

Church of the Immaculate Conception
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CONFIRMATION IS:

A sacrament of initiation where we are

- ❖ ***Sealed*** by the Holy Spirit
- ❖ ***Anointed*** with the oil of chrism
- ❖ ***Filled*** with God's grace
- ❖ ***Sent*** forth to change the world

CONFIRMATION IS NOT:

- ❖ Graduation from Faith Formation
- ❖ The end of a person's spiritual journey
- ❖ About jumping through hoops and checking off boxes
- ❖ For the perfect but for the ready and willing

OUR PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM OFFERS:

An opportunity for teens to deepen their understanding that they are uniquely created by God and called into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We hope to ***ENCOURAGE, CHALLENGE, and ACCOMPANY*** them as they journey in faith and deepen in each young person their call to active discipleship.

Candidate Participation

Each candidate is expected to participate in all the events of preparation for Confirmation. It is the responsibility of each Candidate to clear their calendars accordingly.

Remember that this is YOUR commitment!!

Confirmation Prep in a Covid-19 World

While we believe in the value of gathered sessions as the most meaningful way to grow in faith and prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, we have the flexibility to transition to a hybrid or fully remote platform if the need arises during the year. Our parish reopening committee has detailed protocols in place which will be followed for every gathered session including the need to complete a health survey, wear masks and maintain social distance. If you are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms please do not attend a gathered session. Contact Christine to discuss make up options.

Large and Small Group Sessions

All sessions meet on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30pm. Please arrive PROMPTLY and come with an open mind and heart. If you are unable to attend a session, it is your responsibility to contact the Youth Ministries Office prior to the session. Absences will be accepted only for unavoidable conflicts and make-up will be expected. Each small group session is cumulative, we prefer your attendance with your scheduled group to build community with your peers and establish a rapport with your catechist.

Commitment Mass and Candidate Dinner

The *Rite of Becoming a Candidate* will be celebrated on Saturday, January 9 during 5 pm Mass. At the time of publication of this overview (September 2020) pre-registration for weekend Mass is required. If that expectation remains in place – it will be each family's responsibility to sign up for this Mass according to Parish protocols. Please arrive by 4:40pm to ensure that all candidates have time to sign the Book of the Elect. Signed covenants will be presented during this Mass – covenants should be turned in no later than January 4, 2021. Following Mass we will have a dinner in the Parish Hall for all candidates. The evening will conclude at 7:30pm.

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Please take time to read this carefully. It contains important information!

Confirmation Retreat

Our Confirmation Retreat is a full day experience. The retreat will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2021 – location is TBD. Please block off the entire day in your calendar (8am – 10pm). Additional information including the cost for the retreat will be made available as soon as possible. The retreat will be facilitated by the confirmation catechists and 12th grade peer leaders. Diocesan guidelines state it is mandatory to complete a confirmation retreat. If the candidate cannot attend our scheduled retreat, they will be asked to attend another confirmation retreat within the Diocese. Please inform the YM Office as soon as possible if you have a conflict with our Retreat date as alternative retreats are often difficult to find (and may be a larger challenge this year due to Covid-19 restrictions).

Called to Ministry, Called to Mission – Community Service

Each candidate is expected to show a demonstrated commitment to community service through both Ministry (parish based) and Mission (benefiting the community) Service.

- Our Parish-wide Morning of Service is a wonderful way to fulfill your Mission Service. We highly encourage all confirmation candidates to participate. Off-site projects will be held on Saturday, November 7th. Due to Covid-19, there will be no on-site projects in the parish center, however, you can sign up for a take-home kit and make items for local agencies. Please see the details on the Parish Website. To participate you must sign up using the online system that will be available beginning October 3rd.
- Ministry service will be selected individually by each candidate, but must directly benefit our Parish Community by volunteering with an existing Parish Ministry Group. A list of suggestions for fulfilling your Ministry Service is included in your informational folder.

Candidates are asked to reflect on their service experiences and complete one service report (provided in your folder) for your Mission Service and one for your Ministry Service. It is recommended that you complete and turn in your service reports as you complete your service. The absolute deadline for the reports is April 6th.

Letter to Fr. Jerry

Each candidate is asked to write a one-page letter to Fr. Jerry detailing why they desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. A detailed explanation of the suggested topics, specific instructions, and letter due date are in your red folder.

Readiness Conversation

Each candidate will be invited to meet one-on-one with Christine in the weeks immediately prior to Confirmation. These conversations are designed to ensure that candidates are fully prepared to receive the Sacrament and to afford teens the opportunity to ask any questions or express any concerns they may have. The conversations will be scheduled, using an online signup, at mutually agreeable times between March 21 and April 12.

Reconciliation

Candidates are expected to renew their state of grace by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the weeks prior to Confirmation. Candidates are encouraged to attend the Parish Lenten Penance Service (date TBD). Alternatively, candidates can attend the regularly scheduled times for Reconciliation.

Confirmation Ceremony & Rehearsal

Confirmation will be in the Spring 2021, sometime after Easter. Generally, we receive a date for Confirmation (from the Bishop's Office) by early February. As soon as we receive our date candidates will be notified. A rehearsal will be scheduled as soon as we have our date for Confirmation. The rehearsal is usually a few days before the ceremony. All candidates and their sponsors (or a proxy) are required to attend.