



7/25/2022

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the entire staff and community of St. Joseph Guardian of the Holy Family Parish, I would like to welcome you and your student to our Confirmation program. It is truly an honor to walk with your student this year as they prepare their heart to receive the sacrament of Confirmation!

For those of you I have not met yet, my name is Julia Goldschmidt, an apprentice working at the parish through the Echo Program at the University of Notre Dame. I have spent the past year working with Fr. Steve and Jonathan Galo on both the Faith Formation program for grades 1-8 as well as the Confirmation program. This year, I will serve as the coordinator for the Confirmation program and look forward to being the point person for preparing our candidates for this sacrament. Through this program, which we call “Encountering Christ,” we hope to see a deeper participation of our students in the life of their parish in addition to a richer understanding of the Catholic faith to foster a lifelong relationship with God.

The Church identifies the sacrament of Confirmation as the third and final sacrament of initiation (after Baptism and Holy Eucharist). Confirmation is a person’s full initiation into the Catholic Church. This means that those who celebrate this sacrament are being asked to make a commitment to living as a disciple of Christ both within their parish community as well as in their daily lives. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit received at Confirmation will ignite our students’ faith and set their hearts on fire with love for God. It is truly an exciting time in the spiritual lives of your students. With this in mind, our focus for the year will be to develop and deepen their relationship with Christ and the Church through “Encountering Christ.”

**Confirmation sessions will be held generally twice a month on Sundays at St. Anthony’s beginning with Mass at 11:00AM and concluding at 1:15 PM. The program also includes two day long retreats during the year (see attached calendar for all dates).** During our time together, students will meet in small groups led by an adult mentor to complete activities and discussions based on that day’s topic. Throughout the year it is my goal to have different speakers and opportunities for prayer to engage our students in the faith in a new way. Your student’s attendance is of the utmost importance to the success of our program, so please stay attentive to meeting dates.

I would like to mention that the date for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is not set by the parish and is given to us by the Diocese of Fall River. We typically receive the date for Confirmation sometime after the New Year. We will announce the date for Confirmation as soon as we are able to and appreciate your patience as we wait.

Those who participate in the Confirmation program **are expected to attend Mass each week and complete the weekly “Meet You at the Altar” Mass journals as well.** Because Confirmation marks a significant growth in the spiritual life of a person, now is a very important

time to be attending Mass weekly, as we encounter Christ in a unique way in the Eucharist. Failure to consistently attend Mass and complete Mass journals may result in the delay of the reception of Confirmation.

Enclosed with this letter, you will find the following: the schedule for the 2022-2023 Faith Formation year, as well as **two** applications which need to be filled out: one for the student and one for a parent or guardian. These few questions will help me to get to know you and your student and how we can best serve you through this process. These parent and student Confirmation applications **take the place of** the regular Faith Formation registration.

Once you have completed both applications, I am asking that **each student, along with their parents, meet with Fr. Steve and myself** so that we may personally welcome all of you into the program, answer any questions you may have, and give you further information about the year. In order to set up a meeting with me, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 508-548-3515 or email Jonathan Galo ([jgalo@falmouthcatholic.org](mailto:jgalo@falmouthcatholic.org)). This meeting, which will take place at the parish office at St. Anthony church, will need to take place **between now and the end of August** and will last no more than 20 minutes. **Please be sure to bring the completed applications with you to this meeting.** It is important to note that **no student** will be admitted into the program without the completion of both applications and meeting with us. Please do not wait until the fall to set up this meeting!

The Confirmation program fee for this year will \$50/student. This will go to covering materials and operational costs for our program. We recognize that the financial component might be a challenge for some of our families; if you have difficulty in paying, please contact Jonathan to make arrangements. You may pay the registration fee on our website at [www.falmouthcatholic.org/online-giving](http://www.falmouthcatholic.org/online-giving) and clicking on the St. Joseph logo. If you are paying by cash/check you may drop off the payment directly to the Faith Formation office at St. Anthony's. Please make all checks payable to St. Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family Parish (include "Confirmation" in the memo line).

I am looking forward to an exciting year of walking with your students towards the sacrament of Confirmation. It is my goal to serve your student in any way I can, so please feel free to contact me at any point in the process with questions, concerns, or feedback about our program. With the support of Fr. Steve, Jonathan, all of the staff, and parishioners of St. Joseph's, I know we will have a grace-filled year. I look forward to hearing from you soon, and know of my prayers for you and your families!

Yours in Christ,  
Julia Goldschmidt  
St. Joseph Guardian of the Holy Family  
Confirmation Coordinator  
Echo Apprentice