

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION 2009-10

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Prerequisite Attendance Requirement: All Confirmation Candidates are required to attend two consecutive years of Religious Education prior to entering Confirmation Preparation. Students who attended Catholic School or Religious Education classes in 7th and 8th grade are eligible to attend Confirmation classes in 9th grade.

Confirmation Preparation Sessions: Confirmation Preparation is separate from regular Religious Education. There are four Confirmation Sessions plus a retreat. Additionally, there is one make-up session for anyone who misses one of the four Confirmation Preparation Sessions and a retreat make-up options.

The Confirmation Service Project is a community service day from 9am to noon on Saturday, January 23. This is a **voluntary** service opportunity for all members of the Confirmation class. More details will be discussed at the January 10 Confirmation Session.

Attendance Policy: Teenagers who want to be Confirmed must attend all four Confirmation Sessions and the retreat. The make-up session can be substituted for any one missed session. The make-up retreat option is the Youth 2000 Retreat on October 23-25. Due to additional expenses, there is an additional \$20 fee to attend Youth 2000. To use the Youth 2000 make-up retreat option, fill out the registration form (online) and submit \$20 to John Valentino by the October 15 deadline.

Session Schedule: Sessions are from 3-5pm at Christ the Good Shepherd Chapel and sponsor or parent is to attend the sessions with the candidate.

- Confirmation Session 1-** Sunday, October 4. Confirmation Candidates and Parents will be acknowledged and given a special blessing at Mass, and members of the parish will be given Candidate's names as "prayer partners."
- Confirmation Session 2-** Sunday, December 13
- Confirmation Session 3-** Sunday, January 10. Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors will be given a special blessing at the 5:30pm Mass, and Sponsors will present Candidates with a gift (provided by the church.)
- Confirmation Service Project-** Saturday, January 23 (encouraged, but not mandatory.)
- Confirmation Session 4-** Sunday, January 24.
- Make-up Session**—Wednesday, January 27, 6-8pm
- CONFIRMATION: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 11:30AM.** Candidates and Sponsors arrive in the Chapel at 10am.

RETREAT

Confirmation Retreat- November 20-22, For Confirmand only, at Camp Kappe in Plantersville. Cost is included in the Registration Fee. Confirmation Retreat forms are due on Sunday, November 1.

AFFIRMATION LETTER FOR RETREAT: Parents and Sponsors are to each write an affirming letter that expresses **support and encouragement for your child's Confirmation and for taking his/her faith seriously.** Do not let your child know about the letters, as they are a **SECRET!** Please seal the letters in separate envelopes with your child's first and last name and "retreat letter" written on them and turn them in with the rest of the registration information, due **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1.** Do not let your child be without a letter.

LETTER TO MONSIGNOR JOHN

All Candidates are to write a letter (typed) to Fr. John requesting this sacrament and explaining to him why you think you have been properly prepared for the sacrament. Letters are due by Sunday, January 24.

CHOOSING A SPONSOR

Diocesan Sponsor Covenant is due by the second Session, Sunday, December 13. Sponsor Covenant must be completed in full.

Qualifications of a Sponsor:

1. A confirmed and practicing Catholic in good standings with the Church
2. NOT the child's parents (by birth, adoption, or marriage)
3. 16 years of age or older
4. It is appropriate, but not mandatory, to be the child's Baptismal sponsor (CCC #1311)
5. One person

Proxy

In the event that the candidate's Sponsor cannot attend the confirmation ceremony, a Proxy can be chosen to stand in for the sponsor. The candidate's parent CAN be the Proxy.

Sponsors In Confirmation Preparation

Sponsors are to attend Confirmation Sessions 2, 3, and 4 along with their Candidate. If the Sponsor is unavailable to attend any of the sessions, the parent to attend in his/her place. Adult Sponsors are invited to staff the Confirmation Retreat, but must comply with the Diocese of Austin's Policy on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry. Teenage Sponsors can become a Teen Retreat Leader.

CONFIRMATION SAINT NAME

Confirmation Names are recorded on the Certificate Information Form, due December 13. All Candidates who have not chosen a name by December 13 will be assigned St. Joseph (for boys) or St. Mary (for girls.)

CERTIFICATE INFORMATION FORM

- Please fill out the Certificate Information Form in FULL.
- If the Candidate was not Baptized at St. Joseph in Bryan or does not attend St. Joseph School, please attach a copy of his/her Baptismal Certificate to the Certificate Information Form.
- Certificate Information Form is due at the second session, Sunday, December 13.

CONFIRMATION DATE AND TIME

CONFIRMATION: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 11:30AM at Christ the Good Shepherd Chapel on 600 S. Coulter. Candidates and Sponsors/Proxy arrive in the Chapel at 10:00am, fully dressed and ready.

CONFIRMATION MASS DRESS CODE

Boys: Sunday best pants and shirt. Suit or sport coat and tie are recommended. Dress shoes required, no sneakers.

Girls: No short dresses or skirts (knee length or longer is required), no scoop necks, no spaghetti straps. Some sort of sleeve, shawl, or sweater is necessary.