

Confirmation Meeting Notes, 2025

1. General info about the Sacrament

- a. What is Confirmation? Confirmation seals believers in the Spirit, anointing them and empowering them to carry on the mission of Christ. 1) wisdom, 2) understanding, 3) counsel, 4) fortitude, 5) knowledge, 6) piety, and 7) fear of the Lord
 - i. When your child was baptized, he or she was probably a baby, and so you and the godparents took on Baptismal promises on their behalf, while also committing to raising your child in the faith.
 - ii. At Confirmation, those same promises are taken on by the person receiving the Sacrament. As such, Confirmandi are really making the decision to be Confirmed for themselves. To do that, they need to know the faith, which is why they have been going through faith formation either in our Religious Education program, OCIA or parochial school, and they need to reflect on why they are being Confirmed, which they are encouraged to do throughout the year.
 - iii. Confirmation strengthens the gifts of the Spirit that were given to your child at Baptism. Along with Baptism and Communion, Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Initiation. It is actually the final Sacrament of Initiation, and brings the person into the fullness of the Catholic Community.
 - iv. Even though it may be the completion of their formal religious education, it is really the beginning of their lifelong journey of faith.

b. Date of Confirmation

- i. Takes place at St. Joan of Arc in the fall of 9th grade, typically on a week day in November (not Thanksgiving week!)
 - ii. The Diocesan Office decides the date – they will typically send us a form to be filled out by March 31st with our number of children to be Confirmed etc.
 - iii. 2 ceremony times, usually 4 and 6 or 6:30
 - iv. Confirmandi and sponsors sit together in the front, rest is free seating
 - v. Ceremonies are live streamed - link is private, i.e. we send it directly to parents to send along to friends and family, it is not broadcast on our website or Facebook
- c. **Presider of Confirmation** – could be Msgr. Rich or another priest, likely an episcopal vicar (these are priests who are designated representatives of the Bishop if he cannot be there). As we had Bishop O'Connell in 2024 as our presider, we would most likely not have him again in 2025
 - d. Pastors receive letters from the Diocese with our Confirmation information, and then we get the word out to parents via Flocknotes, our email platform.

e. Additional dates – retreat, practice

- i. Retreat will be in the fall – we are hiring a group called Fiat. Due to the planning and expense that goes into the retreat, we only offer it once; all Confirmandi are expected to attend
- ii. Practice is always the Sunday prior to our Confirmation date
 - 1. Kids get gowns and go through the ceremony at the practice – very important to be there

2. At least one adult needs to attend the practice with the Confirmandi - ideally, this is the sponsor, but if the sponsor cannot be there, it can be a parent or another adult

2.Requirements

f. Aside from attending classes, there are paperwork requirements. These include:

i. The Application for Reception of the Sacrament – due May 1st

1. First page, height for robe order
2. Then Baptismal information and information about the sponsor
3. The Confirmation name, which can either be a saint's name chosen by your child or they can use their baptismal name, which is their first name
4. Finally, the sponsor form, where the sponsor has to attest to his or her ability to stand as the sponsor
 - a. Word about sponsors – sponsors are asked to attend the Confirmation practice if possible, but if they can't another adult can stand in
 - b. If for some reason a sponsor is unable to attend the actual Confirmation, we have a proxy stand in for him or her. If this happens, the sponsor is still the official sponsor, which, like a godparent, is a lifelong role. Proxies must meet the same requirements as sponsors. *Parents cannot be proxies.*

ii. Letter to Monsignor Rich - due September 1st

iii. Service hours paperwork – due September 1

1. We are requiring 10 hours
2. We are looking to put together a service project for our Confirmandi - parent help will be necessary for this, the office will reach out to parents in the spring
3. Confirmandi are asked to base their service on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy - this is a Diocesan standard for service. Descriptions of the works of mercy are included in the paperwork, and are as follows:

- † Help others do what is right
 - † Teach the ignorant
- † Give advice to the doubtful
 - † Comfort those who suffer
 - † Be patient with others
 - † Forgive injuries
- † Pray for the living and the dead

- † Feed the hungry
 - † Give drink to the thirsty
- † Give clothing to the poor
 - † Visit those in prison
 - † Shelter the homeless
 - † Visit the sick
- † Pray for those who have died

2. The paperwork asks specifically how your service reflected one of the works of mercy, so keep this in mind when deciding what you want to do.

3. **Website**

- a. Paperwork available
- b. Some resources for finding service opportunities (we will send info on any other resources that come to our attention)
- c. Notes from this meeting

***Please do not scan and email paperwork to us, we can only accept hard copies. This is because the packets are multiple pages and we don't want to print paper we've basically already printed.**

If you have any questions, please contact us at rem@stjoans.org or 856-983-7575