



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CONFIRMATION 2021 Parish Parent Edition

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 9:45 to 11:10 am. (SSFC School Ministry students will receive similar Confirmation Preparation during their school hours.) 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. It is our aim that these foundational experiences will facilitate growth and desire to become an intentional disciple of Christ and an active member of our parish family. Sunday morning Confirmation sessions will mostly follow the same calendar as the REYM regular sessions.

Below you will find preliminary information on the requirements and important dates for Confirmation. Please note that based on last year's experiences with COVID-19 and its restrictions, we may have to revise some of the information or dates provided. We plan to hold a **Confirmation Parent Meeting on Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 10:00 am** in the Church to go over all this in detail. Please make every effort to attend this meeting.

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

Candidates are asked to choose five different opportunities to serve and experience ministry involvement in the parish and larger Church. One experience in each of the areas of **Fellowship, Worship, Service, Evangelization and Discipleship** is required. Small groups of candidates are encouraged to participate in these EPIC experiences so that more meaningful reflection can occur. After each experience the small group will submit a written reflection summarizing the group's experience. These reflections should be submitted to their small group leader. Parents will be needed to assist with transportation of small groups. If an EPIC experience must be done individually, a written reflection will be submitted by the candidate to the small group leader.

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 (classmates) 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 discussions, will help prepare them for the **Afternoon of Reflection and Blessing of the Candidates held in January with their Sponsor**. It is at this time they will sign the Book of Enrollment and profess their desire to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Choosing a Name

A candidate may choose a Confirmation name or retain a recognized saint's name given to 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 can 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-practices the Catholic faith now in their lives.
- 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 word and deed;
- 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 as the candidate moves through the challenging teen years, including experiences of doubt about their own faith;
- will challenge their 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 **January 23, 2021**. Candidates and sponsors will attend Mass together, during which both will participate in the **Blessing of Candidates**

Letter to the Archbishop

As part of the candidates' preparation for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, Archbishop Thompson requests that each candidate submit a letter to him. This letter is meant to be more than just a statement from the young person asking for the sacrament. Since he cannot be a part of each and every formation program, the letters help the archbishop to see how the young people have been preparing for this celebration, as well as for life strengthened by the Holy Spirit after the celebration. In addition, so many of the letters stand as a testament to faith and devotion of the young Church, a sign of hope for us all. These letters will be written on retreat or in small group/classroom time.

Mandatory Retreat

All Candidates are required to attend **our overnight retreat held at SSFC on April 16 and 17, 2021**. The retreat will end with the **Confirmation Retreat Blessing Mass**. (If the candidate cannot make the SSFC retreat dates, the **Archdiocese offers alternate retreat dates at CYO Camp in Nashville, IN (dates for these retreats are November 21, 2020 and February 6, 2021)** Information can be found at <https://www.campranchoframasa.org/confirmation-retreats.html> There is a \$20 fee for this retreat. **Contact Monica Robinson (mrobinson@ss-fc.org) if an alternate retreat is needed.**

Confirmation Blessings and Rite

Candidates are to be in attendance at all Masses associated with the Sacrament...

Blessing of the Candidates January 23, 2021

Confirmation Retreat Blessing April 17, 2021

Rite of Confirmation May 22, 2021

Confirmation Catechists

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