

# † ST. JAMES PARISH

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119 W. Chestnut Street, Washington, PA 15301

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To our 8th grade parents:

When is confirmation? This question has been on the minds of most of our parents and students since the school year began. To answer this question, background on our situation must first be given.

Due to the pandemic, the Bishop has given pastors the faculty to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation through January 2021. I recently confirmed the students who would have been confirmed last spring. Because of the restrictions on the number of people that can be in the church, we had to have two separate liturgies.

As we look into the near future, I anticipate the same restrictions being in place. Multiple Confirmations will need to be held to accommodate those restrictions. I think that most of us would agree that having multiple liturgies is not ideal. I would not want to do this in the future because we are one parish and our children should receive the sacraments together. However, in light of the pandemic and the restrictions on attendance, presuming those restrictions will remain for a while, it seems inevitable that we will need to divide the class. After discussion with the clergy and staff, it was proposed that while I still have the Bishop's permission to confer the Sacrament, I should confirm the JFK Catholic students. The JFK Catholic students have been receiving daily religious education and will be prepared by January. Confirmation for JFK Catholic candidates will be on January 20, 2021, at 7:00pm, at Immaculate Conception Church.

Regarding the 8th grade St. James Religious Education students, we will await the Bishop's schedule for a date in the spring. In the spring, when the Religious Education candidates are prepared, they will be confirmed at a single liturgy, either by the Bishop, or, should the restrictions remain and the Bishop extends my permission into the spring, by me.

I thank you for your understanding during these difficult times.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. John Lynam  
Pastor