Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.
PARENT PRAYER

Loving God,
You are the giver of all we possess, the source of all of our blessings.
We thank and praise you.

Thank you for the gift of our children.

Help us to set boundaries for them, and yet encourage them to explore.
Give us the strength and courage to treat each day as a fresh start.

May our children come to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

May the Holy Spirit help them to grow in faith, hope and love, so they may know peace, truth and goodness.

May their ears hear your voice.
May their eyes see your presence in all things.
May their lips proclaim your word.
May their hearts be your dwelling place.
May their hands do works of charity.
May their feet walk in the way of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

Amen

CANDIDATES PRAYER

Spirit of God, grant me:
The gift of wisdom, to see the world through your eyes;
The gift of counsel, to make difficult decisions;
The gifts of knowledge and understanding, to use my mind to know you and to love you;
The gift of fortitude, to have the courage to live in the faith despite the difficulties and disappointments;
The gift of piety to be able to express my special love and commitment to you;
And the right kind of awesome fear that makes me pause to wonder and revere God’s Love.

Amen
Confirmation

The Rite of Confirmation
The Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Catholic Church can take place at any time beyond the seventh grade, provided the person seeking the final Sacrament of Initiation is determined to be prepared. At different ages, that can mean different things. Where it concerns our youth, the student must be at least in the eighth grade and have satisfactorily completed a first year of preparation.

The First Year of preparation includes:

- Attendance in class at or above 85%
- Completed Confirmation Commitment form and attended Commitment Mass
- Completion of service to the community
- Regular Mass attendance

The Second Year of preparation includes:

**Baptismal Certificate on File in Parish**
- Certificate verifies that you are baptized into the Christian faith.

**Class Attendance at or above 85% - no more than 2 absences each semester**
- Attendance at or above a required percentage can help assure that each student has enough time and information to discern to the best of their ability, the call of the Holy Spirit toward Confirmation.

**Continued Service to the Community – Minimum 10 hours**
- Service to and within the Catholic community gives youth a chance to put faith into action, being doers of the Word and not hearers only. Students will record service experiences in the service part of their journal.

**Regular Mass Attendance**
- Regular Mass attendance is a must as the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our Catholic faith (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1324). Students will record Mass experiences in the Mass reflections part of their journal.
Saints Showcase – October 27

- Students design and display a Confirmation Name Poster during the 5 p.m. Saint’s Showcase Mass on Sunday, October 28. This poster includes detailed information about the saint they will honor by choosing his/her name. See attachment for further details.

Full and Satisfactory Participation in a One-Day Accepted Confirmation Retreat: January 11 or January 18, 2020, Noon to 6 p.m.

- An accepted Confirmation retreat offers the opportunity for further discernment as the youth build social community. A retreat gives the participant time to reflect on his/her relationship with God.
- The Confirmation Retreat at St. Joseph is designed to give candidates further opportunity to consider the implications of Confirmation and to open their hearts to the grace of the sacrament. There are two retreat events offered at St. Joe’s and **individuals will be assigned one attendance date**. If the student is assigned a date that does not fit their calendar, it is their responsibility to request the alternate date or find another approved retreat at another parish. This should be done at least three weeks ahead of their scheduled retreat.

Selection of a Sponsor – Attached Form due November 15

- Each candidate shall select a sponsor whose task it is to support and assist the candidate in the Confirmation year and beyond. A sponsor may be any person—other than a parent or step parent—who is in good standing with the Catholic Church. “In good standing” means the sponsor:
  - Is at least 16 years of age
  - Has completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation
  - Is single or in a valid marriage that is recognized by the Church
  - Attends Mass regularly

The sponsor should be a person who already has a trusting relationship with the candidate. In addition, the sponsor needs to be willing to meet with the candidate before the celebration of Confirmation to share the faith journey and continue this journey with the Candidate after the celebration of Confirmation. Ultimately, the task of the sponsor is to share with the parents their role as transmitters of the Catholic faith.

*A completed sponsor form must be submitted to the Religious Education office on or before November 15, 2019 (See attached).*
Selection of a Confirmation Name – Attached Form due November 15

There are two options concerning the choice of a name:
• The candidate’s present first or middle name as their Confirmation name, if it is the name of a saint.
• Choose another name, making sure that name is the name of a recognized saint or holy person of the Church.

The Archdiocese of Chicago encourages the use of the baptismal name, however many candidates prefer to choose another name. In deciding who their patron saint is for Confirmation, it is important for a candidate to not only pick a saint (or holy person) whom they admire, but also to know what they admire most in the life of that person.

Bishop Letter – Due December 13

In the year of direct preparation, each student is asked to write a letter to the Bishop. This letter should be no more than one page, simple in style, double-spaced if typed, and legible, if handwritten. In this letter, the youth is to request the Bishop’s blessing on the student’s desire for Confirmation. The candidate should include a simple rationale for this desire. See the sample letter attached. See sample letter attached.

This letter is due to be delivered to the Faith Formation office by December 13, 2019.

Confirmation “Sending” Mass – Sunday, March 8 at 5 p.m.

This is not the same as the actual Mass of Confirmation. A week before Confirmation, St. Joseph Catholic Church would like to “send” the candidates and offer them a blessing. This follows the tradition of the Rite of Sending for adult participants of RCIA. It is an opportunity for the parish at large to acknowledge the candidates and pray for them.

Confirmation Mass – Saturday, March 14

The Confirmation Mass is the outward reception of the grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation. It brings together the community of the faithful to support and uplift those seeking the grace of the sacrament. It is typically the local Bishop who presides over the Mass and confers the sacrament itself. Classes are assigned either 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. for their Mass.

