

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

CCC 1285: "Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."

CCC 1319: "A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs."

This year, the catechesis program we will be using is Decision Point by Dynamic Catholic. Along with Decision Point, we have Youth Night sessions, which will combine all students preparing for Confirmation: year 1, year 2, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton students. Decision Point and Youth Nights are on Monday nights, from 6:30-8:00pm.

Along with the preparation content within the Decision Point program, candidates are to complete parish and diocese requirements. This includes Mass Attendance, Session Attendance, completion of a Saint Project, Service hours, Parent and Teen session Attendance, and Involvement in the Parish Community. It is our hope that the combination of all these will form a person ready to be a disciple of Christ and ready to continue the purpose of the Church: to Evangelize!

Program Info

All information and documents pertaining to the Confirmation Program are available on the parish website www.stjoseph-elkgrove.net. Please click on Sacraments and Worship → Confirmation. All documents needed during the year will be posted under DOCUMENTS.

All sign ups to service opportunities can also be found on this page.

Announcements for the program will also be in the weekly bulletin, available on the parish website and after mass.

Mass Attendance

Our Liturgy is the source and summit of our faith. Per Canon 1247, the faithful are obligated to participate in Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. As such, candidates in the preparation process for the Sacrament of Confirmation are to attend Mass on a weekly basis.

Session Attendance

Students are not allowed to miss more than 3 session during the year. After the third missed session, it is up to the youth minister and pastor if the student will be eligible to continue the program or receive the sacrament.

Make up assignments will be sent home when a student misses a session. This is to ensure preparation content is completed. Students have 2 weeks to complete the make-up assignment and turn into their catechist.

A parent/guardian must sign out the student after every session. This is for the safety of all people attending the sessions.

Saint Projects

All students are to complete a Saint project each year. Year 1 students will complete a saint icon project and Year 2 students will complete a saint interview. Year 2 students will do projects on their chosen Confirmation Saint name. More information will be given out in November. Saint projects are due in January.

Service Hours

Year 1 students are to complete 10 hours of service at St. Joseph Parish.

Year 2 students are to complete 15 hours of service at St. Joseph Parish and/or the surrounding community.

Service hours are not a way to “earn” the sacrament, but to understand that their life is in service to others and ultimately in service to God. These hours of service should be given back to the Lord as an expression of thanksgiving.

Service hours can be done at the parish or in the surrounding community. Service during mass does not count as service hours (altar serving does not count as service hours, singing in the choir doesn't count as service hours, but practice/rehearsal does). Service within the parish can also be during the festival, VBS, serving during parish dinners, and helping at hospitality Sunday. Service can be done with the school (tutoring) or with sports (coaching but not competing in sports).

Service outside of the parish: any service that the youth does not earn money and outside of their home. If they are babysitting for a neighbor, doing yardwork clean up for a neighbor/family friend, caring for someone home bound, etc. Regular chores do not count as service hours because it is expected.

Service hours through Youth Ministry will be available on the Parish Website. You may sign up through the website or contact Leah in the office.

Students may also earn service hours through other ministries at St. Joseph. Please make sure to get a signature and contact info for each time of service.

Parent and Teen Sessions

In alignment with Diocesan requirements, parents/sponsors are to attend continued catechesis sessions. Parents/sponsors and youth in preparation are to attend 3 parent and teen session during the year. These nights are offered on Wednesday nights (refer to calendar) from 6:30-8:00pm.

Parents can also attend parish Bible studies, ongoing faith sharing groups, or presentations to fulfill this requirement.

Involvement in the Parish Community

Involvement in the Parish Community is not to be confused with the Service opportunities.

Involvement in the Parish Community is designed to prepare students for being an active member of the parish community following Confirmation.

- ✠ Students are to serve during one youth mass during the year. Youth masses are on the third Sunday of the month at the 11am mass. Please sign up for a youth mass with Leah or online on the parish website. These do not count as service hours.
- ✠ Students will also attend one Stations of the Cross during the Lent Season at St. Joseph Parish.
- ✠ Also in preparation for the students to become active members of the parish, students will choose 3 activities from the “Jesus footsteps” worksheet.

- ✝ We are also asking parents to also become or continue to be involved in the parish community. We are asking for parents to donate **2 hours of service to the church**, with youth ministry or other parish ministry.

Additional Year 2 requirements:

- Attendance to Fired UP, the Sacramento Diocese Confirmation Conference: February 1
- Attendance to once a month youth ministry meeting
- Retreat attendance
- Sponsor Form and Worksheets
- Confirmation Letter of Intent to the Pastor of the Church
- Exit Interview (week before Confirmation Mass)
- Program Penance service
- Mass rehearsal and Confirmation Mass