



SACRED HEART PARISH



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

all are welcome

Confirmation Preparation Program 2025-2026 Registration & Instructions

Classes Begin September 21 – Registration Deadline is September 8

Summer 2025

Dear Confirmation Candidates in Grades 8 and Up and Families,

Happy Summer!

We hope you are all settling into summer and enjoying time together. We pray that this summer is one of rest, relaxation, fun, and health. It seems hard to believe, but it is already time to register for next year's Religious Education program!

General Information and Schedule: As you know, the Confirmation age for the Archdiocese of Boston is changing from Grade 10 to Grade 8 over the next few years. For a summary of that change and how it will be implemented in our community, please visit <https://sholnewton.org/confirmation-age-change>

This year, Grades 8 and 9 Candidates will complete a one-year preparation program, with 20 Sunday night classes. Classes will be held at Our Lady's Lower Church Halls (basement level of the main church building).

There will be two sessions which families can choose from regardless of the student's grade level: **one session is 4:45-5:45pm and 7:00-8:00pm**. The 6:00pm Mass is celebrated in between sessions, and we expect candidates to join us for Mass each week. Classes begin with a 30-minute large-group discussion of the lesson, then move into breakout groups with catechists afterwards.

The schedule is as follows: September 21 (orientation with parents and students), September 28, October 5, October 19, October 26, November 2, November 9, November 16 (retreat #1 on Cape Cod), November 23, December 7, December 14, January 4, January 11, January 25, February 1, March 1, March 8, March 15 (retreat #2 on Cape Cod), March 22, March 29, and April 12 (celebration with parents and students). There is a snow date built in.

Retreat: An essential part of the Confirmation Program is to let the Confirmation Candidates pause from their classes, go on a full day retreat to Cape Cod, and discover or even nourish their relationship with the Triune God. There will be two retreats which families can choose from regardless of the grade level: one in November and one in March. We have a limited capacity, so participation will be on a first come first served basis.

Confirmation Mass Dates for Spring 2026: We are planning for two Confirmation Masses (with two corresponding rehearsals) in Spring 2026. You will have the opportunity to submit your date preferences once we have heard from the bishops as to our exact dates and times.

Introductory Meetings for New Confirmation Candidates: Because Confirmation preparation marks a significant time in the journey of faith *and* because the program is different from the Religious Education programs for younger grades, all Confirmation Candidates are required to take part in an introductory meeting on Zoom with the staff during the summer. We will discuss the meaning and importance of Confirmation, along with the program requirements and components, and you will have a chance to ask questions. **Each candidate and at least one parent/guardian must be present for the meeting.** We will provide you with meeting options after you register.

Registration instructions and deadlines: Please register online at <https://forms.office.com/r/M6ZBLz1ew5> or by following the link at <https://sholnewton.org/religious-education>. If you need a paper form mailed to you, please give us a call, and we'll gladly send one.

Forms must be received by September 8 in order to begin on the first day. This is also the deadline for friend requests, which we always do our best to honor but can't guarantee even when received by the deadline.

Sacred Heart Parish
1321 Centre St, Newton Centre, MA 02459
617-969-2248

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
573 Washington St, Newton, MA 02458
617-527-7560

sholnewton.org

New families and new students: Welcome! We're so glad you're here and are honored to partner with you! New families are asked to register as parishioners, online at boston.parishsoftfamilysuite.com. If your child was not baptized at Sacred Heart or Our Lady's, please send a copy of their baptismal certificate when they first enroll. If you are registering a new student who did not participate in Religious Education last year, please speak with the staff as you register. There will be additional faith foundation work to be completed.

For those families who are returning, if you know someone who is new to our parish, our programs, or your neighborhood, please encourage them to join us and to register as soon as possible. All are welcome!

Mass attendance: It is important to realize that weekend Mass attendance is required for all Confirmation Candidates. Participation in the Sunday Eucharist (Mass) is the most important preparation for and sign of membership in the Christian community. Those who go to church on a regular basis have a much-needed foundation for understanding what is discussed in class. **The Sunday 6:00pm Mass at Our Lady's is a particularly convenient time for our Confirmation candidates!**

Payment: We are grateful to receive tuition payment at the time of registration. **Tuition is \$100 per child with a \$200 family cap for two or more children.** It can be paid online at <https://sholnewton.org/tuition-payment> or you can mail a check to the Our Lady's Parish (573 Washington St, Newton, MA 02458). Because our programs run at a deficit every year, please consider assisting other families in need with an additional donation, if you are able. Any amount is welcome.

Children are always welcome without payment if there is a serious need. Please speak to the staff if this is the case. Multiple smaller payments throughout the year are welcome. **No one is ever refused because they cannot pay. Parents who volunteer AT EACH SESSION as a small group leader or a hall monitor do not pay tuition.** There is a \$25 per family **late fee** (for returning families) for registrations received after September 8 – unless discussed with a staff member prior.

Volunteers: Finally, please help us to begin the year with all our volunteer needs met by September 8. It is so much easier for everyone if volunteers don't wait until the last minute. We prefer to have two catechists (teachers) in each group. This makes it easier for everyone, provides a sub if the lead catechist is sick or out of town, and provides an aide at the same time. Catechists (teachers), assistants, and hall monitors are needed. Please let us know if you will help!

So many people tell us year after year how much they learn by teaching. We provide discussion ideas for each class and lots of support. Please pray on the calling to spread God's love and Good News by teaching our children. There is a place for volunteers to note their availability on the registration form. There will be catechist training sessions and check-ins available before classes begin and during the school year, where we will discuss curriculum as well as classroom management strategies. If you want to talk about volunteering prior to signing up, please reach out to any of us! We are happy to talk! And remember, those who volunteer at every session don't pay tuition.

We hope you have a wonderful summer, and look forward to seeing you in the fall, if not before. **The Collaborative Picnic will be on September 21 at Our Lady's - please join us for this free and fun event!** Please call or email during the summer with ANY questions.

Wishing you peace, joy, and blessings,

Leslee Ambrosio, Coordinator of Religious Education, Grades 6-10
lambrosio@sholnewton.org, 617-527-7560 ext. 213