

YOUTH CONFIRMATION (YEAR 1)

FAST FACTS 2023-2024

Confirmation compliments baptism by sealing and strengthening the believer to live as a child of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. At Good Shepherd, sacramental preparation for youth Confirmation is open to all parish youth in seventh grade and above. While our process can start as early as seventh grade, we encourage parents and teens to discuss together when their teen is ready to make the commitment to the Confirmation process. Our Confirmation process lasts about 18 months. The exact date of Confirmation is determined by the Archdiocese, typically we are aware of the date by July for a date in late Fall.

Preparation is also open to non-parishioner students who attended Good Shepherd School and who receive permission from their pastors. Please Note: It is expected that all families participating in youth Confirmation at Good Shepherd attend weekend Masses at Good Shepherd 75% of the time. If you belong to another parish, we strongly encourage you to participate in sacramental preparation at your parish.

Teens who desire to receive this sacrament must have already received Baptism and First Holy Communion in the Catholic Church. If your teen has not yet received these sacraments but would like to be confirmed, please contact the parish office so that we can talk through the initiation process.

Who needs to attend the Confirmation Sessions?

Teens will attend most sessions on their own. There will be two sessions during the year that we ask parents to also attend.

What materials are used?

This year, we will be continuing with the Purpose Confirmation curriculum from LifeTeen. The program is focused on small groups led by parishioners with a heart for ministering to our teens, while seeking to answer life's biggest questions, including: Why believe in God? Why believe Jesus is Lord and Savior? Why be a part of the Catholic Church?

What do we need to do at home each month?

Teens will be provided with several materials that we will encourage them to use each month. We will send out regular Flocknote emails to share ways that you can encourage your student to engage with these materials.

What happens if we need to miss a session?

It is understandable to miss a session or two. If more than two sessions are missed, an in-person meeting with the Director of Faith Formation to discuss continued formation will be necessary. All missed sessions will have make-up work to be completed. The official process of what to expect when missing a session will be detailed at the first Confirmation session. Confirmation may be delayed if a teen is unable to attend the sessions.

When do the Confirmation sessions meet?

Sessions all take place on one* Wednesday evening a month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

- October 4, 2023 (Parents and Teens)
- November 8, 2023
- December 6, 2023
- January 10, 2024
- February 7, 2024 (Parents and Teens)
- March 6, 2024
- April 3, 2024
- May 8, 2024

*There are three additional nights with our NET Ministries team. These meet on Wednesday evenings from

6:00pm to 8:30pm. Good Shepherd will provide a heavy snack for these sessions. NET Ministries is passionate about challenging young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. Each of the three sessions we will be joined by a team of 8-10 young adults to share the faith with our Confirmation students. Learn more about NET: netusa.org/

- November 29, 2023
- February 28, 2024
- April 24, 2024

Why is there a separate fee for the Confirmation Retreat?

We have found the Confirmation retreat to be an integral part of a young person's Confirmation experience. We strongly encourage you to sign your teen up for a retreat at the NET Center.

Confirmation retreats hosted at the NET Center in West St. Paul are for Catholic youth preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. All of our Confirmation Retreat Weekends offer the same programming and content. They offer the opportunity for Adoration, Reconciliation, and Sunday Mass, as well as large group talks/presentations, small group discussions, games, skits, and more. Teens will be in attendance from all over the Archdiocese (and some from neighboring dioceses as well), and average 80-85 attendees each weekend.

Retreat fees are \$175 per teen. Total amount includes a nonrefundable portion of \$75 per retreatant as well as a \$50 rescheduling fee. See their website for additional information on reservation changes. The cost will include lunch, dinner, and snacks on Saturday and breakfast, lunch, and a snack on Sunday.

Current Retreat Dates:

- September 23-24
- October 14-15
- November 11-12
- December 9-10
- January 20-21
- February 10-11
- February 24-25
- March 16-17
- April 13-14

We strongly encourage you to register for your retreat for December or later so your teen has had a few Confirmation sessions with Good Shepherd. However, registration fills up quickly, please sign-up ASAP! To register for a Confirmation retreat visit: netusa.org/confirmation/

What is required to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

In addition to preparation classes, one must be spiritually prepared. "To receive Confirmation, one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit. More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act" (Catechism, 1310). When we meet in September for our first session, we will walk through the other requirements and paperwork that needs to be completed.

What is the cost and how do we register?

This year our Good Shepherd registration fee for Confirmation is \$200. *We never want cost to be a reason not to participate, please contact Katie Schaitberger, Director of Parish Life, if you are in need of financial assistance. (katieschaitberger@goodshepherdgv.org or 763-544-0416, ext. 856)*

To register, visit: goodshepherdgv.org/youthconfirmation

Do you have additional questions?

Please contact faithformation@goodshepherdgv.org or 763-544-0416, ext. 857.