

# Confirmation Program Packet: Overview

St. George Catholic Church invites all 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who meet the diocesan guidelines for Confirmation into our Confirmation Preparation Program. Between October and April, candidates will meet in small groups for lessons, engage in discussion with their sponsors, attend a day-long retreat, and prepare their own hearts to say “yes” to this Sacrament that will mark them, indelibly, as members of the Catholic Church.

Confirmation is the beginning of one’s journey as an adult in their faith. The responsibility for following the precepts, continuing to learn, and pursuing a relationship with God shifts to the candidates’ as they decide for themselves that this is the faith they want to learn, love, and live out each day of their lives. Our preparation program is designed to give candidates the tools, knowledge, and abilities needed to begin to discern God’s will in their daily lives.

## *Diocesan Guidelines for Candidates of the Sacrament of Confirmation:*

- **Each candidate** must have completed three consecutive years of High School Catholic Faith Formation through a Catholic High School or a Parish School of Religion
- **Confirmation takes place in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade of high school** in this diocese, though we welcome unconfirmed 12<sup>th</sup> graders too
- **Confirmation preparation is separate from and in addition to** the catechesis offered in Catholic High Schools and Parish Schools of Religion
- **Candidates are to be confirmed in their registered Church Parish.** If you are **not** a member of St. George Parish, you must contact your registered parish to receive proper permissions
- **Candidates must have received both the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.**

## *To Register:*

- Fill out the online registration form
- Turn in a copy of the candidate’s baptismal certificate (if not baptized at St. George)
- Pay the Confirmation Program Fee of \$70.00 (can be paid online upon registration or via a check made out to St. George). This fee covers materials, retreats, books, receptions, and any administrative costs that come with running our program. *If this fee poses any difficulty, please contact Catherine or Fr. Yi directly.*

## *Additionally:*

- Candidates must select a sponsor, see “Sponsor Information Packet” for who can be a sponsor, and **the sponsor must turn in the Sponsor Form along with a letter of recommendation from their parish (if not registered at St. George) October 22<sup>nd</sup>.**
- Candidates are required to attend our orientation on October 22<sup>nd</sup> starting in the Church, from 7:15-8:45pm. One parent and sponsors should attend as well. At this meeting we will preview the year, go over the program, answer questions, and give out materials. *If you do not attend one of these meetings you will be missing information.* Candidates will meet their small group leaders while Catherine previews the year and answers questions with parents & sponsors.

The rest of this packet contains a breakdown of the different components of our program, our full schedule, dress codes, sponsor information packet, candidate expectations, and more.

If there are any questions please contact our Confirmation Director, Ms. Catherine Stewart:

[CatherineS@st-george.org](mailto:CatherineS@st-george.org) | (225) 293-2212 | (225) 349-9632 [cell phone]

## Confirmation Program Packet:

If you have done Confirmation with St. George in the past you may notice that our program looks different. Changes were made to make the program a more immersive experience to help candidates be more fully equipped to love, learn, and live our beautiful Catholic faith.

- **Small Group Sessions:** There are 8 small group sessions over the course of our program, starting in November. Small Groups are 1 hour and 45 minutes long, offered in two timeslots. Small Groups will be determined by the Confirmation Director. We ask that candidates arrive **on time. Attendance at every session is expected, however, conflicts are anticipated.** *Work with us and we will work with you.* Contact Ms. Catherine and your small group leaders in the event of a conflict.
  - o **Makeups:** The first time a student misses a small group session, they can make it up by attending one of our Youth Group events in the following two weeks after the missed session. Alternatively, students will complete discussion questions on their own or with their parents to makeup missed content. *If changing timeslots for a day would allow you to make a session, that is also an option.*
- **Sponsor-Led Sessions:** There are 2 sessions that you are asked to complete with your sponsor over the course of our program, one in the fall and one in the spring. You and your sponsor will go over lessons from our Decision Point series together, but the main point of these is to give you and your sponsor a chance to talk about faith & it's application to life as you prepare for Confirmation. For proof of completion, **both you and your sponsor** will send in a 1 paragraph writeup about what you learned for each session. These will be due via email according to the dates in the schedule.
- **Retreat:** A retreat is key in this process as it gives you the time and place to prayerfully consider what Confirmation means and how your faith will impact your life, always. This year our retreats will take place on St. George campus. Candidates are **required** to attend **one** retreat, we have **three** date options for these. **Signup for retreats will open on November 3rd.** They will be first-come, first-serve.
- **Confirmation Name Essay:** You will pick, over the course of our program, the name by which you choose to be confirmed. This can be your own name, your baptismal name, or a new Saint's name of your choosing. Whatever name you choose, you will complete a short (300 word minimum) essay on what the name is, where it came from, and why it matters to you. See schedule for due date.
- **Youth Group:** Candidates are required to attend **one** youth group event over the course of the preparation program. As soon as candidates are registered for confirmation, they can fill this requirement by attending one of our Monday night youth group meetings OR by volunteering at one of our middle school nights OR attending a diocesan discernment function.

