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SACRED HEART

C O N F I R M A T I O N
Expectations



**BE SEALED
WITH THE GIFT
OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**



WELCOME

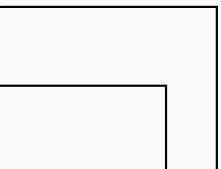
We are looking forward to sharing with you this journey of faith as you prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth and fun! You will be given the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Confirmation is the sacrament in which one is enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the church. It strengthens us and obliges us to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith.

Confirmation perfects baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives us the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply as children of God, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

A Christian does not live as a child of God through his or her own efforts alone, but through the grace of God. We see this in a practical way when we look back on our own lives and the lives of others, especially the lives of the saints. Therefore, it is our duty to seek the grace that God offers us in order to live our lives as Christians in the way that God intends.

We want this to be a tremendous journey for you, so please communicate any questions or concerns with us.



SMALL GROUP LEARNING

The candidates will work in small groups. We want to focus on building relationships and making sure the students always feel comfortable asking questions on this journey. All groups will complete the same curriculum, various activities and all required documents. The groups will remain the same for the duration of the program.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS

The leaders for small groups this year are:

Teresa Mustain - tmus55@aol.com

Melissa Fox - melissafox81311@gmail.com

Molly McKeithen - stjames2017@gmail.com

Cora Lanza - cjlanz2003@gmail.com

Jennifer Eastes - mrseastesfhsu@gmail.com

TWO-YEAR PROGRAM

The archdiocese requires two years of confirmation prep. At Sacred Heart, students in the 7th and 8th grade will begin in the fall of even years. We realize this means that students entering the 7th grade in the fall of odd years will actually get a bonus year of religious education.

PARTICIPATION IN MASS

The Confirmation candidate and his/her parents should have a sincere intention of participating in Mass every week. Participating in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation of confirmed Catholics. This is also an important way parents demonstrate to their children the importance they place on the faith they are handing onto their children. By worshipping as a community we build up the Body of Christ. If your family has not been attending Mass regularly in the past, we are confident that by doing so you will notice the many benefits by the time Confirmation approaches.



PARTICIPATION IN MASS

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass,..." "Since a 'grave cause' is needed to excuse one from this obligation it would be a serious or mortal sin to willfully skip Mass on Sunday or a Holy Day of Obligation, as the Church has always taught. Reasons such as the necessity to work to support one's family, child care, personal sickness or the care of the sick, necessary travel, etc. would excuse a person on a particular occasion. Those who have continuing reason to be excused should consult their pastor."

We do ask candidates to greet the priest or deacon at whichever Mass they choose to attend. There are attendance slips on the bulletin board. Candidates write their name on the slip and personally give it to the priest or deacon. If you have the opportunity to visit other parishes, we ask that you grab a bulletin from that parish and turn it into the RE office, with your name on it.

We know kids are busy and schedules get hectic, but attending Mass should be a priority. It is the expectation that candidates attend Mass at least 80% of the time for our program.

PARTICIPATION IN CLASS

Attendance at confirmation class is extremely important in preparing candidates for reception of the sacrament. When a class is missed, the candidate loses time for fellowship and prayer as well as the material covered that session. We expect you will make these gatherings a priority and therefore make a sincere effort to adjust your other obligations accordingly. Contact your small group leader if circumstances will not allow you to attend class. Be assured you will be given the opportunity to obtain the materials so you don't fall behind in the lessons. Excessive absenteeism can affect the candidate's ability to enter fully into this important period of preparation.

QUALIFIED SPONSOR

The sponsor should be a person who has been a strong role model as a faith-filled Catholic. This person should be a companion in your faith journey and will vouch for your readiness to receive the sacrament.

The sponsor:

- ~must be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass regularly and is living according to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
 - ~support the person to be confirmed in their commitment to a Christian life.
 - ~must be fully initiated themselves, having received baptism, eucharist & confirmation.
 - ~may not be the parents of the candidate.
- This will be done at the end of the first year.

CHOOSING A SAINT

In both the Old and New Testament, when God had a new mission for someone, He often gave them a new name. Even without a new name, your name has always told others who you are.

God calls on each of us to fulfill a special mission. It may be converting non-believers, helping the poor, being a peacemaker or one of the many other callings. Confirmation may be the continuation of a mission you began at baptism or the beginning of a new mission.

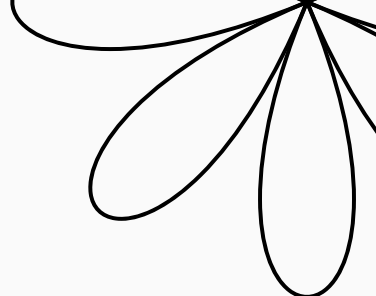
There are a few options when deciding on a Confirmation name.

First - Because confirmation is the strengthening of the work that God began in your life at your baptism, it is recommended you give first preference to using your baptismal name for confirmation. This shows the integral link between baptism and confirmation (this applies only if your baptismal name is a saint's name).

