Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.

Isaiah 43:1
Greeting Parents,

Welcome to our Confirmation Program. For those who do not know me, I was born in San Salvador, El Salvador, where I practiced civil/criminal law and played professional team handball for almost 15 years. My first language is Spanish, but I am fully bilingual, and even know some Italian. I also studied to become a Franciscan priest back in my late 20’s, and even though I never became a priest, those 3 years changed my life. So much so, that in time I quit my job as a lawyer and moved back to the States, where I began working at St. William Catholic Church as Coordinator of Youth Ministry. And of course, eventually, life brought me here to St. Louis as Director of Youth Ministry. Anyways, the most important thing you need to know about me is that I am really looking forward in working with your children to help them grow in their wisdom and holiness.

Parents, as you might know, have the primary responsibility to educate their children in the faith. Therefore, the preparation process for Confirmation begins at home, our Confirmation program only compliments the spiritual formation that takes place fundamentally inside the Domestic Church.

Remember, YOU are the primary teachers of the faith. Your witness in the love of neighbor, in a constant life of prayer, participating in Sunday liturgy, is the first school of Christian life for your children. Listen to what Saint Augustine had to say about this: "the educational task of parents in igniting and maintaining the faith in the heart of their children, is a true eclessial ministry like that of the Bishop (Ep 188, 3 y Serm 94)." In other words, Saint Augustine compares the spiritual task that you have with your children with that of a Bishop!!!

The Sacrament of Confirmation is an important part of every Catholic’s spiritual development. That is why Confirmation candidates are given a vast array of opportunities to live, learn, and appreciate the Catholic faith. This Sacrament has two primary effects. First, the bond with the Church, which first began in baptism, is strengthened. And second, the person is enriched with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and receives the spiritual gifts of the Spirit. Both effects perfect the grace that is first received in Baptism and helps us continue to live our baptismal call as disciples of Christ to the world.

Finally, I invite you, to pray with me, so that your son or daughter keep an open heart and mind, so that they can experience the Sacrament of Confirmation as a holy and profound sign of God’s unconditional love for them. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Peace and Goodness,

Francisco Soriano
GENERAL OVERVIEW

The High School Youth Confirmation program is a \textit{TWO-YEAR formation process}. It includes faith sharing, Bible study, spiritual projects, a full day retreat and fellowship.

Classes are every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, but keep in mind that it’s in a rotating format, so \textit{YEAR ONE} goes one week and \textit{YEAR TWO} goes the next week, and so on and so on.

To know the exact dates when each group- either \textit{Year One} or \textit{Year Two} has classes, take a look at the calendar, which you could find in our webpage \url{www.st-louis.org/youth-confirmation} or join our IG account @stlouisym_atx.

The Goals of St. Louis Confirmation Program:

- Develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Experience the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Explore the richness of our Church’s spirituality and theology.
- Awaken a sense of belonging to the Church.

Are you Eligible for the HS Confirmation program?

1) Must be in High School ages 14-19 years old.
2) Must have been Baptized Catholic.
3) Must complete the Requirement Checklist and Paperwork. (SEE NEXT PAGE)
4) Must have completed the \textit{TWO-YEAR} Confirmation Program:
   
   A) \textbf{Who Registers for YEAR ONE Confirmation:}
      - Those teens who attend a non-Catholic high school.

      *If you attended a Catholic School LAST YEAR or have been homeschooled, you may waive your YEAR ONE requirement of the Confirmation Program and go directly to YEAR TWO.*

   B) \textbf{Who Registers for YEAR TWO Confirmation:}
      - Teens that attended a Catholic School LAST YEAR or have been homeschooled.
      - Teens who attended \textit{YEAR ONE} last year.
CONFIRMATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

✓ Regular participation in Sunday Mass & Holy Days of Obligation

✓ Participation in at least 75% of all Confirmation Nights; if not, you will be asked to wait another year.

Tardy Policy:
  o If a teen arrives after 6:45 p.m., they are still welcome, but will receive no attendance point.
  o Teens can earn additional attendance points through a variety of ways:
    Attend the Optional Special Events (see next page) to receive TWO ATTENDANCE POINTS, or
    you can attend any Young Church youth night and receive ONE ATTENDANCE POINTS.
    (Maximum 2 points)

✓ Participation in a Confirmation Retreat is mandatory.

✓ Turn in Required Paperwork no later than February 1, 2022, except the Baptismal Certificate that must be turned in no later than December 1, 2021. SEE BELOW.