Our curriculum for Confirmation Preparation is one assembled & written by Ms. Catherine, titled "Quid est Veritas?" or "What is Truth?" The content is intended to show the depth and breadth of our faith while encouraging discussion and discovery of Truth.

Candidates, you will be given a binder full of content at your first small group meeting in November that is YOURS. **You will take it home and be expected to bring it to each Small Group session.**

It is our goal that this process be one that is challenging but enjoyable, calling you to a deeper understanding of your faith and what it means to live it out. **You have been taught your faith your whole life, now is the time for you to live it and learn it for yourself.**

If you're on the fence about if you want to be confirmed or not, give us until our retreats in February & March. Put in your best effort, get everything you can out of this, and let's see how it goes.

# Confirmation Program Packet: Candidate Expectations

## *Requirements & Expectations:*

Candidates, this program is for you. Our goal is to meet you where you are in your journey of faith and challenged you to dive deeper into it as we work towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. *We want you to make your faith your own, something that matters to you.* We seek to do this through small groups, sponsor-guided discussion, a retreat that calls you to examine what it means to be Catholic, and helping you find a network of support through your peers and parish family.

**To be eligible to participate in our program you must meet the Diocesan Guidelines for Candidates of the Sacrament of Confirmation** (see page 1).

This Sacrament means you take responsibility for your faith life. It is not the end of your learning – but a new beginning. If you choose to participate in this program, as it must be your own free choice, this is what is expected of you:

### **Attendance at:**

- Orientation meeting
- 8 Small Group Sessions
- 1 Retreat
- Confirmation Practice & Mass

### **Completion of:**

- Sponsor Selection
- Two sponsor-led discussion sessions with emailed proof of completion
- Essay on your Confirmation name

### **Following of:**

- All instructions given by Pastor, Confirmation Director, Catechists, Retreat Leaders, or other adults involved in the Confirmation Program
- Dress Codes (as seen on next page)

If you have any questions about expectations we encourage you to contact Ms. Catherine.

## **Sponsor Selection:**

You will choose a sponsor to walk alongside you in your journey to Confirmation. Your sponsor's role is to guide, teach, and support you on this journey and beyond. They are an integral part of the Confirmation process. You should ask someone who you are comfortable talking about your faith with, who is a role model and example to you of what it means to love our faith, live our faith, and encourages you to continue learning about your faith. **Your must have your sponsor chosen and all related forms turned in by October 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

*Sponsor Requirements: (There is also a packet for sponsors – see pages [7-12])*

1. Sponsors **cannot** be your parent or stepparent or adoptive parent
2. They must have the qualifications and intention of fulfilling the role of sponsor
3. They must be at least **16 years old**
4. They must have received the **Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation**
5. **They must be a registered, active member of a Catholic Church Parish** (regularly participates in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, regularly receives the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation.)
6. **They must not be under any canonical impediment.** If your sponsor **is married**, they **must have** celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church, had the marriage “blessed” by the Church, or be actively working with a Catholic priest or deacon to have the marriage “blessed.”

# Confirmation Program Packet: DRESS CODES

## General Code:

- *At all times, how you dress should reveal your inner dignity*
- No tank tops, spaghetti strap tops, or halter tops
- Undergarments must never be visible
- No vulgar or crude language on any article of clothing

*For Confirmation Retreat the following dress code should be followed as we will attend Mass & spend time in the Church together:*

- No leggings or shorts, jeans are recommended
- No sleeveless tops, a comfortable t-shirt with minimal lettering/graphics is recommended
- Shoes you can move around easily in

*For Confirmation Practice, as we will be in the Church:*

- Church-appropriate attire [no short shorts, heavily ripped jeans, etc.] just be respectful of the House of God.

## *For Confirmation Mass:*

Out of respect for the solemn occasion of the Sacrament of Confirmation **we adhere to a more formal dress code than any other events of our year.**

*Ladies:*

- **A dress or skirt that is on or close to the knee line (or longer)** You will be **bowing** before the altar at at least one point in the ceremony, you should be comfortable bowing in what you wear.
  - Pantsuits or jumpsuits are also appropriate if they meet the rest of our code
- The top of a dress (or blouse/top worn with a skirt) can have no cutouts, no cleavage, and it **must have thick straps or sleeves.**
  - If your top/dress is sleeveless, the straps must be at least 4-fingers wide OR you must bring a wrap/sweater for the Mass.
- Dress shoes with little or no heel. **No shoes with platforms.**

*Gentlemen:*

- Dress shirt that is properly buttoned
- Dress slacks
- Dress shoes (no tennis shoes or sandals)
- Suit or jacket (preferred but optional)
- Tie/bowtie (preferred, but optional)

*ALL:*

- Hair should be arranged to NOT cover your forehead so you can be anointed by the Bishop
- Your nametag must be clearly visible at all times

**In all circumstances, if your attire is deemed inappropriate by any member of leadership (director, catechists, pastor, etc.) you will be sent home to change or your parent(s) will be called to bring you appropriate clothing.**

**Sponsors are required to follow the same dress code as candidates for Confirmation Mass.**

If you have any questions or concerns about our dress code, please contact Ms. Catherine.

