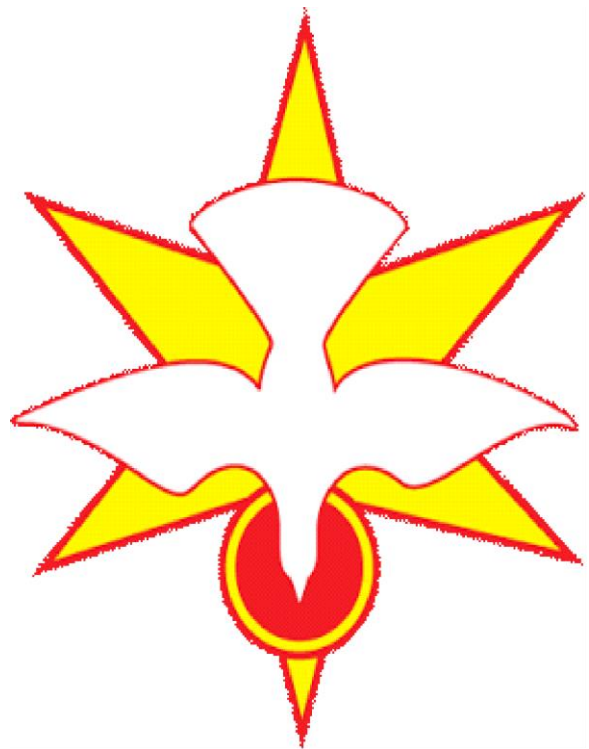


2023-2024

St. Joseph Children's Faith Formation

8th Grade Parent Confirmation Handbook



*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts
of your faithful and kindle in
them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they
shall be created. And You
shall renew the face of the
earth.*

PARENT PRAYER



Loving God,
You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings.
We thank and praise you.

Thank you for the gift of our children.

Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore.
Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.

May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May the Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love, so they may know peace, truth and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice.

May their eyes see your presence in all things.

May their lips proclaim your word.

May their hearts be your dwelling place.

May their hands do works of charity.

May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

Amen

CANDIDATES PRAYER

Spirit of God, grant me:

The gift of wisdom, to see the world through your eyes;

The gift of counsel, to make difficult decisions;

The gifts of knowledge and understanding, to use my mind to know you and to love you;

The gift of fortitude, to have the courage to live in the faith despite the difficulties

And disappointments;

The gift of piety to be able to express my special love and commitment to you;

And the right kind of awesome fear that makes me pause to wonder and revere God's Love.

Amen

Confirmation

The Rite of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Catholic Church can take place at any time beyond the seventh grade, provided the person seeking the final Sacrament of Initiation is determined to be prepared. At different ages, that can mean different things. Where it concerns our youth, the student must be in the eighth grade.



The preparation includes:

Baptismal Certificate on file in CFF records

- Certificate verifies that you are baptized into the Christian faith.

Continued Service to the Community

- Service to and within the Catholic community gives youth a chance to put faith into action, being doers of the Word and not hearers only. **Each student is required to complete at least four separate service projects totally a minimum of 10 hours.**

Regular Mass Attendance

- Regular Mass attendance is a must as the Eucharist is the "source and summit" of our Catholic faith (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1324). **Each student is required to complete eight Mass reflections.**

Saints Showcase - October 22, 2023

- Students design and display a Confirmation Name Poster that will be displayed in church. Students are encouraged to attend the 5:00 pm Mass. **Specific directions will be given in religion class with a DUE DATE of October 1st.**

Selection of a Confirmation Name - Form due December 3rd

There are two options concerning the choice of a name:

- The candidate's present first or middle name as their Confirmation name, if it is the name of a saint.
- Choose another name, making sure that name is the name of a recognized saint or holy person of the Church.

The Archdiocese of Chicago encourages the use of the baptismal name, however many candidates prefer to choose another name. In deciding who their patron saint is for Confirmation, it is important for a candidate to not only pick a saint (or holy person) whom they admire, but also to know what they admire most in the life of that person. Students must also send a note to the Director of Children's Faith Formation as to why they chose that name. This is part of their Confirmation Information form that is due Dec. 8th.

Selection of a Sponsor - Form due December 3rd

- Each candidate shall select a sponsor whose task it is to support and assist the candidate in the Confirmation year and beyond. A sponsor may be any person-other than a parent or stepparent- who is in good standing with the Catholic Church. "In good standing" means the sponsor:
 - Is at least 16 years of age
 - Has completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation)
 - Is single or in a valid marriage that is recognized by the Church
 - Attends Mass regularly
 - The sponsor should be a person who already has a trusting relationship with the candidate. In addition, the sponsor needs to be willing to meet with the candidate before the celebration of Confirmation to share the faith journey and continue this journey with the Candidate after the celebration of Confirmation. Ultimately, the task of the sponsor is to share with the parents their role as transmitters of the Catholic faith.

