

Walk me through Confirmation! **Updated 2.22.22**

It's awesome you have a child who is receiving a sacrament this year at St. John! We are overjoyed to celebrate this moment with you! An important benchmark to keep in front of you is that sacraments are about *desire*. That means there needs to be a genuine willingness and understanding to receive them. Often we use requirements in the sacramental process to gauge this. While it is not always accurate, active participation usually indicates desire.

If your family is having a hard time making sessions or completing other activities, please reach out to you. We want to help you!

There's an App for that?!

We have an app for our Confirmation program called "Purpose!" You will receive an email prompt from LIFE TEEN which will invite you to download the app and create a password to access our Confirmation information. The App will have a calendar, contact information and due dates for important items. It may not be as much fun as TikTok, but we hope you'll find it useful.

What paperwork is needed for this Sacrament?

All paperwork is available electronically at <https://sjwest.org/faith-formation/>

Baptismal Verification - due December 2nd

We need to verify your child's Baptism. In the sacramental life, Baptism is essentially the foundation of your spiritual life. All other sacraments are built off this sacrament.

If your child was not baptized at St. John, we will need a copy of your child's baptismal certificate. If you do not have a copy, you can contact the Church where they were baptized to receive a copy. If you need help doing this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sponsor Verification - Due December 2nd

All sponsors must meet three qualifications:

- 1) They are 16 years or older.
- 2) They are a baptized, confirmed and practicing Catholic
- 3) They are not one of the candidate's biological parents

Sponsors are required "verify" their eligibility by contacting their home parish for a sponsor certificate. Please complete the sponsor verification form on our website to let us know who your sponsor is. If they are registered at St. John, we can verify them. However, if they are not, instructions on how to do this will be emailed directly to your sponsor.

Retreat Liability Form - Due December 2nd

This is a standard liability form the Diocese asks us to fill out for youth ministry events. It will let your teen participate on our retreat.

Confirmation Name - Due April 13th

It is customary for a confirmation candidate to choose the name of a recognized holy person (saint or blessed) as part of Confirmation. However, taking a name should be done only if you have developed a strong attachment or devotion to this saint.

As Confirmation is a deepening of your baptismal grace, choosing your baptismal name (your first name) is the preferred choice. Completing our online form is letting us know if you are keeping your baptismal name or choosing a new name.

Bishop Letter - Due April 13th

Bishop Adam Parker is requesting you write him a letter to explain why you desire to be Confirmed. The instructions for this letter are posted on our website and you can submit your letter online. Please do not send your letters directly to the Bishop.

Adoration Experience - Due April 13th

Fr. Mark has requested that you make two holy hours as part of your Confirmation preparation. You are allowed to count the adoration experience on the retreat one of these hours. There is a form to fill out on our website after you complete this experience.

What special events are connected with this Sacrament?

Kick Off Meeting - December 1st @ 5:15 pm in the Church

Is it required? No, but you are highly encouraged to come.

What is it? We are going to explore the sacrament of confirmation in a hands on way for the whole family!

Confirmation Retreat- March 12-13th @ St. John

Is it required? Yes.

What is it? We will spend time growing and deepening our understanding of the Holy Spirit with games, talks, music, skits and other great stuff. This is usually the highlight of the process.

Sponsor Only Sessions- February 23rd, March 9th, March 16th and March 23rd

Is it required? No, but it is highly encouraged since it will be offered by ZOOM and in-person

What is it? What does it mean to be a sponsor? What are you supposed to do? How do you have conversations about faith? These sessions will be geared towards helping sponsors live out their role.

Service - Ongoing

Is it required? Yes.

We want you to think about service in terms of a project not in terms of hours to be accrued. There are many opportunities to serve throughout our parish. We will make these available to your teen as they come up. Your teen only needs to do one of these opportunities.

Your teen is also welcome to submit a project to us for approval. The project should be at least 4 hours in total. It should be focused on serving people (as opposed to animals or the environment). It should also be something beyond helping a family member (cutting your grandmother's grass or taking out the trash do not cut it.) Email your proposals to Brandi at brandi.kupchella@sjwest.org)

You should discuss your service experience when you write your letter to our confirming Bishop.

Interview - During the time frame of April 18th - 29th

Is it required? Yes.

What is it? You will meet with your small group leader to discuss your Confirmation journey. The goal is to help you reflect on how you have grown. You will receive a list of options as to when you can do your interview.

Rehearsal for Confirmation - TBD

Is it required? Yes.

What is it? We will run through the Mass and practice how to receive the sacrament. The goal is to run through the mechanics so they do not feel as nervous. Parents are encouraged to stay for this session.

Confirmation Mass - May 5th @ 5:30 pm

Is it required? Yes.

What is it? This is the Mass where your child will be Confirmed.

How does Summit/LIFE TEEN interface with Confirmation Small groups?

Candidates should be actively involved in forming their faith since Confirmation is a deepening of their relationship to Christ and to the Church. We ask (but do not require) Confirmation students to actively participate in Summit (Middle School ministry) or LIFE TEEN (High School youth ministry).

During your Confirmation Small Group (February - April), you do not have to attend Summit or LIFE TEEN.

What about Letters?

Writing secret letters to candidates has been a long tradition that probably dates back to when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit with letters to the Apostle in the Upper room (that did not really happen). However, the best theologians have found that there does not appear to be any theological significance to receiving a letter on a retreat and sacramental theology. This means that writing your teen a letter in secret will be optional. If you choose to do this, we strongly encourage you to give your teen their letter(s) during the Confirmation rehearsal. There is no better time to pray with your child and let them know how proud you are of them for deepening their identity in Christ.

If you have questions or we can help you in anyway, please let us know!