# St. George Confirmation Preparation Schedule for 2023/2024

- 10/22/23 | 7:00-9:00pm | KAC (Parishioner's Hall) | Confirmation Orientation
- 10/29/23 | 1:15-3:00pm, 3:45-5:30pm | Varies by Group | Confirmation Small Group Meetings
- 11/12/23 | 1:15-3:00pm, 3:45-5:30pm | Varies by Group | Confirmation Small Group Meetings
- 12/03/23 | 1:15-3:00pm, 3:45-5:30pm | Varies by Group | Confirmation Small Group Meetings
- 01/07/24 | 1:15-3:00pm, 3:45-5:30pm | Varies by Group | Confirmation Small Group Meetings
- 01/08/24 | First Sponsor-Led Session Emails Due
- 02/04/24 | 1:15-3:00pm, 3:45-5:30pm | Varies by Group | Confirmation Small Group Meetings
- 02/10/24 1:00-9:00pm | KAC & Youth House | Confirmation Retreat Option 1
- 02/24/24 | 1:00-9:00pm | KAC & Youth House | Confirmation Retreat Option 2
- 03/03/24 | 1:15-3:00pm, 3:45-5:30pm | Varies by Group | Confirmation Small Group Meetings
- 03/16/24 | 1:00-9:00pm | KAC & Youth House | Confirmation Retreat Option 3
- 03/24/24 | 1:15-3:00pm, 3:45-5:30pm | Varies by Group | Confirmation Small Group Meetings
- 04/07/24 | 1:15-3:00pm, 3:45-5:30pm | Varies by Group | Confirmation Small Group Meetings
- 04/08/24 | CONFIRMATION NAME SUBMISSION & ESSAY DUE to Director
- 04/08/24 | Second Sponsor-Led Session Emails Due
- 4/28/24 | 7:15-8:45pm | KAC & Church | Confirmation Practice *[watch for communication regarding practice, if we can include practice as part of our retreat or another meeting, we will.]*
- 4/30/24 | 7:00pm | Church | Confirmation Mass [read below for arrival times & details]
  - 6:00pm | KAC | Candidates & Sponsors arrive. Sponsors to the Church, Candidates to the Chapel
  - 6:15pm | Church Doors open for Families & Friends

**Orientation:** Candidates, sponsors, and one parent are required to attend. This meeting will go through our program, answer questions, and provide an opportunity for any last paperwork or payments to be turned in. Candidates will meet their possible small group leaders, learn about the program, Sponsors & parents will have a chance to talk with our director, etc.

**Small Group Sessions:** Candidates will meet with their small groups for discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Small Groups are determined by the Confirmation Director, they will be announced prior to October 22<sup>nd</sup> at our Orientation Meeting. Small Group meeting locations on campus will be determined by October 24<sup>th</sup> and communicated via email.

**Sponsor-Led Session:** Sponsors will lead their candidates through two of the Decision Point lessons. The goal of these is to encourage discussion of faith & relationship with God, using the provided content as a framework. Sponsors AND Candidates are required to send in emailed "Proof of Completion", see sponsor packets for details

**Confirmation Retreat Options:** Candidates are **required to attend one retreat**. Signups open in November and fill on a first come, first-serve basis. Retreats include Mass, Adoration, and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession.

**Name Essay:** Confirmation Name Essay due, this 300-word (minimum) essay should include what the name you chose is, where it came from, and why you chose it.

**Confirmation Practice:** Candidates and Sponsors attend practice together to come to understand how the Rite of Confirmation will take place. This practice *may* be moved or eliminated – watch for emails from Ms. Catherine.

**Confirmation Mass:** Where the conferral of the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place. Candidates and Sponsors are asked to arrive early in order to ensure everyone is present in time for the bishop to talk with the Candidates. Mass will last approximately 1 ½ hours and a reception will follow.



## Confirmation Program Packet: Sponsor Role (The rest of this packet should be given to the Sponsor)

Sponsors, you have been asked to accompany a candidate for the Sacrament of Confirmation as they prepare to receive this Sacrament in May. You are someone they see as a role model or leader to look up to in faith and they are eager to learn from your experience and knowledge of what it means to live out your Catholic faith every day.

