

Second-Year Confirmation 2025-26

Each candidate must complete the following within the timeline designated by their teachers/catechists and the Faith and Family Formation Office. Details of the requirements of each element are attached.

IMPORTANT

If you have not already done so, all students who were not baptized at St. Joan of Arc and have not yet done so need to provide a new copy of their baptismal certificate from the parish of baptism, including notations. You can request this from the parish of baptism and they can either email it directly to the Faith Formation Office at rep@sjascs.org or they can mail it to:

St. Joan of Arc
Office of Faith and Family Formation
22415 Overlake Street
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
Attn: Kristine Hass

Due November 10

A formal letter from the candidate to Msgr. Mike requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation Completed Online Application for Confirmation with Sponsor information

Retreat November 15 from 10 am-5 pm (with Star of the Sea at SJA) Concludes with 4 pm Mass – all families are invited.

Due January 12

A reflection paper or video project on the student's chosen saint

Due February 9

A personal letter to their chosen sponsor, sharing why they were chosen and to request continued lifelong prayers

Due March 23

Service hour sheets and reflections on discipleship. (15 service hours, 5 discipleship activities)

Letter Requesting Confirmation

The Church requires that you formally request the Sacrament of Confirmation, indicating that you feel you are ready to receive the Sacrament. A letter should be written *by you* to Msgr. Mike. Shown below are two sample letters from Faith Formation for you to use as a guide. These are for inspiration and are not to be copied. If you know your saint and sponsor, please include that information along with your request for the sacrament. ***Include the date and your full name. Letters go to the Faith Formation Office first – not directly to our priests.***

SAMPLE: Dear Monsignor Mike, [DATE]

As you know, I have been preparing for Confirmation for the past year. I would now like to formally request the Sacrament of Confirmation. I believe that throughout my years of faith formation, I have learned so many things that have brought me so much help and joy. Now that I am of age, I want to choose to complete my sacraments of initiation with Confirmation. I will do my best to serve God and His Church, and to participate in various ministries and bring others to the Lord. I hope you know that my request is sincere and will agree to it. Thank you very much for considering my request.

Sincerely, (Name removed for privacy)

SAMPLE: Dear Monsignor Mike, [DATE]

I, (name removed), a member of St. Joan of Arc parish, ask that I be Confirmed as a member of the Roman Catholic Church. I want to receive the Holy Sacrament of Confirmation because I feel I have reached a point in my life where I need to be closer to God. Through my being confirmed, I will strengthen my relationship with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I have prepared for this holy act by attending Faith Formation classes since first grade. I attend Mass every week. I have asked my grandmother, (name removed), to present me to Bishop _____ on the day of my Confirmation as he anoints me with sacred chrism to seal my commitment to Jesus and His Church in this Sacrament. I have made this choice for a sponsor because I look up to her greatly. She is very active in her own parish and can lead me to further spirituality throughout my life. Every day, she performs one good deed and does not expect anything in return.

The name by which I wish to be called at my Confirmation is “Clare”. I have chosen this name because Saint Clare was a phenomenal person. She was founder of the order of nuns known as the “Poor Clares,” was Italian and knew St. Francis of Assisi. She saved her sisters and took a vow of absolute poverty.

I know that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will give me at Confirmation will help me to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus and to join in building up His Church. I wish to share in that work in a special way by being more active in my parish and contributing more to my community. I need to give more of my time and talent back to those around me, rather than simply take from them.

I look forward to receiving this special and extraordinary gift. I hope I can use it to better myself and those around me.

Sincerely, (Name removed for privacy)

Saint Reports

Whether you choose to do a written report, a video or prepare a slide presentation – below is an outline of the required content. There is also a sample paper at the end of this document.

If written: Your report should be, typed, double-spaced in a 12-pt type-face font (no cursive or handwritten-styled fonts.) 300 words or more.

If video: It must be 2-3 minutes long.

If presentation: Should be minimum of 9 slides and include the elements listed below.

You must include a list your references at the end of your written or video project.

Elements of your Paper, Video or Slideshow Project

As you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation you are asked to choose a Confirmation saint as your patron/patroness. At your Confirmation, you will be confirmed using this name. You may choose your Baptismal name, select a name from the Bible, or a canonized saint or beatified person of the Catholic Church. The saint you choose should reflect a devotion you have to the saint, virtues or gifts to which you aspire, or the patron saint of certain gifts that are dear to you.

1. Read and learn about several saints and their lives before making your choice. You can choose a saint of either gender.
2. Pray about the saint you are considering.
3. Consider more about the saint their just their name.
4. Your teacher will approve your selection of a saint before you complete the report to verify the saint exists.

There are many websites you can use to learn about saints and Mrs. Hass has many books in the Faith Formation Office that can be loaned for your use.