REQUISITE PAPERWORK:
ONLY FOR TEENS IN SECOND YEAR OF CONFIRMATION
DUE BY FEB. 1ST, 2022 EXCEPT FOR BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

☐ Retreat Permission Slip.
☐ Service Hour Report.
☐ Saint Essay.
☐ Diocese of Austin Sponsor Covenant Form. This form replaces the need for copies of their Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage Certificates. When signing this document, they are affirming the information to be true.

*All Candidates and Sponsors are asked to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.*

**Someone may proxy for the sponsor if they are unable to attend the Confirmation ceremony. Please note that the proxy must meet the qualifications of the sponsor.**

If you have further questions about this contact Francisco Soriano at francisco.soriano@st-louis.org
CODE OF CONDUCT

Respect is vital to creating an environment where one can grow in their faith. It is expected that teens respect the adult volunteers and their peers during Young Church Events, this includes but is not limited to: Please take time to go over the Code of Conduct with your teens.

1) Follow instructions of adult volunteers.
2) Regarding the dress code, everything we wear must reflect Christian modesty.
3) Bullying and/or aggressive, threatening or violent acts will not be tolerated.
4) Drugs, alcohol, weapons or other illegal items will not be tolerated. If a teen is found possessing these items, the police will be called first and then the parent.
5) Cell Phones are not allowed once class begins. Teens who do not follow this policy may have their phones collected and returned at the end of the night.
6) Parents who are dropping off/picking up teens, please do so outside the PAC. Teens that bring their own car please park by the parking spaces next to the track/soccer field. All this is for the safety of your children.
7) If a teen needs to leave early for a family reason, the parent should come and check them out through one of the adult core team members or inform me of the situation by any means. Teens will not be permitted to leave without parental notification and consent prior to 7:30 p.m. All this is for the safety of your children.

If a teen is misbehaving and not following our Code of Conduct, we will directly talk to him or her, in order to talk about the problem at hand and see what must be done to correct the situation. However, if the situation continues, parents will be notified, and a special meeting will take place with all the parties involved in order to discuss what must be done to resolve the situation.

Please take time to go over the Code of Conduct with your teens.

Special Events 2021-2022

MANDATORY FOR YEAR 2 TEENS.
1) Confirmation Retreat. Sept. 25, 2021 from 8:30 to 6:00pm. St. Louis Catholic Church.
   If you are unable to come to the retreat, you will have to attend one of the optional especial events, in order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
   Cost: $100, which is in addition to the Registration Fee.

OPTIONAL
1) Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference (DCYC): Feb. 4-6, 2022 at Waco Convention Center, Waco, TX.
   Cost: TBD

2) Steubenville Lonestar Conferences: End of June of 2022 in Irving, Texas. Exact date TBA.
   Cost: TBD
RCIA
ADAPTED
FOR TEENS
GENERAL OVERVIEW

The RCIA program is part of the Confirmation Program. Therefore, everything that was stated about the Confirmation Program also applies to the RCIA program, *but please take note of the following differences.*

Who belongs in RCIA adapted for Teens?

1) **CATECHUMENS ARE THOSE UNBAPTIZED TEENS** who are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation, and thus enter into Full Communion with the Catholic Church.

2) **CANDIDATES** are those teens that have been baptized in another Christian faith and want to enter into Full Communion with our Church.

**CATECHUMENS REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST**

The requirements for teens in the RCIA Program are the same as the ones in the Confirmation program.

**REQUIRED PAPERWORK:**

**TEENS IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE PROGRAM**

**DUE NO LATER THAN FEB. 1ST, 2021**

The required paperwork is mostly the same as the one pointed out for the Confirmation Program, **BUT INSTEAD** of a Copy of the Baptismal Certificate, we need a copy of the Birth Certificate.

**ALSO,** the Catechumen only need ONE sponsor for the Sacrament of Baptism, and that same person will be the sponsor for the Sacrament of Confirmation, thus, demonstrating the intimate connection between both Sacraments.

This Sponsor form replaces the need that the sponsors present copies of their Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage Certificates, in case they are married. When signing this document, they are affirming the information to be true.
CANDIDATES

It is important to remember that the RCIA process for the unbaptized is distinct from the Call to Continuing Conversion for baptized Christians seeking Full Communion with the Catholic Church. The Church urges that no greater burden than necessary is required of those baptized in other ecclesial traditions prior to their profession of faith and completion of initiation (RCIA 473).

Therefore, due to the nature of the Candidates, there are distinctive differences with their process. For example, Candidates may be received into the Catholic Church on nearly any Sunday of the liturgical year. In addition to that, the period of preparation and discernment may be less, since there is an assumption that certain knowledge of the faith is already known.

For more information regarding the process for Candidates to enjoy Full Communion with our Faith, please contact me directly so that we can talk about it.