***A completed Sponsor form must be submitted on or before
December 3rd.***

Bishop Letter – Will be assigned in class - Due Date: December 10th

In the year of direct preparation, each student is asked to write a letter to the Bishop. This letter should be no more than one page, simple in style, double-spaced. In this letter, the youth is to request the Bishop's blessing on the student's desire for Confirmation. The candidate should include a simple rationale for this desire.

Specific directions are [here](#).

Confirmation Retreat

- An accepted Confirmation retreat offers the opportunity for further discernment as the youth build a social community. A retreat gives the participant time to reflect on his/her relationship with God.
- The Confirmation Retreat at St. Joseph is designed to give candidates further opportunity to consider the implications of Confirmation and to open their hearts to the grace of the sacrament.
- If a student is absent the day of the school retreat, he/she will need to attend another retreat offered by another parish.
- Terry Nelson-Johnson (in-person), Saturday, January 20, 2024, 1-6 pm, includes Mass at 5pm

Confirmation “Sending” Mass - Sunday, February 25th at 5 p.m.

This is not the same as the actual Mass of Confirmation. A week before Confirmation, St. Joseph Catholic Church would like to “send” the candidates and offer them a blessing. This follows the tradition of the Rite of Sending for adult participants of RCIA. It is an opportunity for the parish at large to acknowledge the candidates and pray for them.

Mandatory Confirmation Practice - Wednesday, February 28th at 6 p.m.

All candidates must attend the Practice for Confirmation Mass with their sponsor or another adult if their sponsor is not available.



Confirmation Mass - Saturday, March 2th at 10a.m. & 2 p.m.

The Confirmation Mass is the outward reception of the grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation. It brings together the community of the faithful to support and uplift those seeking the grace of the sacrament. It is typically the local Bishop who presides over the Mass and confers the sacrament itself.

Who should attend?

Everyone is welcome; however please keep in mind:

- The Mass is typically long — about 2+ hours. Bringing young children who cannot be observant and patient is discouraged.
- The Mass can be crowded with limited seating. Each candidate will have one pew which comfortably seats the candidate, sponsor and 4-6 additional adults. Please consider your comfort when choosing who sits in the candidate's pew. There will be pews for additional guests.

What should candidates wear?

- **Boys:** Suit or Sports coat, dress pants, dress shirt, dress shoes and tie.
- **Girls:** Remember, modesty is important. No bare shoulders and skin/dress hems no more than 2 inches above the knee. You will be confirmed by the bishop in the sanctuary. Any questions please ask!

[Confirmation Liturgy Registration Form](#) by December 3, 2023

[Confirmation Sponsor Statement Form](#) by December 3, 2023

[Confirmation Worksheet About Parents & Sponsors](#) by February 4, 2024

Candidacy Letter to Bishop Grob

In advance of Confirmation, you need to write a **letter of intent** to the Bishop. This letter should simply express your willingness and capacity to grow toward a mature and committed faith. *This letter is due Dec. 10th.* The letter of intent needs to be **four, typed paragraphs**. You are asked to take time to compose this letter using the following as guidelines:

Paragraph 1 Introduce yourselves and tell about your family and interests.

Paragraph 2 State and explain your desire to be or not to be confirmed. "I want to be confirmed because..." This needs to be a simple explanation of your understanding of Confirmation, because the rest of the year will enrich your understanding.

Paragraph 3 You should **describe some of the service opportunities** you have done over the last few years, especially in 7th grade or over the summer.

Paragraph 4 Close this letter with an expression of gratitude to your parents, Father Trout or some concluding remarks.

This letter is due Dec. 10th

- **Please sign the letter** with your full name.
- Please type this letter using correct writing skills in 12 pt. on the computer.
- PLEASE BE SURE TO SPELL *the Bishop's* NAME CORRECTLY!!! It is Grob.
- **You may turn this in one of three ways:**
 - Email the attachment to <mailto:faithformation@stjoseph-libertyville.org>
 - Bring the letter to your Home Group.
 - **Mail the letter to St. Joseph Parish,
121 E. Maple Ave,
Libertyville IL, 60060**
on the envelope it **MUST** State: "Confirmation Candidacy Letter"