

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CONFIRMATION 2017

SSFC youth are eligible to enter formation for the Sacrament of Confirmation at the age of 13 AND in the 8th grade.

Confirmation candidates who do not attend parochial school must participate in our regular Youth Ministry Sunday morning programming from 10:00 to 11:10 am. SSFC School Ministry students will receive similar Confirmation Preparation during their school hours but are invited to attend on Sunday morning as Confirmation candidates are placed in small faith-sharing groups to encourage a more personal experience with the material covered. Our Sunday morning small groups build relationship, encourage fellowship, establish accountability and utilize peer ministry. These foundational experiences facilitate the growth and desire to be an intentional disciple of Christ and an active member of our parish family. Sunday morning Confirmation sessions follow the same calendar as the REYM regular sessions.

It's E.P.I.C.!! Expand Participation In Church

Candidates are asked to choose several different opportunities to serve and experience other ministry involvement in the parish. Three experiences in each of the areas of **Fellowship, Worship, Service, Evangelization** and **Discipleship** are desired. This makes a total of 15 experiences that will help open the eyes and hearts of our candidates to the scope of the ministries of our Church. After each experience the candidate is asked to write and submit a short reflection. Seven experiences should be completed and a reflection submitted by the Afternoon of Reflection in January and the remaining eight should be completed and a reflection submitted by the Confirmation retreat in April.

All candidates are encouraged to practice building the 7 HABITS of an intentional discipleship:

- spend regular 'hang time' with God (prayer)
- be accountable to their small group members and Confirmation Sponsor in living lives that honor God
- regularly read the Bible and reflect on its meaning in their life
- be involved in parish & youth ministry activities
- tithe (share) their time, talents and treasure
- participate in the Sacraments (including regular Mass attendance, reconciliation)

The candidate's participation, openness and willingness to commit to the formation process through regular attendance, EPIC involvement and engagement in small group and/or School Ministry religion class discussions, will help prepare him/her for the **Afternoon of Reflection and Rite of Enrollment held this year on January 21, 2017 with their Sponsor**. It is at this time that the candidate signs the Book of Enrollment and professes his/her desire to be Confirmed.

Choosing a Name

A candidate may choose a Confirmation name or retain a recognized saint's name given them at Baptism. It is important to use the name of a saint as their Confirmation name. A Confirmation name links the candidate with the way in which the mission of Jesus lives on in the life and example of these Saints. The process of researching the life of a saint can be an enriching part of the preparation program and can serve as the basis for reflection on the qualities the candidate would like to emulate in their life as a present day intentional disciple of Christ. Family members and sponsors should assist the candidate in choosing a Confirmation name prior to the April retreat weekend. Some websites that might be helpful in this selection are;

- <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/how-to-choose-a-patron-saint>
- <http://www.aquinasandmore.com/catholic-articles/how-to-choose-a-confirmation-saint/article/349/sort/relevance/productsperpage/12/layout/grid/currentpage/1/keywords/confirmation>
- <http://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>
- <http://www.buzzfeed.com/alexisnedd/who-should-be-your-patron-saint#.hdqWdOd8Z>

Choosing A Sponsor:

Today in the Church, the qualifications for a Confirmation sponsor are the same as for a baptismal sponsor.

A sponsor must:

- be chosen by the person who will be confirmed, or by the parents;
- be at least sixteen years old;
- be a Catholic who has already been confirmed and who has received the sacrament of Eucharist;
- lead a faith-filled life and be a Catholic in good standing;
- not be the mother or father of the one to be confirmed. (A parent may, however, for good reason, serve as presenter of the candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation)

While Canon Law provides the basic requirements, the path to a meaningful sponsor-candidate relationship involves several other factors.

A sponsor should:

- be a Christian witness in both words and deeds;
- be a person with whom the candidate has a comfortable and ongoing relationship
- be available to spend time with the candidate during the preparation process

- offer support to your candidate as he or she moves through the challenging teen years, including experiencing doubts about his or her own faith;
- challenge your candidate's words and actions when they contradict Christian values;
- be willing to participate with the candidate at liturgy and in Christian service and to take part in the celebration of the sacrament

Afternoon of Reflection

Candidates and their Sponsors (or a stand-in, if sponsor is unable to attend) will participate in a Afternoon of Reflection on **Saturday, January 21, 2017 from 12:00-5:30pm**. The sponsor and their candidate will attend 5:30pm Mass together, during which they will participate in the **Rite of Enrollment**.

Mandatory Retreat

All Candidates are required to attend our overnight retreat held at SSFC on **April 21-22, 2017 from 6:00pm on Friday to 5:30pm on Saturday**. The retreat will end with the **Rite of Sending at the 5:30 pm Mass**. (If the candidate cannot make the SSFC retreat dates, the Archdiocese offers alternate retreat dates at CYO Camp in Nashville, IN on October 29, 2016 and February 4, 2017.)

Confirmation Rites

Candidates are to be in attendance at all Rites associated with the conferring of the Sacrament. These rites and their dates are as follows;

Rite of Enrollment	January 21, 2017	5:30pm Mass	SSFC
Rite of Sending	April 21-22, 2017	5:30pm Mass	SSFC
*Rite of Confirmation	April 25 or May 2nd	7:00pm Mass	SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
Rite of Reception	May 1, 2016	11:30am Mass	SSFC
*Proposed Dates			

THERE IS A PARENT MEETING FOR ALL PARENTS OF A CONFIRMATION STUDENT ON Sunday, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 IN THE SANTUARY FROM 10:00am – 10:45am. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING.