



**St. Rose of Lima Catholic Parish
School of Religious Education**



**Confirmation Course
PARENT HANDBOOK**

“We love because He first loved us.” - 1 John 4:3



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Note: Out of respect for the time of the St. Rose of Lima staff, please check this handbook for answers BEFORE visiting, emailing, or calling the Religious Education or Youth Ministry Offices with questions.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the catechetical year of 2022-2023! We at St. Rose of Lima thank you for entrusting us with the religious education of your children. It is our great honor to provide a means by which the beautiful doctrines of Catholicism may be spread. It is also our honor to have a wonderful team of catechists this year, all of whom are devoted to the achievement of that end.

That being said, we remind you of the unique bearing that *you* have on your children's religious education, which trumps any bearing that catechists may have. St. Pope John Paul II writes:

“The family's catechetical activity has a special character, which is in a sense irreplaceable. [...] Christian parents must strive to follow and repeat, within the setting of family life, the more methodical teaching received elsewhere. The fact that these truths about the main questions of faith and Christian living are thus repeated within a family setting impregnated with love and respect will often make it possible to influence the children in a decisive way for life. The parents themselves profit from the effort that this demands of them, for in a catechetical dialogue of this sort each individual both receives and gives.

Family catechesis therefore precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis. [...] Thus there cannot be too great an effort on the part of Christian parents to prepare for this ministry of being their own children's catechists and to carry it out with tireless zeal.”

In essence, please remember this: *nothing we do here will ever be as significant as what you do or don't do at home.* What is far more important than anything else, more important even than the contents of this handbook, is that you provide a good example for your children. For their sake, as well as your own and that of the entire Catholic body, please take them to Mass and reaffirm—by word and deed—what they learn here.

The Meaning of Confirmation

What even *is* Confirmation, and what does it mean to receive it? Well, let's start with what it does not mean. Receiving Confirmation—or having your children receive Confirmation—does not mean just checking off a box. To understand the meaning of Confirmation, it's great to start by reading Acts 2: 1-14.



When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.¹ And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.² And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them.³ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.⁴

What happens in this passage? Remember that, at the time, Jesus had already ascended into Heaven and the Apostles were in hiding. We find them “all together” in the upper room, where the Last Supper had taken place many days before. Suddenly, gale-force winds from Heaven blow through the whole building, and flames of fire materialize over their heads. The Holy Spirit, in that moment, descends upon the Apostles and they are divinely empowered to speak in languages foreign to them.

The story continues in Acts. We learn that this commotion—the winds, the flames, the speaking in foreign languages—attracts a crowd. And every member of the crowd, despite the fact that they are all from different parts of the world, can understand the Apostles’ speech about God *in their native language*. It is a miracle, the miracle of Pentecost.

But here’s what’s truly astonishing: *what happened to the Apostles on Pentecost will happen to the Confirmands on their Confirmation Day*. The Holy Spirit will descend upon your children and they will be divinely empowered. Receiving Confirmation is an incredible honor, and one that must be taken seriously.



INFORMATION

Course Calendar

See below. Please note that ceremony and rehearsal dates are not listed in the course calendar, because these must be determined later on by the clergy. Please also note that “3:00pm-6:00pm” is listed under “Time” because *each session consists of class from 3:00pm-4:45pm, followed by Mass from 5:00pm-6:00pm* (see Attendance Policy, pg. 12).

Confirmation Year 1 Course Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
09/10/22	Orientation	11:00am - 12:00pm	Parish Hall
09/25/22	Session #1	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
10/09/22	Session #2	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
10/23/22	Session #3	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
11/06/22	Session #4	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
11/18/22-11/20/22	Student Retreat/Parent Retreat		
12/04/22	Session #6	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
01/08/23	Session #7	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
01/22/23	Session #8	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
02/05/23	Session #9	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
02/19/23	Session #10	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
03/05/23	Session #11	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
04/02/23	Session #12	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
04/16/23	Session #13	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
05/07/23	Session #14	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church
05/21/23	Session #15	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Church



Confirmation Year 2 Course Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
09/10/22	Orientation	11:00am - 12:00pm	Parish Hall
09/25/22	Session #1	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
10/09/22	Session #2	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
10/23/22	Session #3	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
11/06/22	Session #4	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
11/20/22	Session #5	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
12/04/22	Session #6	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
01/08/23	Session #7	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
01/22/23	Session #8	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
02/05/23	Session #9	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
02/19/23	Session #10	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
03/05/23	Session #11	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.

