

Confirmation Program Description

Program Goals

The St. Joseph Confirmation preparation program is designed to help our young people come to a deeper understanding of how the Holy Spirit works in their lives and in the life of the Church. The goal is to form the students in some of the key teachings of the Catholic faith, and prepare them to lead a life that will draw them into a closer relationship with our Lord Jesus.

The program entails several steps to help our young people achieve this goal. Regardless of how or why you are coming to these classes, we do ask that you come with an open and generous heart, willing to learn and grow in your relationship with Jesus.

Total cost for the preparation is \$160 (\$25 for materials and \$135 for the retreat. Scholarships are available for those in financial need).

Sacraments

It is expected that all candidates and their families will be active members of our parish community participating in its Sacramental life. This means attending Mass at least every Sunday and holy day of obligation, and regularly receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Confirmation Class

Candidates are required to attend the orientation, classes, and the retreats.

The program consists of 11 classes, 4 youth nights, 1 weekend retreat, 1 Sponsor Day at St. James Cathedral, and 1 pastor interview.

Each of these is important and meaningful part of formation. The retreat and sponsor day are required. Please attend as many classes as you are able, but we realize there will be occasions that you may need to miss class. In order to receive sufficient formation, students may miss a maximum of 3 Sunday afternoon classes, and 1 youth night sessions. If additional classes are missed, a meeting will need to be scheduled with Father Todd Strange and Carlie Betz to discuss your circumstances. In this case, the candidate will likely be asked to wait until a time when they have the ability to complete the formation.

If a class is missed, students will make this up by reviewing the lesson materials and submitting a two page essay on the topic as homework.

Classes will be held at St. Joseph in the parish hall every 1st and 3rd Sunday with a few exceptions (see calendar) beginning Oct. 1st.

Retreat

Candidates must participate in the weekend retreat scheduled **Nov. 17th-19th at Sambica**. This will provide the candidates an opportunity to spend time in discernment, spiritual reflection and community building with other young persons in the program.

Sponsors

Every candidate for Confirmation must select a Sponsor who is a fully initiated practicing Catholic having received Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation and (if married) Holy Matrimony. Sponsors also must have an active faith life. They must attend Mass every Sunday and participate frequently in Reconciliation. They should have a personal prayer life which is expressive of a genuine love for God and must model what it means to “love your neighbor.” Sponsors also should have the desire to share their faith with the person whom they are sponsoring. Parents may not be Sponsors for their own children. Ideally the sponsor would be someone local to the area. It is expected that the sponsor attend 1 Confirmation Class, and 1 Sponsor Day: **Dec. 3rd Class, and March 24th Sponsor Day**. They will also need to attend the Confirmation Rehearsal, and Confirmation Mass. Sponsors are encouraged to join candidates in their parish ministry when possible. Finally, we ask that sponsors and candidate select a teaching of the faith they would like to know more about, research it together, and turn in a short report on that topic. Further instructions will be provided at a later date. The Sponsor form is due by **November 5th, and the report is due by April 15th**.

Confirmation Saints

Each Candidate is encouraged to select a Confirmation saint. Ideally they should choose a saint they can relate to and will pray to for the rest of their life. During the Sacrament, the Candidate will take their saint’s name as their Confirmation name.

Each Candidate is asked to complete a short description on who their Confirmation saint is and why they chose him or her. **This is due by February 4th**.

Parish Service Hours

The nature of the Sacrament of Confirmation is to help facilitate a young person to become a full and active participant in the life of the Church. In order to help encourage and support this commitment, we ask that each candidate make a commitment to a parish ministry and serve at least 10 hours. These hours can be completed in a variety of different ways, anything from serving at Mass as an Altar Server or Lector, cleaning up the grounds, helping at parish events, serving on a parish commission, etc. You are responsible for contacting the coordinator of the ministry you choose and getting all of your hours in. We ask that you select a ministry by November 5th and the service hours are due by **April 15th**.

Pastor Interview

Each Candidate will participate in an informal interview with Fr. Todd and Carlie to help the Candidate assess his or her own readiness to receive the Sacrament. This will be scheduled in May shortly before the Confirmation Mass.

Mass of Confirmation

The program culminates with the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. We have requested a date from the Archdiocese and as soon as we hear of when it will be, you will be notified.

Attire:

Young Men: dress pants, dress shirt, tie and dress shoes (no tennis shoes).

Young Women: skirt or dress coming to the knee, at least. No bare shoulders. Dress shoes (no flip-flops).

Parent Involvement

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith. We are here to support you, and we ask for your support as well. Parents/Guardians of the Confirmation candidates are asked to support their teens during this time of preparation in a few ways;

- 1) Attend the orientation and registration on September 24 at 1:15pm.
- 2) One parent (at minimum) is asked to attend two classes with your student. You are always welcome to sit in on any class, but please select one of following fall dates, and one of the following spring dates to join us:

Fall Dates:

1. Oct. 15 (Topic: Creed, Catechist: Fr. Todd Strange)
2. Nov. 5 (Topic: The Sacraments, Catechist: Carlie Betz)

Spring Dates

1. March 4 (Topic: History & Hierarchy, Catechist: Brian Freese)
2. March 18 (Topic: Judgement, Purgatory, Heaven & Hell, Catechist: Jill Foglesong)
- 3) Please provide the opportunity for your teen to attend Masses on Sundays and Holy Days of obligation. Ideally attend with them, but if this is not possible, please ensure that they have a ride or a way of getting to Mass on the days that we are obliged by the Catholic Church to attend.

Thank you for all that you do to form your teens, and guide them by your example of faith. We encourage parents and teens to have conversations about faith with each other; however, we also recognize that this can be difficult for a variety of reasons. To help facilitate this discussion, each candidate and their parent are provided a copy of the schedule of topics. If you have further questions about the specifics of what was covered in class, please email or call Carlie Betz.

Any questions concerning these requirements can be brought up at the parent/candidate meeting or in a phone call/email to Carlie Betz at 425-392-5516 ext. 226 or cbetz@sjcissaquah.org. We welcome any and all comments aimed at helping our program grow to meet the needs of our young people.