



Confirmation 2025-26

Welcome to the Confirmation preparation program at Saint Elizabeth's! Our entire parish community is excited to have you here and our Religious Education Team is looking forward to sharing this journey of faith with you. Our program is a two-year process designed to introduce our Candidates and their families to living out the Christian faith in four specific areas:

WORSHIP
SERVICE
LEARNING
COMMUNITY

Because the program places the priority on being present, it is also designed to be very flexible to accommodate our busy families. We will gather regularly for Mass and other liturgies, for engaging monthly learning sessions, for service to those in need and for fellowship and fun with peers. We hope that this handbook will help to answer any questions you may have.

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation. While Baptism is the first sacrament of initiation, "The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace" (CCC 1285). There are two primary effects from Confirmation: strengthening one's bond with the Church, and reception of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Who may be Confirmed?

Confirmation Candidates must:

- Have received the sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion.
- Be between the ages of twelve and eighteen.
- Have been adequately catechized in the Catholic faith through ongoing participation in a Catholic school or parish religious education program.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the obligations of a practicing member of the Catholic Church.
- Have a sincere desire to receive the sacrament as well as an appreciation of sacramental life.
- Have sincerely attempted to fulfill the expectations as outlined in this handbook.

"All blessings come to us through our Lord. He will teach us, for in beholding his life we find that he is the best example."

Saint Teresa of Avila

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Attend Sunday Mass each week (plus Ash Wednesday and Stations of the Cross)

Perform qualifying Works of Mercy service (10 hours minimum)

Attend monthly Confirmation sessions (Sunday evening or Monday afternoon)

Attend a LIGHT Youth Ministry event (LIGHT Middle)

Summer interview with Confirmation staff (8th grade only)

Choose a Confirmation name and sponsor (8th grade only)

Attend the Confirmation retreat (8th grade only)



WORSHIP - Attend Sunday Mass each week

Beginning the first weekend in September, it is expected that the Confirmation Candidate, and hopefully the entire family, will attend Sunday Mass each week. Participation in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation for baptized Catholics. This is also the most important way that parents, as the primary Catechists, can pass the faith on to their children. If your family has not been attending regularly, this is a great opportunity to reconnect with our parish community and re-energize your faith.

With six Masses offered each weekend, families have the flexibility to choose the time that works best for their busy schedules. There will be a sign-in binder in the narthex for Candidates to sign each week to confirm attendance. At a minimum, Candidates are expected to attend three Sunday Masses each month from September through April, for a total of 24. If a Candidate attends Mass at a different parish on a particular Sunday, a bulletin from that parish must be signed by the presiding priest and submitted to receive credit for attendance. Masses on weekdays and Saturdays prior to the vigil, do not satisfy the obligation.

MASS TIMES:

Saturday: 5:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm, 6:15pm

Additionally, Candidates are expected to attend a prayer service on Ash Wednesday and a Stations of the Cross devotion during Lent. Ash Wednesday prayer services are offered at 4pm, 5:30pm, and 7pm. Stations of the Cross devotions are offered each Friday during Lent at 7pm and on Good Friday at 12pm. The sign-in binder will be in the narthex to confirm attendance.

SERVICE - Works of Mercy

As baptized Christians, we are each called to serve one another as Christ commanded us and showed us by His example. Works of Mercy service is an integral component of our program and allows us to encounter Jesus Christ through our brothers and sisters in need. All Candidates must complete at least 10 hours through an approved ministry by April 1st.

We utilize the MobileServe app for tracking and verifying hours. This also allows the Candidate to keep accurate records for future use in honor society or college applications. In three simple steps, you will be ready to serve!

1. Install the app
2. Create a user profile
3. Enter your group code **7th grade: 07BA52**
8th grade: 67A255

After serving, create an entry, enter the supervisor's name and email for verification and submit!

To qualify as Works of Mercy, those we serve must generally be disadvantaged, disabled, sick, elderly, or in need of other compassionate care. Liturgical service, such as Altar Servers, choir members, Lectors (readers), also qualifies. Although commendable, some forms of community service do not qualify, such as serving at animal shelters or counseling at recreation or summer camps unless those served meet the above criteria. If in doubt, please ask us!

PLEASE REFER TO THE ENCLOSED LIST OF APPROVED SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

"The Eucharist is the sacrament of love: it signifies love, it produces love. The Eucharist is the consummation of the whole spiritual life."

