



ST. JOSEPH

GUARDIAN OF THE HOLY FAMILY

PARISH

Churches and Chapels of Falmouth

St. Anthony + St. Patrick
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. Thomas + St. Joseph

August 6, 2025

Dear Parents,

For your son/daughter, Confirmation will be the most important step that they will make in their lives of faith thus far. It is a significant commitment to - an anchoring of - oneself to Christ. We (you as parents and us as a Church community) need to work together to guide and support them so that they can make a true commitment to Christ, a relationship that will have lasting effects throughout their lives.

Therefore, we are excited to share with you our unique and creative approach for preparing our young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our new vision sees and supports Confirmation not as the end of their time in Faith Formation, but the beginning of lifelong faith. Through this program we hope to see a deeper participation of our students in the life of their parish in addition to a richer understanding of the commitment to Confirmation.

Your child's preparation for Confirmation is based, first and foremost, in the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith. Those who participate in the program are **expected to attend Mass each week**, as the Church prescribes. As an opportunity for service and to create a sense of community in the parish, *each participant will select a liturgical ministry* to serve in throughout the course of their Confirmation preparation and, hopefully, beyond.

All Confirmation candidates **are expected to attend ANCHOR, our Youth Ministry program for all high schoolers, which meets twice a month on Sunday evenings from 6:15-7:30 (see attached calendar)**. At ANCHOR, everyone will be placed into a small group of their peers along with a mentor committed to guiding them in the journey of faith. They will experience our faith in a vibrant youth community, gain the tools for lifelong faith, and apply it to their daily lives.

Four additional events are required to prepare candidates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. **At the Regional Retreat** on Saturday, November 22, Confirmation candidates will see that our faith transcends past the walls of our churches as we will gather with other Confirmation candidates for a day of prayer, talks, and activities. **At our three Spark Sessions** (January 25, February 8, March 1), beginning with the 11AM Mass, parents and sponsors join their candidates to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation through talks, prayer, and discussion time. We look forward to your attendance and contribution at these sessions as you fulfill your baptismal promise to direct your child in the way of faith.

Enclosed with this email, you will find the following: The schedule for this year's program, and **2 applications which will need to be filled out**: one for the **student** and one for the **parents**. These few questions will help me to get to know you and your son/daughter better and help to learn how we can better serve you. Once you have completed both applications (student and parent), each student, along with at least one parent will meet with me so that I may personally welcome all of you into the program, answer any questions you may have and give you further information about the year.



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To set up the meeting with me, please follow the enclosed instructions to sign up online. If technology is not available, call our Assistant Director of Youth Faith Formation, Jacqueline Hale (jhale@falmouthcatholic.org; 508-548-1944). This meeting, to be held at the main parish offices located at St. Anthony's Rectory, will need to be scheduled **between now and the beginning of September** and will last no more than 20 minutes. **Please be sure to submit your applications to Jacqueline at least 24 hours before the meeting.** It is important to note that ***no student*** will be admitted into the program without the completion of both applications and meeting with me. Please do not wait until the fall to set up this meeting!

Candidates will also need to choose a Saint to take as their Confirmation name and a practicing Catholic to serve as a Sponsor. More details will be given during the interview and at ANCHOR sessions and can also be found online at our website <https://falmouthcatholic.org/youth-faith-formation>. These forms are due no later than Sunday, October 19.

The program registration fee will be \$50 per student. This registration fee will go to covering the cost for Confirmation robe rentals, food for each session, and our retreat. No one will be denied participating in our program due to financial hardship. If you have any questions, please be sure to get in touch with Jacqueline.

It is our goal, through the Confirmation program, to guide the youth to encounter Christ so that they will make a lifelong commitment to their faith. I hope it will engage the youth and be of support to you as their parents. I look forward to hearing from you and meeting with you and your son/daughter sometime over the summer.

Sincerely, Rev. Msgr. Stephen J. Avila
Pastor