Who should attend?

Everyone is welcome; however please keep in mind:
• The Mass is typically long — about 2 hours. Bringing young children who cannot be observant and patient is discouraged.
• The Mass can be crowded — seating is limited. Families will have one pew each, with a few remaining toward the back for overflow. Each pew will seat up to 8 people. Please consider your comfort when choosing who sits in the family pew.
What should candidates wear?

- **Boys:** Dress slacks, dress shirt, nice shoes, and a tie.
- **Girls:** Wear a dress or a dressy outfit. Remember, modesty is important. No spaghetti straps, please. Comfortable dress shoes are recommended. You could be standing for some time in the procession line to the Bishop.

**Confirmation Name Poster Directions**

**AT-HOME** project, due by October 13/15 to *home group catechists*. (These will be prepared for the October 27 Saints Showcase.)

**Candidates** are asked to be present on October 27 for the Saints Showcase Mass at 5 p.m. in the church.

**Poster directions:** On provided (plain white) 11-by-14-inch piece of poster board, create a poster that illustrates the life of your patron saint. Poster board is provided by your home group catechist, but if you need to get another sheet, Michael’s has a ready supply.

You may use paint, markers, clip art — whatever medium best suits your style. Just be sure to decorate your poster in a way that reflects the following about your patron:

- Saint (or holy person!) with the name near the top
- Saint’s date of birth
- Saint’s date of death
- Include three important points about your saint or holy person. These may be bullet points (as long as they make sense to someone who doesn’t know your saint) or symbols of their life.
- **Print your first and last name on the front bottom right side.**
- On the back, neatly **tape a two-paragraph paper about your saint.** Use complete sentences and write neatly or type it up. We would like to read what you have to say! Sign your name to the poster, along with the name of your home group catechist, so we can return your posters to you.
(Date)

Most Reverend, OR Your Grace,

My name is ___ and I am an eighth-grade student at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Libertyville, Illinois. I am currently preparing for Confirmation and I wanted to share a couple of my experiences.

We were asked to select a sponsor at the beginning of the Confirmation process. *(Put a sentence here about how you felt about that.)* *(Put a sentence stating the name of their person and how you know them)* *(Put a sentence about why you chose this person.)* To prepare for Confirmation, I will attend a retreat in January or February at my church. I also have been taking classes for the last two years to prepare. I also will be *(list your service project you did or will do).* *(Put two to three sentences here about what it meant to you and what you learned.)*

*(Put a sentence here about your family such as “I am the oldest of three children.”)* *(write two sentences here about what activities you like to do such as basketball.)* *(Put a sentence about how your family and how you are involved in church.)* *(Put a sentence here about your parents or other adult that has taught you about your faith and what they have taught you.)*

I chose ___ as my confirmation name. I chose this name because…. *(two sentences about why you chose this name.)*

When you come to St Joseph’s Catholic Church in March, I want to be confirmed. I want to state publicly that my faith is important to me. *(Put a sentence about what you plan to do in the church after confirmation, to show that you will be an active member of the parish after confirmation.)*

Sincerely,

—Hand Written Signature Here—

*(Your full name.)*
Confirmation Information – Due November 15, 2019

Name ______________________________________ Phone # _____________________________

Address ____________________________________  _______________    _______     _________
(street) (city) (state) (zip code)

The Confirmation Name I chose is ___________________________________________________

ON THE LINE BELOW PRINT YOUR NAME AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON YOUR CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE.

______________________________________________________________

Date of Birth _____________ Date of Baptism ______________ Baptized at ________________________
(Name of Church)

Address of Church _____________________________________________
(street) (city) (state) (zip code)

Was this a Catholic Church ?__________ (yes or no)

First Eucharist Received at ________________________________
(Name of Church)

Mother's Name ________________________________________________________
(first) (maiden name)

Father's Name ________________________________________________________
(first) (last)

Sponsor information

Sponsors are required to be practicing Roman Catholics and at least 16 years old. Parents, already considered the primary faith models for their child, are not eligible to act as sponsors. Godparents, however, are encouraged to act as sponsors to signify the strong link between Baptism and Confirmation.

Sponsors are sent information during the year so we must have A COMPLETE and ACCURATE NAME and ADDRESS.

Sponsor's Name

Address

(street)

(city) (state) (zip code)
Confirmation Sponsor Statement
Due November 15, 2019

Candidate Statement:
I understand that my choice for a sponsor for Confirmation is very important. He or she will become a companion during this faith journey. Therefore, I must choose a person who is an active, faith-filled Catholic. I will pray that the Holy Spirit will guide me in this choice!

Signature of Confirmation Candidate: ________________________________

Print Your Name: _________________________________________________

Confirmation Candidate: Please have your sponsor fill out and sign the information below. Please return to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 121 E. Maple Ave. Libertyville, IL 60048

Sponsor Affidavit:
Sponsor’s Name: _________________________________________________

Address, City, State, Zip ____________________________________________

I recognize that as a sponsor, I represent the Church. I must be a witness to Christ Jesus through faith-filled participation in my own parish community-by my prayer life and my daily living. I, therefore, state that I am a baptized, confirmed Catholic in good standing, and I am a registered member at:
Parish name: _____________________________________________________

In City/State: _____________________________________________________

I further state that I am:
_ A confirmed Catholic of 16 years or older
_ Not a parent or step parent of the candidate
_ A regular participant at weekend Mass

Name:____________________________________       Date______________

Sponsor Signature