

# The Church of St. Ann

## Confirmation Prep Program Guide



### Confirmation Preparation (A two-year program beginning in September of Grade 7)

Confirmation preparation is about growth in a Christian way of life, it involves some appreciation of the significance of what is learned for one's sense of personal identity. The components of our program are oriented towards transformation, faithful discipleship and ongoing participation in parish life and service to the world. We do not focus on checking a list of requirements. Rather, we offer a comprehensive program which aims to awaken and support the faith of those seeking confirmation. We hope that you will work with us to empower teens to become their best selves, making a difference in the world today, bearing God's light and love.

### Sunday Mass Attendance (Worship)

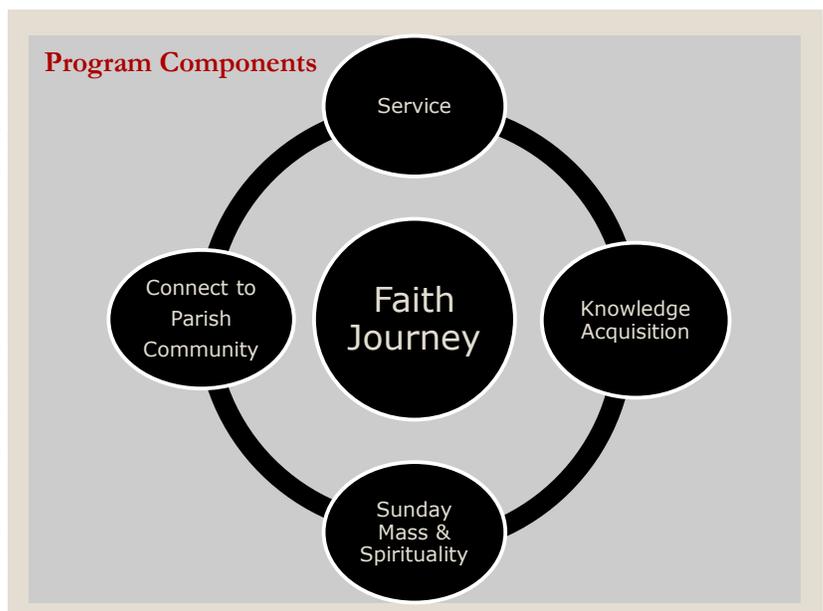
All confirmation candidates and their families are expected to attend Sunday Mass as often as possible, in-person or virtual. The church's public liturgy, by its very nature, forms candidates in a Christian way of life, and helps them to see that they are part of a larger Christian community. Regular participation at Sunday Mass is also a concrete way that parents can model faith for their children.

### Instruction and Curriculum (RE, GOF, SAS, Private School)

Teens will learn what being a disciple of Jesus means for them, what faith can offer them, understand what the sacrament of Confirmation is and explore a contemporary idea of holiness (w/examples fro the saints) at their stage of development. All of this has the purpose to foster faith and build a lasting connection to the Christian community. Religious Education (RE) instruction will take place in Saint Ann School and the Faith Development Center. Generations of Faith (GOF) instruction takes place in the FDC. Candidates who attend Generations of Faith, Saint Ann School or another private school where religious education is provided will *not* be expected to attend weekly religious education instruction. They will, however, be expected to participate in all other program components—Sunday Mass (Worship), Service, Liturgical Rites, Choosing a Confirmation Name and Sponsor, Participation in Parish Life, Retreats (8th grade only), etc.

### Christian Service Learning

Service is integral to Christian faith. Through experience it is our hope that serving others in the name of Jesus will become a lifelong tendency. All candidates will be expected to participate in service learning throughout their preparation and complete service logs. Candidates are encouraged to become increasingly aware of the needs of their immediate family and neighbors, and to become increasingly willing to aid those in need. Parents are encouraged to take every opportunity to accompany their candidate during service activities. Please also take the opportunity to discuss the service with your candidate **This is not about completing hours. It is about growing in faith, expanding our capacity for love and putting our faith into action.**



## Family/Sponsor Responsibilities

The family and sponsor of each candidate are infinitely important during the process of confirmation preparation. Your candidate requires your support, insight and example throughout the process and life's faith journey. 7th graders will be given a sponsor letter, describing the role of a sponsor, to give to your candidate's chosen sponsor.

## Parent Role in Faith Formation/Religious Education

Be present to what your child is learning. Ask questions! Start the conversation (Ask the catechist/teacher of your teen for discussion starters). **Parents are the most important influence in passing on faith to their children/teens!** It's not easy to pass on faith, however, if you work at it, you will grow into it. Hopefully, your child will follow you into a lifelong journey of faith.

## Liturgical Rites

Throughout the year, candidates will participate in **Liturgical Rites** in order to connect them to the larger community and deepen their relationship to the Christian Mysteries. The Rites are interjected into the Sunday Mass. Please see the calendar for the dates of these rites since participation in the rites is very important for the formation of each candidate, and at times, there are forms that the candidates will be expected to hand in.

## Confirmation Saint Name (7th Grade)

During the first year of confirmation prep, teens should research different saints. The saints serve as a reminder that we are all called to holiness. The saint you choose will be a strong example for your teen. The parish website contains more information to help pick a confirmation name, which is due in the Spring of 2022.

## Retreat (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

To retreat is an important part of every spiritual journey. All eight grade candidates are required to attend a retreat opportunity. This is a time for prayer, reflection on our personal relationship with God, activities and discussion. If for some reason, a candidate cannot attend the retreat option here at Saint Ann, it is expected that candidates will find and attend a retreat experience at another church or site. More information will be given at a later date.

## Letter to the Presider (8<sup>th</sup> grade)

Eighth grade candidates will write a letter to the scheduled presider of the Confirmation ceremony. This letter is from the heart. We will remind you and send some guidelines in writing the letter. The letter should be brought to Mass at this final Liturgical Rite or sent in around that time.

## Adult Faith Formation (ALL parents)

Parents can greatly benefit and set good example for their children by updating and learning more about their Christian faith. The parish offers adult faith formation throughout the year. Check the bulletin or parish website. Take the initiative to seek out resources that meets your needs. There are also many opportunities outside the parish, or resources you can access on your own. By modeling the importance of learning about and growing in your faith you will teach your child that Confirmation is not the end, but an important part of the life-long journey of faith.

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