

Hello Families of Christ the King,

As you have learned from Father Cook in November, we are starting a new, parish-based, Confirmation preparation this spring! We are inviting our middle school and high school age (6th through 12th grade) youth of the parish to participate in this new formation if there is a want or disposition to receive the Sacrament. We will be providing a 7-week formation that gives the candidate and parents/sponsors the wonderful opportunity to grow together in faith, prayer, and relationship with Jesus Christ, and with each other. It also allows us to come together as the Body of Christ, and live the mission Archbishop Lucas has given us more fully. Attached you will find important dates and times, and commonly asked questions with answers to better explain the process.

In Christ,
Christina Sanchez

SPRING 2021 SESSION (REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2021)

Sessions:

Wednesdays at 6:00-8:00 PM

March 24, April 7, 14, 21, & 28, May 5 & 12

OPTIONAL Retreat:

Saturday, April 24, 2021

Confirmation:

Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 5:00 pm

(Confirmation Rehearsal: Saturday, May 22, at 9:30 am)

Is there a screening before we join the formation or just a discernment between parent and child deciding to come forward? How do we get started since there isn't a set process like before? What does it mean to be ready?

We want to give your child freedom to choose the Sacrament, rather than an imposition. The screening therefore is not forced based on age, but a natural inclination to pray, to want to go to Mass and Reconciliation, to go beyond what is "required". While the formation is only 7 weeks, we hope and assume that there is a faith life and growth happening beforehand, and that there is an understanding that Confirmation is not the ending point, but a beginning of the walk as a Disciple of Jesus that continues for the rest of their lives.

Here are some signs that your child might be ready, but not limited to:

- Their disposition: An openness to Jesus and the Church
- Sincerity of desire: Is your child inclined to the Lord, to pray, etc.
- Desires/asks to go to confession
- Asks/talks about Jesus, the Church, the Saints, etc.
- A strong inclination and curiosity toward the faith
- A charitable/virtuous heart: thoughtfulness toward others

Are we required to attend Sunday Mass?

Yes. The proper disposition and preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation presumes regular participation at Sunday Mass.

Does your candidate have to be Confirmed immediately after the 7-week formation?

No. Our hope is that the candidate has a disposition to receive the Sacrament. If they have discerned that it is not their time, this formation is valid for two years. If they have decided that they would like to be Confirmed

any time within that two-year period, they can choose from the spring or fall Confirmation dates. i.e. attending the formation in the spring, but waiting to be Confirmed on the Feast of Christ the King in November.

What if the parent is not confirmed themselves?

Your child's Confirmation is not dependent on yours.

Are sponsors welcome?

Yes. Sponsors may attend the sessions with their Confirmation candidate (confirmandi) without the candidate's parent. They are also encouraged to come in addition to a parent.

Are you open to having a summer formation?

Possibly, if there is an abundance of interest.

Will childcare be provided?

If there is a need for childcare, we will definitely provide it.

Will it be offered online?

No. Confirmation formation is about coming to understand our active role as part of the Body of Christ. It is not an individual study.

What happens if we miss a Wednesday session? Wednesdays will not work we have other commitments/conflicts.

What if an adult misses a session?

If you miss a session you will have to attend the next 7-week formation, so please discern if this time is right for you. Our expectation is that candidates attend every session with their parent/sponsor (or both!). We are asking you to commit to the full seven weeks. Because of the stages of formation condensed into seven weeks, missing one will set you back, and we do not have the resources to reschedule. We provide Confirmation prep every fall and every spring semester. Only one parent, or sponsor, is required to attend with their child. This is not a home study, but a community-based formation into a deepening awareness of our participation in the Body of Christ.

We pay for our kids to go to Catholic school/religious education, why do we have to do something extra?

As Catholic parents, it is your God-given duty and privilege to educate your children in the Catholic faith. Catholic school/Religious Education is a supplement to what you promised to do when you baptized your child and what is already be taking place in family life. Through this formation, we are also moving toward Archbishop Lucas' vision of a missional parish within the next six years. It is Archbishop's desire to have more intentionality rather than a mechanical reception, where we have fed the head and not necessarily the heart. This is Christ the King's renewal path for Confirmation.

Do homeschool families have to participate in this in order for our child to be confirmed?

Yes. All families of the parish must participate in order to be confirmed at Christ the King.

If not all eighth graders will be confirmed together, are they losing an experience?

We recognize this will be different, and there is a sense of loss, but what we hope to offer is a different experience: the experience with parent and child growing together in faith. We anticipate there will be many more experiences that the eighth grade class will have together.

Will there be required service hours or a service project?

Not at this time. The Social Teaching of the Catholic Church is an outgrowth of the encounter with Jesus Christ who loved the poor so dearly: the poor in health, the poor in spirit, the socially poor, and the materially poor. The “preferential option for the poor” is a helpful guide for discernment in service. The long tradition of the Corporal Works of Mercy is another guide for directing service projects. Our hope is that as a family you will find service opportunities together, if you have not already. The practice of service and stewardship is first learned at home, and the best way is together as a family. We will not ask for a certain amount of hours because service is not a task to be completed, but instead a desire to serve. We will provide a list of opportunities for your family to discern.