Websites:

www.ewtn.com

www.vatican.va

www.catholic.org

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/source/saint-of-the-day/>

www.newadvent.org

www.catholicsaints.info

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

Format

Your title should include your saint's full name. (i.e. St. Elizabeth of Hungry)

Please cite your sources at the bottom of the second page, on an additional page or at the end of your video. You must consult at least three resources. Please note, we do read all reports and appreciate good grammar, accuracy and honesty. Your teacher or catechist may have further instructions on how you should write this report. *Reports may not be handwritten.*

Part I – Who is Your Saint

Your report should explain who your saint is and provide as much detail as you can about his/her life. Here are some questions that can help you:

- When and where was your saint born? Did s/he live in one place?
- What did s/he do for a living?
- What drew him or her to Jesus Christ?
- Did your saint become a priest or nun, or was he/she a layperson?
- Did your saint know other saints of the Catholic Church? Did they get along?
- What sort of obstacles did your saint have to overcome to attain holiness?
- Did your saint write any books? Has another saint written about your saint?
- When and how did your saint die?
- On what date is your saint celebrated by the Church (Feast Day)? Is there a reason why it is this date?
- On what date was your saint declared a saint by the Church?
- What is your saint the patron/patroness of?
- What miracles are attributed to your saint?

Part II – You and Your Saint

Your report should also explain why you chose this saint. Here are some questions that can help you:

- What virtues or qualities does this saint have that you admire?
- Do you and your saint have any similarities?
- Are there other saints who were devoted to your patron saint?
- Is your saint the patron/patroness of something that matters to you?
- How can this saint help you live your life as a confirmed Catholic?

* You can include pictures, maps, and quotes from your saint. You can also include quotes about your saint made by important figures within the Church (including other saints).*

Part III – Prayer and Conclusion

- Include your own personal prayer to them, including how will you be asking them to intercede for you and what you need help with to grow strong in your faith as you journey towards Confirmation.
- Include a conclusion sentence.

Do not forget to cite the resources you used for your paper/video. You need to use at least three different resources.

Letters to Sponsors

Letters must be typed or handwritten using the conventions of a formal social letter. They should be unfolded. Students will decorate envelopes for the letters to their sponsors in class.

What's in a formal letter

1. Write the date. (You can use the date you are going to present the letter to your sponsor and the sponsor/candidate dinner and prayer service.)
2. Start with an opening salutation, e.g., "Dear Aunt Annie," "Dear Mr. Johnson," "Dear Grandma," etc.
3. Write the body of the letter letting your sponsor know you are thankful for them accepting the role, tell them a little about your chosen saint, what Confirmation means to you and ask them to continue to pray for you.
4. End with a closing. ("Sincerely," "With a grateful heart," "With love," etc.)
5. Sign your name.

First Name Last Name
Confirmation Saint Report
Faith Formation or St. Joan of Arc School
Date

Saint Joseph

I chose St. Joseph as my Confirmation saint. I like Joseph because of his role as foster-father of Jesus. Even though Joseph planned to have his own children, God had other plans for him. He sent the archangel Gabriel to Joseph and told him not to be afraid to take Mary into his home. Despite Joseph's confusion as to what others would think of him doing this, or what it would mean for his future, he did what the angel requested and was a devoted husband to Mary for the rest of his life.

Joseph resonates with me due to my desire to be a father. The fact that he was a carpenter also attracts me to him, as I have a desire to use my skill for making things that are useful to others, which I'm sure Joseph did. This must have influenced Jesus, who mentioned a builder many times in His parables.

Joseph also appeals to me because he is the patron saint of workers. He is the only saint (other than our Blessed Mother) who has more than one feast day (March 19th and May 1st). I'm sure this was due to his fidelity to God in leading the Holy Family with bravery, humility, and integrity. I can only imagine how scared he was when he was told to flee Bethlehem for Egypt, a land that he never knew. But, he showed his fidelity to God in shepherding Mary and the infant Jesus to this land in order to save Jesus's life. In a sense, humanity's salvation rested on this choice. Joseph could have refused or thought that he would be able to protect Jesus from Herod's soldiers. Saint Joseph trusted that

God, who had commanded him to go, would protect him and his family throughout the journey.

All told, I chose Saint Joseph because I hope to imitate his virtues in my life and rely on his intercession for help in discerning how God is calling me to be a father to His people. I hope to get a portrait of Saint Joseph and hang it in whatever room I find myself living for the rest of my life. The world suffers from a crisis of fatherhood, and I hope that with Saint Joseph's help, I can be a faithful and selfless father to others, whether this be with my own children or to any spiritual children if God is calling me to life as a priest, monk, or religious. Joseph is also the patron saint of the Church, and so I will pray to him to build up the Catholic Church so that the world may continue to come to know her bridegroom, our Lord Jesus Christ, and his saving Word.

St. Joseph, pray for us!



Works Cited

The Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version, 2nd ed.; Ignatius Press, 2006.

Alban Butler-Herbert Thurston-Donald Attwater, *Butler's Lives Of the Saints*, Christian Classics, 1996

St. Joseph - Saints & Angel, Catholic Online 2018,

- https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=4. Accessed 17 July 2018