

# THE FIRE FELLOWSHIP

Transforming sacramental preparation: tailored for families with 9 year olds to anticipate, undergo, and contemplate the Sacrament of Confirmation



## FORMATION SESSIONS

Join us for lively sessions in the Portico every Sunday from 12:15 to 2:15 pm. Our program offers a mix of large group and small group activities, promoting strong bonds between parents and children. Each session begins with a fun opening activity or game, followed by separate teaching sessions for kids and parents. We'll then gather for a group activity before ending with a heartfelt community prayer. A meal is included.

## SCHEDULE & TOPICS

3/3: Parent Meeting  
3/10: Session #1: Misconceptions of Confirmation  
3/24: Session #2: Who is the Holy Spirit?  
4/14: Session #3: What is Baptism?  
4/26: XLT Night (Adoration & Confession)  
4/28: Session #4: What is Confirmation?  
5/5: Session #5: Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
5/16: Confirmation Mass @ St. John  
5/19: Session #6: Fruits of the Holy Spirit  
6/2: Come & See Event

## @ HOME COMPONENT

Following each session, families will receive enriching activities to continue exploring at home. These post-session engagements are not mere "homework," but rather opportunities to delve deeper into the session's content and further enhance the learning experience together.

## READINESS VS. CHECKLIST

Rather than checklists, we focus on evaluating your spiritual readiness for receiving a sacrament through discussions. Spiritual readiness encompasses different facets of your spiritual life, aiding you in assessing your journey and outlining steps for growth in your relationship with God. Our aim is for you to recognize your progress clearly. This readiness will involve periodic spiritual check-ins throughout the process.

## PILGRIMAGES

Our process will offer additional optional experiences off campus that will allow you to encounter Christ in a unique way. These experiences will be: a trip to the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg, First Fruits Farm in Freeland, Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster and a "Chosen" watch party. These pilgrimages will be done in groups with families gathering for a meal to discuss their experience after.

## COME & SEE EVENT

This event allows 9-year-old Confirmation participants and their families to creatively express their faith in the parish community. Attendance is optional. The atmosphere mirrors an art gallery, encouraging creative expression and sharing. Students can attend or showcase exhibits. They're urged to explore various creative avenues like art, games, movies, poems, or dress-up to convey their faith's significance.

ST. JOHN FAITH FORMATION EXISTS TO EMPOWER IMPERFECT PEOPLE IN AN IMPERFECT WORLD STRIVE FOR SAINTHOOD THROUGH WELCOMING MULTI-GENERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND DYNAMIC EXPERIENCES THAT INSPIRE WONDER AND AWE ABOUT WHO JESUS IS.

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## Frequently Asked Questions



### WHO CAN REGISTER?

This process is open to all registered St. John parishioners who have a baptized 9 year old.

### CAN OTHER CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT?

If a family includes at least one child who is 9 years old, older siblings may partake in the sacrament through this preparation process. Nevertheless, older siblings are not obliged to undergo the sacrament solely because a younger sibling is doing so. Children under the age of 9 are not eligible for confirmation at this time.

### HOW DO WE REGISTER?

Go to [www.sjwest.org/confirmationresearchpilot](http://www.sjwest.org/confirmationresearchpilot) to register. We are asking for \$50 per child. If you cannot afford to pay, we will give you a scholarship.

### WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR MY CHILD TO BE CONFIRMED?

For years, sacramental preparation has relied on extensive lists of requirements. At St. John, we eschew checklists because they give the impression that the sacrament is something earned rather than a freely given gift. At St. John, the sole requirement is to show that your child has progressed in understanding, possesses a genuine desire to be Confirmed, and can actively participate in the Church at an age-appropriate level. We offer various resources to assist you and your small group leader in assessing your family's spiritual readiness to receive this sacrament.

### WHY DO YOU OFFER SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION TO THE FAMILY?

None of us lives in isolation; we are all integral parts of a family. Moreover, when one individual within a family undergoes an experience, it often resonates with all members. The aspiration is that the sacramental journey can foster greater unity within your family and bring you closer to God. For practical reasons, we kindly request that at least one parent accompany their child to our sessions.

### WHY DO THE SESSIONS CONTINUE AFTER CONFIRMATION?

All sacraments have a period where you are invited to reflect on what you received and to continue to grow in appreciation for it. This period is called a period of mystagogy where we reveal in the experience of who God is and what He has done in our lives. As Bishop Ware once wrote, "God is not so much the object of our knowledge as the cause of our wonder."