SHEPHERD OF SOULS AREA FAITH COMMUNITY
CONFIRMATION 2022-2023: PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Class 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 four Wednesday absences, may result in a requested meeting with the Coordinator to discuss the situation.

Mass Attendance and Mass Journals

Regular and consistent Mass attendance is expected and required of all Confirmation candidates. Both 1st and 2nd year Confirmation candidates will be issued a Mass journal which they will keep and write in throughout the faith formation year. For each Mass attended, they must answer (in writing) the following questions:

- What is something that stood out to you in one of the Mass readings, and why?
- What is something that stood out to you in the homily, and why?
- Which of the song lyrics (from any hymn sung that day) stood out to you, and why?

The first page of the notebooks will include these instructions. Candidates will be asked to share at least one of their answers during the Wednesday evening classes. They will also be asked to discuss their responses with their sponsors outside of class. Failure to maintain these Mass journals will result in a phone call or e-mail from the Coordinator to discuss the situation.

Service Hours

Candidates will be expected to complete six (6) hours of service each year they are in the Confirmation program, for a total of twelve (12) hours. 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. Candidates may spread out their service projects however they wish, so long as six hours of service are performed each year.

Confirmation Commitment Sunday

2nd year Confirmation candidates and their sponsors will attend a Confirmation Commitment Mass on Sunday, Oct. 16th. The purpose of this Mass is to celebrate the candidate's commitment to Confirmation preparation. It is also a chance for the whole parish to embrace and pray for the candidates. Each of the three parishes in our AFC will host its own Commitment Mass, as opposed to having one Mass at a single location. The Commitment Mass for St. Philip's will be held at 10:30 AM. If a sponsor is unable to attend, or one has not yet been selected, a parent may fill in for the sponsor.

Confirmation Retreat

All 1st year candidates are required to attend a Confirmation retreat. The retreat is designed to inspire candidates, build upon their faith, and instill within their hearts a deeper relationship with God. **We are working with NET Ministries to have their missionary team host a single-day retreat here at Shepherd of Souls. The date for this retreat is Feb. 8, 2023. We will provide more information as we draw nearer to the retreat date.** If a candidate misses the retreat for a valid reason (such as illness or a family emergency), the candidate's family will need to discuss alternatives with the Coordinator.

Depending on the rules and guidelines dictated by NET Ministries, we may host a mandatory meeting for 1st year Confirmation candidates and their parents. The purpose of this meeting would be to review with families the rules, guidelines, and expectations of the retreat, as well as to provide detailed information (including cell phone policies and parish staff contact info). Consequences for violation of the rules would also be clearly laid out.

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. **They are also asked to be present at the Confirmation Mass itself on February 11th 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. A sponsor's guidebook is available with more detailed information.

1st year candidates must decide on their sponsors by Jan. 4th. 2nd year candidates must decide upon their sponsors by Nov. 2nd (if they haven't already). An online sacramental information form will be made available, including fields for the sponsor's name and contact info.

Letter to the Bishop and Catechist Interviews

Each 2nd year candidate will write a letter to the bishop indicating his or her readiness for the sacrament of Confirmation. Instructions and criteria for this letter can be found on the parish website. **The candidate will complete the letter at home and will submit them to the Coordinator by the due date of Dec. 14th.**

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 2023.

Catechists will let candidates 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**
Attend Confirmation Commitment Sunday Mass (2nd year candidates only)	Oct. 16th
Write a Letter of Intent to the Bishop (2nd year candidates only)	Due by Dec. 14th
Select a Confirmation name*	Due by Jan. 4th (1st year) Due by Nov. 2nd (2nd year)
Choose a sponsor*	Due by Jan. 4th (1st year) Due by Nov. 2nd (2nd year)
Submit copy of baptismal certificate**	Due by Jan. 4th (1st year) Due by Nov. 2nd (2nd year)
Fulfill all service project requirements	Due by Apr. 26th (1st year) Due by Feb. 5th (2nd year)
Complete the interview with catechist (2nd year candidates only)	January (specific dates TBD)
Attend the Confirmation Retreat (1st year candidates only)	Feb. 8th

**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.*

***If your child was baptized at St. Philip, St. John, Our Lady, or St. Gertrude, 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 2022 – 2023

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

(For 2nd year Confirmation candidates and their sponsors)

October 2 * November 13 * December 4 * January 8 * February 5

(The Feb. 5th class will be held 11:45 AM – 1:15 PM in lieu of the normal evening time. It will also include the Confirmation Mass rehearsal.)

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

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

September 14, 21, 28 * October 5, 12, 26 * November 2, 9, 16, 30 * December 7, 14

January 4, 11, 18 * February 1, 8, 15, 22 * March 1, 8, 15, 22 * April 12, 19, 26

(The Churches of St. John's and Our Lady have their own Wed. evening schedules.)

(2nd year St. Philip's Confirmation candidates conclude with the Feb. 8th session)

Confirmation Commitment Sunday

(For 2nd year Confirmation candidates)

Sunday, October 16 – refer to AFC Sunday Mass schedules. St. Philip's Mass at 10:30 AM

Confirmation Retreat

(For 1st year Confirmation candidates)

Feb. 8

Confirmation Liturgy

Held at St. Philip

Saturday, February 11, at 6:00 PM