

St. Joseph Confirmation Preparation

Two-Year Program Expectations

The faith formation team is pleased to be a part of your teen's faith journey. As your teens prepare for Confirmation, our goal is to support the spiritual guidance you have been providing to your teen for years. As we partner with you on this journey, we hope it will be enriched through catechesis, service and enrichment experiences, and love of the Lord. The Confirmation preparation program at St. Joseph is a two-year program, and the following outline shares the expectations for each year. Traditionally, Confirmation preparation takes place in seventh and eighth grades, with the sacrament being celebrated early in ninth grade. We often have teens who prepare in eighth and ninth grades and celebrate the sacrament early in tenth grade.

Year One Expectations

- Parent involvement is important. Young people need accompaniment on the Confirmation preparation journey. Please stay tuned to email communications for important details.
- Students participate in weekly RE classes and/or Catholic school religion class. The Catholic school must provide sacramental preparation in their religion program to meet the requirements. Homeschooling families must have their sacramental preparation program pre-approved by the director of religious education and pastor no later than October 20 of the year one of preparation.
- Students should identify and invite their Confirmation sponsor. Sponsors are required to submit to the RE office no later than the end of year one a letter of good standing from their home parish.
- Students begin and maintain a *Serve and Learn Collection*. The purpose of this collection of experience reflections is to help the teens truly understand and appreciate their call to serve others and develop their faith. Ten different service or enrichment experiences are required in year one to broaden their perspectives. Students are provided details of what should be included in the reflection and a sample. Progress will be monitored during the year.

Year Two Expectations

- Parents are encouraged to remain involved and stay connected with the program.
- Students' participation in weekly RE classes and/or Catholic school religion class continues.
- Students should consider selecting a Confirmation name (usually a saints' name). Class activities and discussions may help them decide.
- Students participate in two Confirmation activities (fall and spring). The activities take place during scheduled St. Joseph religious education classes (Mondays and Tuesdays from 6:00 to 7:20 p.m.).
- Students continue to work on their *Serve and Learn Collections*. Ten new service or enrichment experiences are expected in year two and follow the same pattern as year one. Students' *Serve and Learn Collections* will be collected and reviewed in the spring, prior to Confirmation interviews.
- Students write a letter to our pastor Fr. Jim explaining why they wish to be confirmed. This letter should be a prayerful reflection that expresses their sincere desire for the sacrament and what it means to them. It may include things they have learned throughout their preparation, thoughts about their relationship with the Holy Spirit, and some of the experiences they have enjoyed.
- Students participate in an interview with a member of our staff. The purpose of this meeting is for the students to reflect upon their Confirmation preparation and celebrate this important decision.
- Students and their sponsors participate in a fall retreat, prior to the celebration of the sacrament.
- Confirmation candidates celebrate the sacrament in the fall, following their year two of preparation. Date is based on the Archdiocese of Detroit's calendar.