3/17/22-3/19/22 Student (Away) Retreat/Parent Retreat

04/02/23	Session #13	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
04/16/23	Session #14	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
05/07/23	Session #15	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.
05/21/23	Session #16	3:00pm - 6:00pm	Hall/Classr.



Glorify Night Calendar

See below. Please note that attending Hang Out Nights or parties will not count toward the Glorify Night attendance requirement (see Attendance Policy, pg. 12).

Semester 1

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
08/14/22	Kickoff	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
09/18/22	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
10/02/22	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
10/09/22	Hang Out Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
10/16/22	Halloween Party	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
11/06/22	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
11/13/22	Hang Out Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
11/20/22	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
12/04/22	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
12/11/22	Christmas Party	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
12/18/22	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall

Semester 2

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
01/08/23	Hang Out Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
01/15/23	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
02/05/23	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
02/12/23	Hang Out Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
03/05/23	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
03/12/23	Hang Out Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
04/02/23	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
04/12/23	Hang Out Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
05/07/23	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
06/04/23	Glorify Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall
06/11/23	Hang Out Night	6:30pm - 8:30pm	Parish Hall



Service Opportunity Calendar

See below. Please note that all students must fill out a service hour form, found at <https://strosesv.com/religious-education>, after serving at any event.

Service Opportunity Calendar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Every Wed.	Christian Services	3:30pm - 5:30pm	Rectory Side
<i>To volunteer, report to the side of the rectory at the appointed time.</i>			
09/30/22	Western Round-Up	5:00pm-10:00pm	Church Field
<i>To volunteer, report to: St. Rose of Lima School at office@srls.org</i>			
10/16/22	Name Tag Sunday	8:00am - 2:30pm	Church Patio
<i>To volunteer, report to: Lucy Bolognino at dre@strosesv.com</i>			
12/04/22	Name Tag Sunday	8:00am - 2:30pm	Church Patio
<i>To volunteer, report to: Larry Peltier at larrabypel@sbcglobal.net</i>			



Parent Expectations*

All parents are expected to conduct themselves to the best of their ability, in accordance with the ethical code outlined in this handbook. All policies are contained in this handbook (see Table of Contents, pg. 2).

You and/or your spouse **must**:

- ❖ Check your email regularly
- ❖ Guide your children to meet our Student Expectations (see Student Expectations, pg. 10)
- ❖ Attend your designated parent retreat (see Course Calendar, pg. 5-6)
- ❖ Pay the full registration fee for your children's course by November 18, 2022 (see Payment Policy, pg. 13)
- ❖ Drop off and pick up your children on time, at the door of the Parish Hall.

Disclaimer: St. Rose of Lima School of Religious Education and its staff do not assume the responsibility of your children if they are dropped off outside classroom premises.

Furthermore, your children will not be permitted to meet anyone anywhere outside classroom premises (such as in the parking lot) for pick-up.

- ❖ Set a good example by attending Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation

**Failure to meet any of these expectations will necessitate remedial assignments and/or a parent-teacher meeting, and may even result in your children receiving no credit for the course, i.e., not immediately receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. This policy is non-negotiable.*

Student Expectations*

All students are expected to conduct themselves to the best of *their* ability, in accordance with the ethical code outlined in this handbook. All policies are contained in this handbook (see Table of Contents, pg. 2).