Saint Thomas Aquinas



LEARNING - Attend monthly Confirmation sessions

Attendance at all monthly Confirmation sessions is expected. These sessions are designed to present the faith to our Candidates in an engaging and thought-provoking manner, encouraging them to seek out God in their daily lives, to ask questions, to think critically and to discover the treasures that await! All Candidates will become familiar with our two main texts: the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church (YOUCAT) and the YOUCAT Bible. Parents are encouraged to purchase and explore these texts so that conversations can continue between home and church especially when concerning more sensitive topics.

To accommodate our families' busy schedules, we offer two options: Sundays from 7-8:30pm and Mondays from 4-5:30pm. If an unforeseen conflict arises, please contact Deacon John as soon as practical so the Candidate can be accommodated by attending the identical Sunday or Monday session as opposed to being absent. There are special sessions noted on the program calendar in which all Candidates will gather only for Sunday evening with no Monday session. A parent or guardian is also asked to attend with their 8th grade Candidate for the April 12th session.

8th grade Candidates who attend Saint Elizabeth's School (SES) are only required to attend the two special sessions in November and April. Please see the calendar for details. Although not required, all 7th and 8th grade SES students are welcome and encouraged to attend our sessions as we explore and learn about our faith in a new and engaging way.

COMMUNITY - Attend a LIGHT Youth Ministry event

All Confirmation Candidates are required to attend at least one LIGHT Middle event during the school year. Please see the program calendar for dates and times. Space is limited and sign-up is required - please do not wait!.

LIGHT Youth Ministry desires the teenagers of Saint Elizabeth's to deepen their relationship with Christ and the Church. Thus we strive for our teens to become model Catholics for all, by encouraging all to live out the Sacramental life of the Church, by exposing the teens to various forms of service in Christ, and by providing a safe place for the teens to enjoy each other's presence.

Attend a Summer Interview (8th grade only)

Each 8th grade Candidate will sign up for a brief 10-15 interview with one of our Confirmation team members over the summer. This gives us a chance to meet face-to-face and to get to know one another. It is very informal, so there is no need to be nervous! Sign-Up Genius links will be shared throughout the summer months as dates and times are scheduled.

Choose a Confirmation Name and Sponsor (8th grade only)

Each 8th grade Candidate is asked to choose a Confirmation name and sponsor. Because of Confirmation's connection to Baptism, Candidates are encouraged to choose their Baptismal name as their Confirmation name and a Godparent as their sponsor, if possible. The Confirmation Name and Sponsor form is due by the December session.

The Confirmation name marks a new beginning in the Candidate's spiritual life, like Abram was changed to Abraham in the Old Testament and Saul to Paul in the New Testament. By choosing the name of a saint that you connect with, you are asking him or her to pray for you in a special way!

"Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming away better and happier."

Saint Mother Teresa



Being a Confirmation sponsor is a lifelong commitment. He or she takes on the role of a spiritual mentor who “brings the Candidate to receive the sacrament, presents him or her to the minister for the anointing, and then helps him or her to fulfill their baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit”.

Criteria for selecting a qualified sponsor:

- A fully initiated Catholic (received Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation)
- A faithful, practicing Catholic who attends Mass regularly
- Is at least 16 years of age
- Cannot be a parent of the Candidate
- Can be either male or female
- If married, be in a valid Catholic marriage

Confirmation Retreat (8th grade only) - FEBRUARY 7th, 2-10pm

The purpose of the Confirmation Retreat is to allow Candidates time away from all the distractions of their daily lives and to give them designated time to deepen their connection with God before receiving the Sacrament, as well as being together in community with their peers. The retreat is led by high school students who are leaders in the LIGHT Youth Ministry and is supervised by staff and adult volunteers.

Attendance at the Confirmation retreat for 8th grade Candidates is required to receive the sacrament. Candidates must be present for the entire retreat. Late arrivals or early departures are not allowed. If there is an unavoidable conflict that prevents attendance, the Candidate must attend an in-person Confirmation retreat at another parish. Although our staff can provide suggestions for finding another retreat, it is the responsibility of the Candidate and the family to find an alternative. Virtual or at-home retreats are not acceptable.



EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS will be sent out using the **REMIND APP**.

Class codes : **25-26 7th Confirmation: @sehcgr7**

25-26 8th Confirmation: @sehcgr8

The code should be texted to 81010 (or if not working, text to 510-478-904). It will prompt you to send your full name and will add you to the group shortly after.

Staff



Deacon John LaDuca, Catechetical Leader
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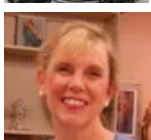
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“How could I bear
a crown of gold
when the Lord
bears a crown of
thorns? And bears
it for me!”

