

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS

Confirmation is a sacrament of Christian initiation that strengthens baptismal grace, deepens our relationship with Christ, strengthens our bond with the Church, and sends us forth to witness to the Catholic faith.

Preparation is therefore more than learning information. It is an opportunity for each candidate to grow in prayer, reflect on God's presence in his or her life, and become more fully engaged in the life and mission of the Church.

Candidates should be suitably instructed, capable of renewing their baptismal promises, and prepared to receive the sacrament fruitfully.

Parents remain the primary educators of their children in the faith. Your participation, conversations, prayers, and example are essential throughout this preparation process.

COMPONENTS OF CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Shepherd Sunday

We strongly encourage all families to attend Shepherd Sunday.

During this time, Confirmation candidates will meet separately with Cody Moran to work through the foundations of the Catholic faith. Families will have the opportunity to participate in the wider parish community and continue growing together in faith.

Confirmation preparation is not meant to be lived in isolation. The parish community, parents, sponsors, catechists, and clergy all have an important role in supporting candidates as they prepare to become more active witnesses to Christ.

MONTHLY CONFIRMATION CLASS

Monthly classes will be held with Father Williams and Faith Fabian. These sessions will focus especially on:

- The meaning and purpose of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- The role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian
- The connection between Baptism and Confirmation
- The gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Living as a faithful disciple and witness of Jesus Christ
- Continuing to participate in the sacramental and parish life of the Church

Confirmation strengthens a person to live the Gospel and become an active member of the Christian community.

MONTHLY JOURNAL TOPICS

Each month, a journal topic will be sent home for each candidate. Candidates are encouraged to choose a quiet place for prayerful reflection, such as:

- A prayer chair or special place at home
- The Adoration Chapel
- A favorite outdoor location
- A quiet room or another peaceful place

The journal is intended to help candidates slow down, pray, and reflect honestly on their relationship with God and their experience of preparing for Confirmation.

Each month, candidates will receive reflection questions for personal prayer. They will also occasionally receive questions to discuss with:

- You, their parent and primary educator of the faith
- Their Confirmation sponsor

Candidates should record your responses and the insights gained from these conversations. These journal reflections will become an important part of their preparation as Confirmation approaches.

Parents can support this process by setting aside time to listen, sharing your own experience of faith, and helping your child recognize how God is working in everyday life.

ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIEST

Each candidate will participate in a one-on-one interview with the priest.

This is intended to be a welcoming opportunity for the candidate to talk openly about his or her experience. The priest may ask about:

- The candidate's journal reflections
- Time spent in prayer
- Conversations with parents
- Conversations with the sponsor
- Questions or concerns about the Catholic faith

- The candidate's understanding of Confirmation
- Hopes and expectations for receiving the sacrament

The interview is not meant to be an examination or a source of anxiety. It is simply a time for the candidate to speak with the priest and reflect on the journey of preparation.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

A Confirmation retreat is tentatively scheduled for January 23.

The retreat will provide an extended opportunity for prayer, reflection, community-building, and preparation for receiving the Holy Spirit. Additional details regarding the schedule, location, required materials, and transportation will be provided when they are available.

CONFIRMATION DATE

The Confirmation date cannot be finalized until confirmation is received from the Bishop.

Confirmation typically takes place in late April, but the date is not yet official. More information will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT THEIR CANDIDATE

Parents can make a significant difference by:

- Attending Shepherd Sunday and other required preparation events
- Encouraging regular participation at Sunday Mass
- Praying with and for their child
- Setting aside time for monthly journal conversations
- Asking open-ended questions and listening without judgment
- Helping the candidate spend time in personal prayer
- Encouraging participation in parish life
- Supporting a meaningful relationship between the candidate and sponsor
- Reminding the candidate that Confirmation is not simply a graduation from religious education
- Continuing to model a life of faith after Confirmation

Confirmation is a commitment to continue following Christ as His disciple and witness. Pope Leo XIV has encouraged young people not only to receive the sacrament but also to persevere in the faith, remain connected to the parish, and continue as friends, disciples, and missionaries of Jesus Christ.

CONFIRMATION

DRESS CODE

Confirmation is a Sacrament celebrated with much reverence, joy, and dignity. The attire worn by both the Confirmation Candidate and his or her Sponsor should reflect the same.

Attire during the Confirmation Mass, for both candidates and sponsors, should be Christmas or Easter best, respecting Christian modesty and Church tradition.

The confirmandi should wear as follows:

WOMEN	MEN
● White Dress or skirt and blouse ● Dresses and skirts must be BELOW the knee ● A modest neckline front and back ● shoulders MUST be covered ● Dress shoes (you should be able to walk comfortably)	● Navy, black, or Khaki dress pants (no jeans or cargo pants) ● White long-sleeve dress shirt ● Solid Red dress tie ● Dark Suit jacket (optional) ● Dress socks and dress shoes (no gym shoes)

Please be sure your forehead is uncovered — free from hair or hair accessories — for anointing by the Bishop.