

SHEPHERD OF SOULS AREA FAITH COMMUNITY CONFIRMATION 2021-2022: PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS



Attendance

Candidates are expected to attend all scheduled classes. This includes the Wednesday evening classes for all 1st and 2nd year Confirmation candidates, as well as the monthly Sunday evening classes for 2nd year candidates. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to notify the Coordinator of any absences. Absences may be excused in cases of illness/injury/health issues or emergency situations. The Coordinator will determine whether an absence is excused. An excess of unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the program. More than one excused Sunday absence, or three Wednesday absences, may result in a requested meeting with the Coordinator to discuss the situation.

Service

Candidates will be expected to complete two service projects each year they are in the Confirmation program (for a total of four projects). They will be performed by the candidates on their own time, ideally alongside their sponsors and/or families. It is possible that a service project may be offered in class, but this is not guaranteed. Candidates and families can access a list of suggested/recommended service project ideas on the parish website. Should a candidate wish to pursue an idea that is not on the list, the candidate's parents may present it to the Coordinator for review and approval. Each individual service project should be at least 1.5 or 2 hours in length.

Retreats

All 1st year candidates are required to attend a Confirmation retreat, tentatively scheduled for July 12th – 14th, 2022. The retreat is designed to inspire candidates, build upon their faith, and instill within their hearts a deeper relationship with God. If a candidate misses the retreat (due to illness or a family emergency), the candidate's family will need to discuss alternatives with the Coordinator.

Sponsors

Each candidate is to have one sponsor who is:

- At least 16 years old and sufficiently mature for this role
- A fully initiated Catholic (Baptized, First Communion, Confirmed)
- A practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church
- Not the candidate's own father or mother

The duty of a sponsor is to be act as a role model and witness to our Catholic faith, to support the candidate and their families on the faith journey, and to pray with and for the candidate.

The sponsors of 2nd year candidates are asked to attend the monthly Sunday evening classes. **All sponsors are also asked to be present at the Confirmation Mass itself on February 12th at 6:00 PM at St. Philip.** Candidates and sponsors are encouraged to meet outside of class and discuss issues relevant to the candidate's spiritual journey.

1st year candidates must decide on their sponsors by Jan. 5th. An online sacramental information form will be made available, including fields for the sponsor's name and contact info.

Letter to the Pastor and Catechist Interviews

Each 2nd year candidate will write a letter to the pastor indicating his or her readiness for the sacrament of Confirmation. Instructions and criteria for this letter will follow. **The candidate will complete the letter at home and will submit them to the Coordinator by the due date of Dec. 15th.**

Interviews are an integral part of Confirmation preparation and provide a useful tool in assessing the growth and readiness of the candidate. It is an opportunity for the catechist to evaluate the candidate's attitude regarding the Confirmation process, and the spiritual growth of the candidate through the process. Interviews for 2nd year candidates are tentatively scheduled for January 2022.

Catechists will let students know in advance what day and time their interview is scheduled for. Interviews will be approximately ten minutes in length.

Confirmation Checklist

Requirements

Due Dates

Write a Letter of Intent to Fr. Jeff
(2nd year candidates)

Due by Dec. 15th

Select a Confirmation name
(2nd year candidates)

Due by Jan. 5th*

Choose a sponsor
(1st year candidates)

Due by Jan. 5th*

Submit copy of baptismal certificate
(All candidates)

Due by Jan. 5th**

Fulfill all service project requirements
(2nd year candidates)

Due by Jan. 31st

Complete the interview with catechist
(2nd year candidates)

January (specific dates TBD)

Attend the Confirmation Retreat
(1st year candidates)

July 12th – 14th (tentative)

**There will be an online registration form available to collect this information. It will include required fields for Confirmation name, sponsor (including contact info) and sacramental information. Completion of this form will be due by Jan. 5th.*

***If your child was baptized at St. Philip, St. John, or Our Lady, then we should already have their baptismal certificate on file. Only those families whose children were baptized elsewhere will need to submit a copy of their child's baptismal certificate.*

Confirmation Calendar 2021 – 2022



AFC Sunday Evening Confirmation Sessions (6:30 – 8:00 PM)

(For 2nd year Confirmation candidates and their sponsors)

October 3 * November 7 * December 3 * January 9 * February 6

St. Philip Wednesday Evening Confirmation Sessions (6:30 – 7:30 PM)

(For both 1st year and 2nd year Confirmation candidates)

September 15, 22, 29 * October 6, 13, 27 * November 3, 10, 17 * December 1, 8, 15
January 5, 12, 19 * February 2, 9, 16, 23 * March 2, 9, 16 * April 6, 20, 27

(First Wednesdays of each month consist of family Mass at 6:30 PM, followed by classes until 8:00 PM.)
(2nd year Confirmation candidates conclude with the Feb. 9th session)

Confirmation Retreat

(For 1st year Confirmation candidates)

Tentatively scheduled for July 12-14

Confirmation Mass Rehearsal

Held at St. Philip

Sunday, February 6, at 6:30 PM

Confirmation Liturgy

Held at St. Philip

Saturday, February 12, at 6:00 PM