and Service (Due in March 18 of both years)
We are part of a COMMUNITY!!! A world-wide community which has been commissioned to live as Christ! In the past we ask that each Candidate to complete at least two service projects—one that is in service to our parish community (often an on-going ministry) and a second of the candidate’s choosing which can be within or outside of our parish community. This can be done with others from the Confirmation group, a sponsor, your family, or on your own. If you need help selecting a project you are passionate about, please talk to you confirmation leaders, sponsor, or the Director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry.

Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an excellent way to prepare for Confirmation. In celebrating this sacrament, you can take a look at your life, how you’ve loved God, others, and yourself, and how you’ve failed to love and do good for God, others and yourself. Then you can receive God’s forgiving love and the grace for a new start that will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit’s power in Confirmation. Your son/daughter may feel nervous and embarrassed if they haven’t received reconciliation in a long time, maybe even years. Try not to worry about it. The priest will be very happy to help them remember the steps. He will feel privileged to offer you God’s healing through this special sacrament. The Diocese suggests going to Reconciliation prior to celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Retreat and Pilgrimage
Most teenagers lead very busy lives, with obligations to school, family, extracurricular activities, and maybe even a job. These are all important things in their life and they deserve their attention. But, an opportunity to set aside time to rest and reflect on this journey they are taking is also a good thing. The Confirmation retreat is an invitation from Jesus to “Come away to a deserted place all by themselves and rest a while” Mark 6:31. This year our first year candidates will choose to attend one of three retreat options or another approved retreat experience. Second year candidates will attend an overnight retreat with other candidates from several other Catholic parishes in Rochester on NOVEMBER 16-17 at Camp Victory. This time is an opportunity to focus on the Holy Spirit’s presence in their lives. While they won’t spend an entire retreat on their knees, they will be present to God in a special way, and God will have a message for them. All they need to do is be ready and open.

Behavior Policy
All students are expected to show respect to themselves, their mentors, presenters, others, as well as to their surroundings. Absolutely no cell phones and no texting during events.

Cancellation Policy:
No events will be held if there is no school in Rochester Public schools or if there is early dismissal due to weather. If inclement weather develops from the end of school to arrival time, please call the office 507-288-8238. Light to moderate snowfall will normally not be enough to cancel an event, but heavy accumulations and ice may merit cancellation. DO NOT drop off your youth until you are sure that events have not been canceled for the evening.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and our hearts shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray: O God, who taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to delight in what is right and always to rejoice in your consolation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.