All students **must**:

- ❖ Attend the 15 course sessions (excused absences apply, see Attendance Policy, pg. 12)
- ❖ Attend a minimum of 4 Glorify Nights per semester (see Attendance Policy, pg. 12)
- ❖ Schedule 1 Conversation of Faith (see Attendance Policy, pg. 12)
- ❖ Volunteer for a minimum of 12 Service Hours (see Service Hour Opportunity Calendar, pg. 8-9)
- ❖ Choose a Confirmation sponsor by January 8, 2023 (see Sponsor Expectations, pg. 11)



- ❖ Dress modestly for any and all events at St. Rose of Lima (see Dress Code, pg. 13)
- ❖ Pay respectful attention to catechists and youth ministry leaders
- ❖ Refrain from using cell phones when told not to
- ❖ Display reverence during prayer and discussions about God
- ❖ Complete all homework assignments (if any)
- ❖ Participate properly in all activities
- ❖ Attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation

**Failure to meet any of these expectations will necessitate remedial assignments and/or a parent-teacher meeting, and may even result in your children receiving no credit for the course, i.e., not immediately receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. This policy is non-negotiable.*

Sponsor Expectations

As mentioned, all students must choose their Confirmation sponsors by January 8, 2023. Sponsors are extremely important and should be consciously, prayerfully chosen. More will be said on this subject during Confirmation course sessions.

All Confirmation sponsors **must:**

- ❖ Be at least 18 years of age
- ❖ Have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation
- ❖ Be in good standing with the Catholic Church*
- ❖ Be a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish OR provide a Letter of Good Standing from their parish
- ❖ Not be living with another person in a romantic relationship, if unmarried
- ❖ Be in a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church, if married
- ❖ Attend what Confirmation events they are required to (specific dates will be disclosed later)

*Please note that, to be in good standing, a person must, at least, fulfill the 5 Precepts of the Church:

1. You shall attend Mass and rest from servile work on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist regularly, or at least during the Easter season.



4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

Attendance Policy

Course Sessions

All parents and students are asked and firmly expected to prioritize this Confirmation course. Students must attend all 15 course sessions unless *legitimate, extenuating circumstances* cause them to be absent (see Course Calendar, pg. 5-6). Please note that legitimate, extenuating circumstances do not include: feelings of anxiety/mental health issues without a doctor's note, the Sunday shift at work, sports activities, birthdays or three-day weekends. Moreover, please note that each session consists of class from 3:00pm-4:45pm, followed by Mass from 5:00pm-6:00pm.

If your children are/plan to be absent from a course session, they must email us to specify the circumstances that caused/will cause their absence (see Contact Information, pg. 11). If we recognize the circumstances as legitimate and extenuating, then the absence will be excused. Failure to email will result in the absence not being excused.

If your children plan to attend a different Mass and be absent from the 5:00pm Mass, they must email us *beforehand* to specify the circumstances that will cause this. **This is necessary for safety reasons.**

We permit a maximum of 3 absences per child. If your children accumulate more than 3 absences, they will receive no credit for our course, regardless of extenuating circumstances. To receive Confirmation, they will have to retake our course the following year.

Glorify Nights

Students must attend 4 Glorify Nights per semester, for a total of 8 over the duration of the course (see Glorify Night Calendar, pg. 6). Please note that attending Hang Out Nights or parties—while all students are welcomed and encouraged to do so—will not count toward the Glorify Night attendance requirement. Moreover, please note that all students who attend Glorify Nights must remain where the leaders are (rather than going elsewhere on the church premises without permission). **This is necessary for safety reasons.**



Glorify Nights are 2-hour gatherings for Confirmation students, organized by St. Rose's Youth Ministry. These gatherings are geared toward the faith formation of all, and often end with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In contrast, Hang Out Nights are geared more toward fellowship.

Conversations of Faith

Students must schedule 1 Conversation of Faith with Teresa Solis, St. Rose's Youth Minister, between December 19, 2022 and April 2, 2023 (see Contact Information, pg. 11).

Conversations of Faith are 30-minute, one-on-one Zoom meetings with a Youth Ministry leader. These conversations are meant to help Confirmation students develop their spiritual lives, as well as to help us develop the Youth Ministry. They provide an opportunity for students to discuss their faith with Youth Ministry leaders as individuals, on a more personal and private level than the classroom setting allows. It is deeply important that each student knows their own, intrinsic value as a disciple of Christ, rather than thinking of themselves as merely one among many.

