

Holy Family Catholic Church
PO Box 290
Port Allen, LA 70767



As was announced earlier this year, the Diocese of Baton Rouge has lowered the minimum age of Confirmation from eleventh grade to seventh grade. This fall we will begin preparing students in grades seven through eleven for our Holy Family Confirmation Ceremony on Friday, April 24, 2026. I am writing, not only to you, but to all families on our parish roster who have students in one of the eligible grade levels.

I would like to emphasize that the required Confirmation commitment means that the recipient commits himself or herself to being a practicing Catholic for the remainder of his or her life. This commitment includes weekly Sunday and Holy Day Mass, Confession as needed and, when marrying, to do so in the Church. If you and your student(s) are interested in making such a commitment, feel free to register and send your \$60 registration fee at this time. If you have not been practicing your Faith, I can think of no better time to change that than now. A parent and candidate meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 6pm in Marian Hall for any questions before the program begins.

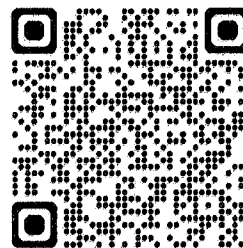
In order to register please use the below QR code or go directly to our website at www.holyfamilychurchpa.org, click on FAITH FORMATION, click on CONFIRMATION, scroll down to Confirmation - Sacrament Year. Please feel free to call the church office for assistance.

I am enclosing the two articles which recently appeared in our parish bulletin about our preparation programs. **Please note this program is required for all students whether enrolled in public or Catholic school.** I have tried in the two articles to anticipate as many questions as possible. If I missed any questions, feel free to call me at 225-383-1838.

Gratefully Yours in the Lord,

Fr. Jerry Martin
Pastor

Elizabeth Schroeder
Director of Religious Education



Clergy Corner

May 25, 2025

Now that we have reached the end of the school year, it is time to begin registration for our Holy Family Confirmation preparation program. Based on our candidate number in recent years, we will be able to prepare all our seventh grade through eleventh grade candidates and conclude with Confirmation in late spring of 2026. (As many of you know, our Baton Rouge Diocese has lowered the minimum age of Confirmation from eleventh to seventh grade).

Our class sessions will be held once a month from September through April on Sunday evenings from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Eventually the required class sessions will be held once a month from September through April on Sunday evenings from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Eventually the required class sessions will be spread over a three year period of time, but due to the current lowering of the minimum age for this precious Sacrament, our 2026 Confirmation will have only a one-year requirement.

Since our eight sessions will cover only the basic essentials, it will be necessary for each candidate to attend every single session. Each of the eight sessions will include an opening presentation on that evening's topic, such as a segment from The Chosen television series, small group discussions and closing Mass. In case of absolute necessity, candidates who must miss a session will be required to view and complete discussions questions with their parents or sponsors.

Following the large group sessions, each grade level will have its own small discussion group, led by two adult volunteers. Also each candidate will be assigned a Liturgical role for the Mass similar to the home room Masses that we used for Holy Family School the past two years. The closing Mass at 6:45 pm will be open to parents, sponsors and anyone else who would like to join us.

In next week's Clergy Corner, I will include more of the program, details such as scheduling, class by class topics, Confirmation follow-up etc. In the meanwhile, please note:

**ALL EIGHT CLASS SESSIONS ARE MANDATORY
FOR BOTH
PUBLIC SCHOOL AND CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Clergy Corner

June 1, 2025

In last week's bulletin Clergy Corner I outlined the plans for our 2026 Confirmation preparation process. Let me begin with the details by mentioning that our classes will be held monthly between September and April on the first Sunday of each month from 4:30 until 7:30 pm. In case of hurricanes or any other natural disaster, class sessions which must be moved will simply be transferred to the next available Sunday evening.

Our eight class topics for the 2025-2026 preparation sessions will be 1) Faith (falling in love with God). 2) The Seven Sacraments. 3) Salvation History in the Old Testament. 4) The Person of Jesus in the Gospels. 5) The Structure of the Mass and Holy Eucharist. 6) The Sacrament of Reconciliation. 7) Penance Service and Individual Confessions. 8) The Sacrament of Confirmation.

Obviously, the above topics are only the basic teachings of the Catholic Faith. In preparation year two and three, we will include separate classes on each of the Seven Sacraments, the unifying role of the pope and bishops within our Church, the four marks of the Catholic Church plus the Ten Commandments and morality.

For year one we will need two adults for each grade level to serve as small discussion group leaders. The prepared lesson plans will be presented before each class and briefly evaluated after each class. Anyone interested in this very valuable ministry is asked to contact Fr. Martin at the church office (225-383-1838). In future years newly confirmed students can continue their religious education by joining an adult as a discussion leader. I have always maintained that the best way to learn Faith doctrine is to teach it and practice it.

I realize that the shift to seventh grade Confirmation is an awkward one. However, please realize that seventh grade is the minimum age for this sacred Sacrament. It is not the only age and it is not the ideal age for everyone.

ALSO PLEASE NOTE ALL EIGHT CLASS SESSIONS ARE MANDATORY FOR BOTH PUBLIC SCHOOL AND CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS.