

CONFIRMATION

2025-2026 MAY AND JUNE MEETINGS

THE SACRAMENT

We are so excited that you are preparing to enter into the Church through Confirmation. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, *"by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."* This new responsibility within the Church requires preparation and discernment.

PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

Before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in 10th grade, expectations include:

- **Participating in Small Group Meetings and missing no more than 5** - Why? It is important that before deciding to be Confirmed in the Holy Spirit, you have the opportunity to form a relationship with Christ, learn more about the Church, ask questions, understand where doctrine comes from, and learn how to defend the faith. If you miss more than 5 meetings in the year, you must make up the fifth one missed. If you miss 6 or more classes in a year, you will have to repeat the program the following year.
- **Getting involved in the Church for 15 hours** - Why? James 2:14-17 says, *"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead."* If we truly believe in the Gospel, then we must put our faith into action and serve others in love and joy. Also, if we desire to be confirmed into the Body of Christ, we must learn what the Body of Christ is! Church involvement hours can be anything that one does to help another out of love and not incentive, such as visiting a nursing home, helping with VBS, being an usher or lector, helping at the Italian Festival, bringing food to a neighbor, etc. Church involvement hours will also include any involvement in Church ministries, such as stopping in at hospitality Sunday, checking out Joy in the Spirit, attending a Catholic Social Teaching event, visiting the Creative Arts Ministry, coming to a Parish Clean-up day, etc.
- **Attending a Confirmation Day and Weekend Retreat** - Why? Sometimes we need to get out of our comfort zone, retreat from the distractions of life, and enter into a designated space and time where we can more fully encounter our Lord.
- **Choosing a Sponsor** - Why? It's important to build a community around us of people who are praying for us and journeying with us. Our Sponsor will agree to walk with you on your faith journey!
- **Meeting with Father Fabio or Father Kevin** - Why? After sacramental preparation and discernment, you should be able to express your reasons for desiring to be confirmed and become a full initiated member of the Catholic Church. Father Fabio and Father Kevin want to meet with you to discuss this as well as offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Creating a Saint Project based on the Saint of choice** - Why? Saints are beautiful examples of how to live out our universal call to holiness. They are witnesses for Christ, and they are praying for us! Choosing a Saint and learning more about their spirituality helps to better understand the universal Church and the many ways to have a relationship with the Lord. Find a Saint you love and take their name at Confirmation!

IMPORTANT DATES

FOR CONFIRMATION

The Following are Mandatory for the Confirmation Program:

- September 13, 2025 -Confirmation Kick-Off Day 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.
- October 22/October 26, 2025 -Sponsor Forms Due
- November 9/12, 2025 -Saints Project Assigned
- November 16/19, 2025 - Retreat Permission Forms Due
- January 30-February 1, 2026 - Confirmation Retreat at Camp Thunderbird
- February 22th/25th, 2026 - Saint Projects to be brought to class
- TBD in February/March - Interviews with Father
- TBD, 2026 - Confirmation Hours due
- TBD 2026 - Confirmation Rehearsal at TBD p.m. in Church
- TBD 2026 - Confirmation Mass at TBD p.m

Confirmation Mass is scheduled by the Bishop's Office, not by us. They have given us the Confirmation date of **TBD** by Bishop's Office. Our mandatory rehearsal will be TBD.

This date is set by the Diocese, so it is unchangeable. The only alternative is to attend a Confirmation Mass at a nearby Parish with the Bishop, should this date be impossible for your family.

Thank you for your patience as we await the given date for Confirmation. An updated Expectations Packet will be emailed in a .pdf format to those registered once that day is announced.

SAINT PROJECT

WHY DO WE PICK SAINTS?

Through the process of canonization, when someone is declared by the Church to be a saint, the Church is proclaiming that this member of the faithful practiced heroic virtue during their life on earth, 'the Church recognizes the power of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors' (CCC 828). To aspire to be like a saint is the same as trying to imitate an actor, musician, or athlete; a confirmation saint is someone cool who we want to be like!

It is also important to remember that as members of the Church, we are never been alone, as St. Paul said, 'We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses' (Hebrews 12:1). These witnesses are the saints who continually intercede for us (CCC 956); in choosing a confirmation saint, we are choosing a special friend to intercede for us in heaven and after whom we can model our lives while here on earth.

Once you research and choose a Saint (or a Blessed) who inspires you, theirs will be the name you take at Confirmation. When you are sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, you will be sealed with your new name.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PROJECT

You will be creating a poster about the Saint you are choosing for Confirmation. This poster must include the following questions and include these points:

- **A short biography** - Your Saint's full name; where and when they lived and died.
- **How, why, and when they became a Saint** - His/her date of canonization; what miracles have been performed through his/her intercession.
- **Why you would like to model your faith life after this person** - What is the Saint's spirituality like; how do you want him/her to pray for you; why do you choose this specific Saint.
- **Include a picture of your Saint** - Also decorate the poster with symbols associated with your Saint or what they are a patron Saint of. Honor your Saint by taking time and putting effort into this project.
- **Bibliography of websites, books, and other sources** - Recommended Catholic websites for Saint information include: catholic.org, mycatholic.life/saints, newadvent.org, saintsresource.com
- **Posters should be neat, creative, and authentic** - A sample template is shown below. Have posters ready to present by **February 22nd or 25th, 2026** (depending on which session your teen is registered for.)