### Being a Sponsor means you meet the following requirements:

1. You are **not** the parent, step-parent, or adoptive parent of the Candidate
2. You have the qualifications and intention of fulfilling the role of sponsor
3. You are at least **16 years old**
4. **You have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation**
5. **You are a registered, active member of a Catholic Church Parish**
  - a. You regularly participate in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days
  - b. You regularly receive the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation
6. **You are not under any canonical impediment to serving as a sponsor:**
  - a. If currently married, you celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church, had the marriage blessed in the Catholic Church, or are working with a Catholic Priest or Deacon to have the marriage blessed. **If you are married outside of the Catholic Church you may not be a sponsor.**

There are expectations for you in this program, as we believe that having you involved in more ways is better and generates more opportunities for discussion with your candidate. The bullet points below outline what is expected of you as a sponsor:

### Attendance at:

- Sponsor Orientation on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:15pm
- Confirmation Practice & Mass (required)
  - If you are unable to attend one of these it is your responsibility to communicate that with the Confirmation Director and find a suitable proxy. If you will be unable to make most of these, prayerfully consider whether or not to accept the role of sponsor.

### Completion of:

- Sponsor Form (see next page) – due by October 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - If you are not a St. George Parishioner, you must include a letter of recommendation/eligibility from your registered parish. See page 7 for a form letter you can turn in. **This is due with the Sponsor Form by October 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- Two Sponsor-Led Sessions with your candidate. Completion is proven by submission of separate emails from you and your candidate that give a short paragraph of what was discussed.

The Sponsor-Led sessions cover two of the twelve lessons in our Decision Point program and are meant to foster discussion about faith and growth in faith with your candidate. They can be done on y'all's time, so long as each session is completed by the date marked on the schedule. You can access the videos for the lessons by the link on our website, and the Decision Point website has PDF versions of the Leader's Guide and Workbook if you desire access to those.

## Confirmation Sponsor Form | Due to Confirmation Director by 10/22/24

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor Information:** *Print clearly, this information is how I will contact you all year*

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ [Circle one: Home | Cell | Work]

Email Address *that you check regularly*: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of Catholic Church where you are a registered parishioner:

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sponsor Agreement:

*(Read carefully and initial beside each statement. Contact Catherine Stewart with questions. see Can. 874 §1-2)*

*As Sponsor, I declare that:*

\_\_\_\_\_ **I am at least 16 years of age**, a Baptized Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Initiation in the Catholic Church (Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation)

\_\_\_\_\_ **I am a registered member of a Catholic Church Parish.** I regularly participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and I receive the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation at least once a year. If I am married, this Sacrament was celebrated within the Catholic Church.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I believe what the Catholic Church teaches**, and I make a serious effort to live my life according to the Gospel and worthy of imitation by the person I am sponsoring. I realize this is a great honor and responsibility placed on me before God and the Church in serving as a sponsor.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I am not the parent, step-parent, or adoptive parent** of the candidate and **I am not under any canonical impediments** which would prevent me from serving as sponsor. (Such as a marriage that is not recognized by the Catholic Church)

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will provide a Letter of Eligibility** from the parish I am registered in which states that I am a registered and active parishioner who is in good standing and able to fill the role of sponsor.

[*Non-St. George Parishioners only. St. George Parishioners should initial here:* \_\_\_\_\_]

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will be present at the Rite of Enrollment, Confirmation Practice, and Confirmation Mass itself.** If I am unable to be present at one or more of these, I will contact the Confirmation Director in advance.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will complete the two Sponsor-Led sessions with my candidate** as required and detailed in the "For the Sponsor" page I received. If I am unable to do one or both of these sessions I will communicate with the Confirmation Director about a suitable alternative.

Sponsor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Catherine Stewart by mail, email, or dropping off at Church Office by October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

St. George Catholic Church [Attn: Confirmation Director]

7808 St. George Drive | Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Email: [CatherineS@St-George.org](mailto:CatherineS@St-George.org) | Phone: (225) 293-2212 [work] (225) 349-9632 [cell]

## St. George Catholic Church

### Sacrament of Confirmation

#### *Sponsor Eligibility Form*

Dear Father,

I am the Confirmation Director at St. George Catholic Church in Baton Rouge, LA. A parishioner of yours has been asked by one of our teens to serve as their confirmation sponsor. I am writing to verify that this individual is an active participant in your parish and is in good standing with the Catholic Church. Your signature below will give us such verification and allow us to proceed with this adult as a sponsor for the candidate.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Stewart

*Youth Minister/Confirmation Director*

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor's Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Affix Church  
Seal Here

**Return this form to the Confirmation Director:**

St. George Catholic Church

Attn: Confirmation Director

7808 St. George Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809



**Fax:** 225-291-8063 | **Email:** [catherines@st-george.org](mailto:catherines@st-george.org) | **Phone:** 225-293-2212  
**Website:** <https://www.st-george.org/>