

Confirmation Prep Sessions:

Confirmation Preparation is conducted as a series of in-person mini retreats held at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. Each mini retreat has a specific theme and is facilitated by our Confirmation Team; Michael Smith, Deacon Steve Canali, and Holly Sujack. The dates of the mini retreats are included on the ***Confirmation Preparation Information Sheet***. Participation in all 4 mini-retreats is required in order to be included in the Confirmation Mass in March.

Baptismal Record:

Once Confirmation is complete, the parish where Baptism occurred has to be notified so that the Confirmation can be properly recorded. In order to make that process go as smoothly as possible, we need a copy of a baptismal certificate to be provided.

This must be completed by the due date listed in ***Confirmation Preparation Information Sheet***.

Confirmation Sponsor:

Each candidate will need to select a Confirmation Sponsor to accompany them through the preparation process and attend the Confirmation Mass to be held in March.

Requirements of a Confirmation Sponsor:

- Fully initiated Catholic (*Baptized, Eucharist, Confirmed*)
- In good standing with the church (*Not excommunicated or in an invalid marriage*)
- At least 16 years of age
- Not one of the parents (*Exceptions can be made for children with special needs*)

Strongly Suggested for a Confirmation Sponsor:

- Live in the greater Fayetteville, NC area (*will make attending retreats and the Mass much easier*)
- Be active in the life of the candidate (*while Aunt Jean is beloved, if you only see her once or twice a year, how likely is she to really know you at a spiritual level?*)
- Be truly active in their faith (*While the requirements say being 'fully initiated' is enough, it is better if they actively practice the faith.*)

When a potential sponsor is identified, provide them with the ***Confirmation Sponsor Testimony Form*** for them to complete and have signed by a representative of their home parish.

This must be completed by the due date listed in ***Confirmation Preparation Information Sheet***.

"Why I Chose My Saint Name" Essay:

It is the tradition of the Catholic Church that candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation choose the name of a saint to be confirmed by. At the actual Confirmation Mass the Bishop / celebrant will call you by that name.

To support that tradition and to encourage candidates to learn from the lives of the saints, we require an essay be written and submitted answering the statement; ***"Why I Chose My Saint Name"***.

This essay **IS NOT** a biography of the saint, it is a written personal reflection on how the life of that saint has impacted the Confirmation Candidate.

There is no set length required for this essay, but it should be typed and submitted electronically to the parish office when completed.

Service Hours:

A major theme presented in the preparation of Confirmation is the application of God's gifts in service. To support this theme and encourage youth to form a habit of service, we require youth perform 20 hours of service during their time of preparation for Confirmation.

- 10 Hours of Service to the parish of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
 - **Examples include:** *Alter Server, Choir Membership, Faith Formation Volunteering, Church Clean-Up Days, etc.*
- 10 Hours of Service to the Greater Community
 - **Examples include:** *Participation in Scouting or other community service organizations. Roadside clean-up, Soup Kitchens, Food or clothing drives, etc.*

Completed individual works of service should be documented completely using a **Confirmation Service Record** and submitted by the due date listed in **Confirmation Preparation Information Sheet**. Extensions to this due date are available as needed.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Question: *How Many of the Retreats Can I Miss and Still Be Included?*

Answer: Zero.

If a session must be missed, then the candidate can complete the missed retreat when it is offered again the next academic year and join the Confirmation group of that year.

We are asking youth and families to make preparation for the Sacrament and receiving the Sacrament **THE** priority.

If the youth and family are not currently in a place where that is possible, it is 100% ok! There is no rule that says youth have to be Confirmed by any certain age.

Question: *I don't know all the details about Baptism and can't find a baptismal certificate, what do I do?*

Answer: Provide as much information as possible and our parish and diocese staff can assist you in finding any missing details.

Question: *We are not from the area and do not have options to serve as a sponsor, what can we do?*

Answer: We have volunteers who are willing to step forward and serve as sponsors should the need arise. Also, if the sponsor that is chosen is not able to be physically present these volunteers are willing and able to "stand in" as needed.

Question: *Where can I find a list of Saints to choose from?*

Answer: <https://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php>

Question: *Due to COVID-19, I am having a hard time finding service opportunities that are feasible, what can I do?*

Answer: Contact Michael in the parish office! We always have options and needs, some of which can be done without having to leave your house.

If there are any additional questions, please contact Michael as needed

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