

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is a sign to the community of a person's willingness to embrace more fully the beliefs and mission of the Christian community and is a sign of the person's commitment toward continued growth and service in one's spiritual journey. It is also a sign to the person of the community's desire to support and encourage the individual in that journey.

UNDERSTANDING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation, as one of the three sacraments of initiation, is intimately connected to the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist. Baptism, as the first step in the initiation process, incorporates individuals into Christ. Through water and the Holy Spirit, they become a new creation and are called children of God. By sharing in Eucharist, we share in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this celebration we deepen our unity with Christ and with each other as the Body of Christ. In this unity we are called to identify with and become active in the mission and ministry of Jesus and his church, so that our actions witness to his presence in the world.

The preparation for and celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation provide individuals an opportunity to increase their appreciation of God's involvement in their lives by helping them recognize the action of the gifts of the Holy Spirit within their lives. It offers opportunities to experience the spiritual strength that emanates from the Christian community. It also helps individuals to identify with the mission and ministry of the universal church by choosing to be responsible for that mission as maturing, spirit filled Christians.

COSTS FOR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

A \$200 Family Fee is required for each family with children who participate in Religious Education Grades K-10.

YEAR I CANDIDATES: Additional \$40 fee per candidate
YEAR II CANDIDATES: Additional \$50 fee per candidate

PLEASE NOTE: Finances should never come in the way of a person's participation in our parish Religious Education Program. If any of the costs prove a financial burden to any family, please speak with the Director of Religious Education, Annette Tracy or our Pastor, Fr. Joseph Anginoli, so arrangements may be made to provide assistance in this area.

VOLUNTEERING

We welcome parent participation as volunteer Catechists, Attendance table help, Chaperones for retreats and social events. Please see the Director of Religious Education for more details.

LITURGY

There will be a monthly Sunday evening liturgy in-between the YEAR I and YEAR II sessions. Mass time will be from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Confirmation Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend this Mass. All family members and parishioners are welcome to attend also.

ROLE OF SUPPORT PERSONS

ROLE OF THE PARENT

Parents are expected to support their teenager's participation in the Confirmation journey and in their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Several ways to support their teen's commitment to their faith journey is to attend weekly mass with them; participate in all meetings designed specifically for parents, encourage full participation in Confirmation classes. Parents can encourage the candidate by sharing their own faith experiences, and by renewing their own appreciation of what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

CONFIRMATION CATECHIST

These men and women join with the candidate through the 2-year preparation process as leaders of the small group. They give their time to teach and share their faith with the candidates.

SPONSORS

Each candidate for Confirmation chooses a Confirmed Catholic sponsor who regularly attends Mass and is involved in parish life. Sponsors must be age 16 or older and be in good standing with the church. The sponsor is someone who is willing to journey with the candidate during the different aspects of the preparation program: to be a friend and companion, helping to integrate the teachings of Jesus into their daily living. The candidate should begin thinking about a sponsor as they begin the process and choose a sponsor at the end of Year I.

AGE FOR CONFIRMATION

From a theological perspective, there is no one "right" age for the celebration of Confirmation. Each bishop may determine the age for Confirmation in his Diocese. In the Paterson Diocese, Confirmation may be celebrated in the 10th and 11th grades. Young people in this age bracket are ready to reflect seriously on the faith of their Baptism, to examine their own attitudes toward Church and to come to a more adult understanding of and commitment to the faith of Catholic Christianity.

The Church of Saint Joseph will accept candidates entering 9th grade (Year I of the Process) and will prepare them over a 2-year period to receive the sacrament in the spring of 10th grade provided that certain standards have been met. (Catholic High School students are required to join the program for Year II but Year I is optional for them. Public school students must attend both years)

REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE IN THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH'S CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

- * Continuous and sequential attendance in a Religious Education program in grades 1-8.
- * All candidates who have not attended Religious Education sessions continuously will be required to participate in a remedial program.
- * Full participation in Confirmation Process.
- * Candidates accepted in the Confirmation Process will not automatically receive the Sacrament of Confirmation unless they are fully prepared.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

A baptized person in at least 10th grade or upon completion of the process is invited to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation when evidence of readiness on the part of the candidate has been demonstrated.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROCESS

YEAR I

Participation in weekly Liturgy
Journal reflections on weekly Liturgy
Participation in Confirmation small group classes
Confirmation Candidate Interview
Reconciliation Service
Rite of Election Ceremony

YEAR II

Participation in weekly Liturgy
Journal reflections on weekly Liturgy
Participation in Confirmation small group classes
Selection & Interaction with Sponsor
Written Letter to the Pastor
Participation in Service Projects
Retreat Day Attendance
Confirmation Candidate Interview
Reconciliation Service
Rite of Enrollment Ceremony
Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

CONFIRMATION PROCESS THEMES

YEAR I

Invitation & Formation: Personal Uniqueness, Identity, Faith, Trusting in God, The Church, Coming to Know Our God, Jesus' Identity, Jesus' Mission, Parables & Miracles, The Meaning of the Cross, Resurrection.

YEAR II

Reflection, Initiation & Mission: Holy Spirit, Prayer, Christian Morality, Christian Service, Initiation, Baptism, The Eucharist, Sealed with the Holy Spirit, Mission

CONFIRMATION NAME

Candidates have two options: stay with your present Baptismal name or select a saint's name.

SERVICE HOURS

- 10 individual hours are required
- Candidates are not required to do the 10 individual hours until YEAR II, however candidates may begin accumulating their hours in YEAR I and may complete them during YEAR I if they wish.
- YEAR II candidates will, in addition to their individual hours, complete two service projects with their small groups under the supervision of their Catechist.
- A listing of suggested Community Service Opportunities will be provided.
- Candidates submit a "Service Hour Record Form" and service hours are tracked in a database coordinated by our record keeper, Mrs. Jean White.

Confirmation is the sacrament of Christian maturity, which gives us the ability to live our adult faith.

“Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- It roots us more deeply in the divine filtration which makes us cry ‘Abba! Father!’
- It unites us more firmly to Christ;
- It increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- It renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witness of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the cross.” -

The Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303

Our parish Confirmation Process seeks to reach out to the teenagers of the Church of Saint Joseph to help them develop spiritually, emotionally, and psychologically into all that God calls them to be. The Confirmation Process is part of the overall Religious Education ministry program of our parish. The program offers a variety of religious, educational and social experiences. All high school students are invited to participate.

Year I Monthly Sunday class from 5pm – 6pm

Year II Monthly Sunday class from 7pm – 8pm

To report an absence:

(973) 540- 5950 x 19 (Attendance Hotline)

Church of Saint Joseph

CONFIRMATION PROCESS



The Spirit Gives Life

Mendham, NJ

Religious Education Office

(973) 543-5950

Annette Tracy, DRE Ext. 13

Kim Grantham, Admin. Ext. 14