

Confirmation Parent Orientation

2024-2025

SACRAMENT PREPARATION

- If your teen is Baptized, he/she is in Confirmation Preparation.
- If your teen is NOT Baptized, he/she is in Initiation Preparation.
- Preparation requirements for both are the same, but those in Initiation Prep should plan to attend various rites during scheduled masses (TBD).

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Certificate Submission

- We need to have copies of birth and all sacrament certificates.
- **Certificates must be turned in before attendance begins to be counted.**

2. Schedule / Attendance / Participation

Confirmation Prep for 6th-8th Grade meets every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:45pm.
Confirmation Prep for 9th-12th Grade meets every Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:45pm.
○ Classes will be in Fr. O'Hare Hall. Doors will open at 6pm.

- Participants attend in person, every week according to the schedule provided.
- Participants need to attend classes once a week to stay on track to be prepared for their sacraments in two years.
- Participants must sign in at every class to receive credit.
- Phones may not be used during the sessions. If phones are out, they will be confiscated. Phones will ONLY be released after class.
- Participants must be *actively engaged* during Confirmation prep sessions. Behaviors that are distracting, unruly, dismissive, rude, antagonistic, or otherwise negative will be considered indications that the participant is not properly disposed for Confirmation and will result in their dismissal until it is discerned that they are ready.
- All participants are required to attend Mass at St. Joseph's each Sunday and all Holy days of Obligation.
- Mass attendance will be tracked by turning in preprinted barcodes in the designated box at Mass inside the Church.

3. Parent Involvement

- "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, prayer, and all virtues. They have the duty to provide as far as possible for the physical and spiritual needs of their children" (CCC 2252).
- Parents are expected to guide students through an online course specific to the sacrament being prepared for. This can be completed anytime during the 2 years of preparation.
- Parents will be expected to attend all three Parent Retreats (TBD).

4. Retreats

- Participants must attend one retreat each year for a total of two (Fall and Spring).

- Participants who do not attend a St. Joseph's parish retreat must have a letter from the ministry team of the retreat that they do attend for it to be counted.

5. Confirmation Year (Year Three)

- Participants who complete their sacrament preparation will be scheduled to receive them the following year (per Diocese policy). Example: Start Conf. classes in 6th grade and get confirmed in 8th grade.
- Participants will be required to attend 4 Confirmation Prep classes in late January and early February 2025.
- Participants will be required to complete a Stewardship Project during the year.
- Participants will attend a discernment discussion with one of the priests to evaluate their desire for receiving sacraments and their knowledge of Catholic Church teachings and basic prayers.
- Mass attendance will continue to be tracked.

6. Form Submission

Final forms (e.g., sponsor, saint name) need to be turned in and validated by January 1st, 2025

- **SAINT NAME:** Each participant may choose a saint as their patron for their Confirmation.
- **SPONSOR:** Each participant is to choose a sponsor for their Confirmation who meets the following requirements¹:
 - Sponsors must be designated by the one being confirmed or by the parents of the one being confirmed.
 - Only one male or female sponsor (or one of each) can be chosen regardless of how many sacraments are being received.
 - Only one Sponsor will be allowed to present the Candidate for Confirmation to the Bishop.
 - Sponsors must be fully initiated Catholics (confirmed and receiving communion) free from canonical penalty and leading in harmony with the faith (including matrimony).
 - The sponsor cannot be the parent or guardian of the one to be confirmed.
 - The sponsor must be 16 years old by the date of the Confirmation.
 - The Sponsor Form must be filled out by the proposed sponsor and then verified by their parish before being turned in to St. Joseph's.
 - The Sponsor must send the form to his or her corresponding parish to attain the parish seal and the signature of the parish pastor.
 - If two Sponsors are designated, then two Sponsor forms must be turned in.
 - If the Sponsor does not meet ALL the requirements, he/she will not be allowed to be a Sponsor.
 - If a sponsor is not/cannot be elected, a sponsor can be chosen by the Youth and Confirmation Minister.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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¹ Code of Canon Law (872-893).