Second - Perhaps you see confirmation as the beginning of a new mission for you and a fresh beginning in your faith journey, then you may choose a new name for confirmation. Your confirmation name could be that of a saint you admire, of the saint name of someone you know and look up to as a Christian role model, the patron of one of your gifts, etc..

This will be completed during the second year.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES



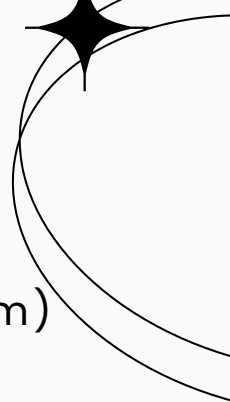
An awareness of the importance of and vital need for performing service to others is critical in preparing the candidate for confirmation. Throughout scripture we are called to love our neighbor and stand up for justice and peace. Since service and justice are so important to who we are as Catholic Christians, we ask that the candidate make his/her service activities a priority. Serving others is not something we do to 'get it over with'; rather it is something we do because we recognize the presence of Jesus in all persons and in all of God's creation. Therefore it is encouraged that the candidates get involved in a new service activity which is an ongoing and regular commitment.

There will be many, many opportunities to serve at the church and in the community as a group. Candidates are encouraged to participate in service projects through other organizations; however, as part of our Confirmation Prep, candidates are required to participate in six (6) activities throughout each year (12 total), organized through our parish. We are promoting service and unity within our parish family.

Additionally, each candidate is on a service committee which takes ownership of a specific need throughout the year. Candidates have signed up for these committees. These are not meant to be a burden. Committees work together to make sure the work load is fair and flexible.

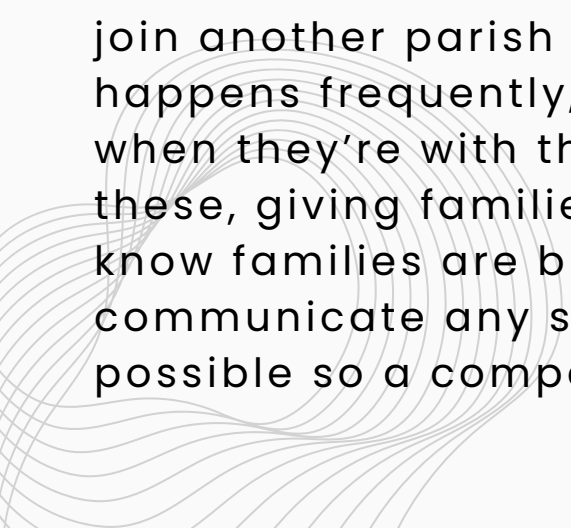


COMMUNICATION



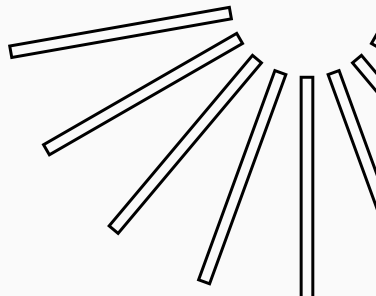
Always be sure to check the parish website (shcct.com) and the Facebook page (Sacred Heart Religious Education). Also, upon registering, families were placed in the proper Flocknote groups(s). Twice a year, families will be updated regarding Mass attendance, class attendance, service activity count and any tasks the candidate needs to complete. You can expect messages/reminders/updates periodically from your child's small group leader as well.

RETREAT



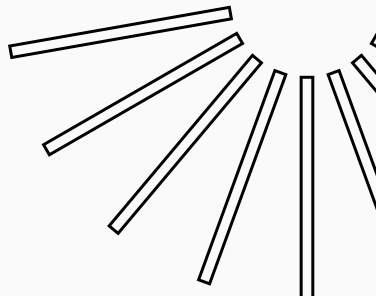
As a group, Confirmation candidates will be expected to attend a retreat each year. Retreats typically last all day, either here at the parish or at a nearby retreat center (Prairie Star Ranch, archdiocesan parishes, etc.). Information regarding these will be discussed during class and shared with families through multiple platforms. These are required. If a candidate is unable to attend the ones scheduled for our parish, they can join another parish group. This is totally fine and happens frequently, it's just usually a bit more fun when they're with their friends. We try and schedule these, giving families plenty of time to prioritize, but we know families are busy and things come up, please communicate any schedule conflicts as soon as possible so a comparable retreat can be found.

REHEARSAL



We typically get word during the summer prior of our Confirmation Mass date. We share as soon as we receive this information. Sacred Heart is on the schedule for the fall. The Sunday evening prior to the Mass, we will gather for a brief rehearsal. If sponsors are traveling from out of town, a parent can stand in.

ATTIRE



As we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation, we ask all candidates and their sponsors to dress in modest, respectful and appropriate attire for this special occasion.

Candidates: Please wear dress clothes that are suitable for Mass. Dresses and skirts should be an appropriate length and shoulders and midriffs should be covered. Dress pants, collared shirts, dress shoes and other formal attire are also appropriate. White attire is welcome, but not required.



Thank you

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