Payment Policy

All parents are asked and firmly expected to pay the full registration fee. For Year 1 Confirmation students, that fee is \$300.00. For Year 2 Confirmation students, that fee is \$335.00. We are not charging a fee for your children's reception of Confirmation; sacraments are a free gift from God. We are charging a fee to cover the cost of all administrative expenses. If your financial situation renders you truly unable to pay, please contact the Religious Education staff with your specific needs.

A minimum deposit of \$60.00 was due at the time of registration online. If you did not pay it online, **you must pay the minimum deposit of \$60.00 by September 25, 2022**, when classes begin.

The full deposit of either \$300.00 or \$335.00 is due by November 18, 2022. If you paid the minimum deposit at the time of registration, **you must pay the remaining balance by November 18, 2022**.

All payments must be made online at <https://strosesv.com/religious-education>.



Dress Code

All male students must wear sleeved, plain shirts that have modest necklines with unripped pants, jeans, or shorts of a modest length. Shirts with *violent, sexual or profane* text or graphic designs, tank tops, and ripped pants, shorts or jeans are not permitted by St. Rose of Lima School of Religious Education.

All female students must wear sleeved, plain shirts that have modest necklines with unripped pants, jeans, shorts, or skirts of a modest length. They may also wear any dresses which are not excessively form-fitting, are not low-cut, reach to the knees and cover the shoulders. Shirts with *violent, sexual or profane* text or graphic designs, crop tops, tank tops, short shorts, mini skirts, mini dresses, bodycon dresses, and low-cut necklines of any kind are not permitted by St. Rose of Lima School of Religious Education.



Contact Information

- ❖ Lucy Bolognino, Director of Religious Education: dre@strosesv.com
- ❖ Angela Whalen, Co-Director of Religious Education: re@strosesv.com
- ❖ Teresa Solis, Youth Minister: ym@strosesv.com
- ❖ *Religious Education Office: 818-526-5513, Ex. #201 (Subject to change)*
 - Thursdays, 1:00pm – 3:00pm
 - Fridays, 3:00pm – 5:00pm
 - Saturdays, 9:00am – 11:00am
- ❖ *Rectory Office: 805-526-1732*
 - Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 8:00pm
 - Saturdays, 9:00am – 5:00pm
 - Sundays, 8:00am – 4:00pm
- ❖ *Youth Ministry Office: 805-526-8181 (Subject to change)*
 - Monday-Tuesday, 9:00am – 3:00pm
 - Wednesdays, 11:00am – 6:00pm
 - Thursdays, 9:00am – 4:00pm
 - Sundays, 11:00am – 9:00pm

The best and most effective way to contact us is by emailing *both* dre@strosesv.com and re@strosesv.com. We are not always available to take phone calls, and the phone system sometimes goes out of order. **Drop-ins to the Religious Education Office are only acceptable during office hours, listed above.** If you would like to ensure that you can meet someone, please *schedule* an appointment.

If you cannot come in to the Religious Education Office, please leave us a note at the Rectory Office.



CONCLUSION

Thank you for your careful attention to the contents of this handbook!

Family Prayer

O dear Jesus,
I humbly implore You to grant Your special graces to our family.
May our home be the shrine of peace, purity, love, labor and faith.
I beg You, dear Jesus,
to protect and bless all of us,
absent and present,
living and dead.

O Mary,
loving Mother of Jesus,
and our Mother,
pray to Jesus for our family,
for all the families of the world,
to guard the cradle of the newborn,
the schools of the young and their vocations.
Blessed Saint Joseph,
holy guardian of Jesus and Mary,
assist us by your prayers in all the necessities of life.

Ask of Jesus that special grace which He granted to you,
to watch over our home at the pillow of the sick and the dying,
so that with Mary and with you,
Heaven may find our family unbroken in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Amen.