Saint Elizabeth
of Hungary



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Registration

Completed on-line only through the parish website > www.saintelizabeths.org > Religious Education > Confirmation Registration.

The fee for 7th and 8th graders is \$295.

The fee for Saint Elizabeth School 7th and 8th graders is \$100.

If there is a financial hardship issue, please contact Susan Jansson to discuss in confidence. We ask that all registrations be completed as soon as possible and no later than June 30th, 2025.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Confirmation program:

- The family must be registered parishioners.
- The student must have been baptized and received First Holy Communion.
- The student must have completed continuous Religious Education instruction without any gaps.
- The student must have completed the 6th grade year and passed the 6th Grade Assessment.

For families wishing to register a 7th or 8th grader who has missed previous year(s) of Religious Education, please contact the Religious Education Office. Generally, the student will need to complete a summer makeup program and then successfully pass the 6th Grade Assessment before September. Students who have missed previous year(s) of Religious Education and do not complete an assigned summer program are not eligible to register for the Confirmation program. Please contact the Religious Education Office to explore other options.

Pick-Up and Drop-Off

Confirmation sessions are held downstairs from the church in the Elizabeth Room unless otherwise noted. Candidates must enter through the doors at the bottom of the ramp across from the Parish Center. Children are only dismissed directly to parents at the door. Please feel free to wait inside the hallway during inclement weather and remember to drive slowly!

Behavior

To ensure the best possible experience for all of our families, we ask parents for their close cooperation to avoid or minimize the following types of situations. We greatly appreciate your partnership!

Monthly sessions: Although some disruptive behavior is normal and can be handled with minimal redirection, there are instances when it becomes unruly or repetitive to the point of disrespecting adults, disrupting entire sessions, or jeopardizing safety. To manage misbehavior fairly and effectively, these steps will be followed:

1. Warning: The child will be warned at the time of the occurrence. Usually, this will suffice.
2. Phone call: If the disruptive behavior persists after the warning(s), a staff member will then call a parent to come to the session for the remainder of the time and a conference after dismissal.
3. Chaperone: If the misbehavior is persistent and cannot be resolved, a parent will be required to attend all remaining sessions with their child.

"Life with Christ is
a wonderful
adventure."

Saint John Paul II



**"Be who God meant
you to be and you
will set the world
on fire!"**

**Saint Catherine
of Siena**

Mass: Please do not leave middle schoolers unattended or unsupervised at Mass! The parish does not have staff on hand to supervise unattended children. As the primary Catechists, parents should attend Mass with their children.

Acceptable Use of Technology

Saint Elizabeth's holds specific expectations for students at each grade level regarding their use of technology. The following rules of Conduct apply:

Students:

- May not ever instant message or text message during Religious Education.
- May not post private or personal information about or photographs of another student, Catechist, or staff member on the Internet, including without limitation, all social media networking sites (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, etc.) or via cell phone.
- May not post any picture or image of or about Saint Elizabeth Religious Education on the Internet or via cell phone.
- Cell phones – Student cell phone use is prohibited. Cell phones, iPods, cameras, or other telecommunication devices may not be used during Religious Education classes. Cell phones and other devices must be turned off while classes are in session, unless directed otherwise by teacher or administration.

Student use of a cell phone (and other devices) on school premises is prohibited unless expressly permitted by the administration. If a student is found using a cell phone, iPod, camera, or other telecommunication device during Religious Education, the device will be confiscated and returned to the student's parent at pickup. If a student is found taking pictures or recording videos of students and/or teachers, with the intent of posting them on social media, the device may be confiscated and turned over to the Wyckoff Police Department for investigation if deemed necessary.

For Parents/Guardians:

Parents and/or guardians of students at Saint Elizabeth Religious Education are expected to support their child's adherence to the above-stated guidelines. In addition, parents are expected to respect the privacy of the Saint Elizabeth community and to help foster a safe and loving environment for all students. Therefore, parents may not share photos or videos of any student, other than their own child, on any social media networking site (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, etc.) if the photos/videos are taken at any Saint Elizabeth's event including but not limited to in-person presentations, class parties, field trips, sporting events, Masses, and prayer services.

Parents have sole control over pictures of their own children and may post those pictures if no other students appear in the picture. Because photos that are posted on any social media become public property and may be used by anyone for any purpose, Saint Elizabeth strongly discourages parents from posting any pictures of their children on social media. In rare instances, special permission may be granted to share or publish a photo on express authorization of the Saint Elizabeth Church Administration and permission from all parties involved.