The sample poster is a rounded rectangle with a blue left half and a red right half. At the top, the name 'St. Joan of Arc' is written in a black cursive font. On the left side, there is a small image of St. Joan of Arc in armor holding a sword and a banner. To the right of the image, there are four white rectangular boxes with black text, each with a corresponding label on the left. The labels are: 'Background on Saint....', 'Reasons he/she is a saint, when they became saint, miracles, etc.', 'Why you want to model your faith life after this saint', and 'Resources/websites used'.

St. Joan of Arc

Background on Saint....

Reasons he/she is a saint, when they became saint, miracles, etc.

Why you want to model your faith life after this saint

Resources/websites used

BIBLE FOR CONFIRMATION SESSIONS

Bible for Sessions

The Bible translation our Small Groups will be using this year for Confirmation Preparation is the New American Bible translation as it is the translation we hear for our Sunday Mass Readings. We ask that all teens commit to bringing a Bible with them to their Small Group Sessions. If purchasing a Bible or bringing a Bible from home, please make sure that the translation is NAB (New American Bible) or NABRE (New American Bible Revised Edition) to avoid the confusion of different translations.

If your teen already has a “Youth or Teen” NAB or NABRE Bible, they would like to use, they are very welcome to do so. However, because this is a long-term investment, it may be more prudent if purchasing a new Bible to avoid terms such as “Teen” or “Youth” as many teens may choose not to continue journeying with them as a Young Adult and Adult.

Prices for Bibles range from a paperback for as low as \$6.99 to leatherette or leather typically ranging \$60 to well over \$100 with sales and different price points in-between. (I highly recommend a nice cloth, plastic or leatherette case of your teen’s choice if you decide the paperback route).

(Please feel free to contact Miss Trisha Brown

Confirmation@saintphilipneri.org if there is financial or another hardship which may prevent obtaining a Bible for your teen as this is important for their growth not only for Confirmation Preparation, but their entire faith journey.)

Journals and other materials will be provided per Registration fee.

“Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” -Saint Jerome

PRAYERFULLY CHOOSING A SPONSOR

What is the role of a Confirmation Sponsor?

Just as sponsor for baptism takes upon himself/herself the responsibility of helping the newly baptized person mature in the living a Christian life and offers his or her own life and practice of the faith as an example of faith, prayer and service within the Catholic Church, the Sponsor for Confirmation continues that work for the person who is to be confirmed. The Sacrament of Confirmation also creates a strong spiritual bond between the one who is confirmed and the sponsor. The sponsor should be committed to trying to be a part of the confirmandi's life by presence and prayer always realizing that a sponsor's prayers for that person are especially efficacious before Almighty God. One's "yes" to be a sponsor for Confirmation is not just a "yes" to the candidate, but also a serious commitment to God in taking on this obligation.

If the sponsor is unable to attend the Confirmation Mass for any reason (distance, illness, scheduling, etc.) that is alright. A proxy can stand in at the Mass. The Confirmation sponsor will still be the one taking on the responsibility of maintaining a relationship with the confirmandi, checking in on him/her, giving spiritual advice, and more, even if the sponsor cannot be at the Mass.

Sponsors can be Godparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, older siblings, other relatives, family friends, fellow parishioners, Deacons, Small Group Leaders, catechists, coaches, Priests, etc.

The Requirements of Sponsor

The role of sponsor is an important one for the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. The Church sees the sponsor as a fully-initiated Catholic who supports the one receiving the sacrament with example and instruction.

Because of the seriousness of this ministry, the Church has the following requirements:

- The sponsor must be a fully-initiated member of the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- The sponsor must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.
- The sponsor must have an active life of faith in the Catholic Church (registered and an active parishoner at a Catholic Parish), practicing their Catholic faith, regularly attending the celebration of the Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation and provide good example. (Someone married outside the Catholic Church is not able to receive Communion and is not able to be a sponsor. Also, a Catholic who has left the Catholic Church is not able to be a sponsor.)
- The sponsor cannot be either parent.

MEETING WITH FATHER FABIO OR FATHER KEVIN

You will be meeting with Father Fabio or Father Kevin before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. To sign up for your 15 minute meeting, a Sign-Up Genius will be sent out in the spring to the parents.

Before you meet with Father Fabio or Father Kevin, prepare! Be ready to respond to the questions asked and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Be prepared to answer the following questions:

- What is a story or passage in the Bible that really resonates with you?
- Be prepared to explain why this story stands out to you, how you relate to it, and more!
- Be prepared to share about the Saint you have chosen!
- What did you enjoy about your Confirmation Preparation?
- Do you have any questions for Father Fabio or Father Kevin?

Prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- Review the Examination of Conscience
- Review how to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - Make the sign of the cross saying: *"In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*
 - Say: *"Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been _____ (however many days, weeks, months, or years) since my last confession."*
 - State your sins
 - Father may give you some advice and give a penance (prayers to say)
 - You will be asked to make an act of contrition:
 - *O My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with the help of your grace, to do good, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Your Son, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us. In His Name, my God, have mercy. Amen.*
 - Father will absolve you with a prayer - at the end, make the sign of the cross and answer *"Amen"*
 - Father will dismiss you with a prayer and encouragement *"God has freed you from your sin. Go in Peace."* Respond with *"Thanks be to God!"*
 - After Confession, find a quiet place in the Church to praise and thank God for His mercy, and fulfill the penance given to you.

Father Fabio and Father Kevin are excited to meet with you and hear your desire for Confirmation. Be joyful! You are so close to receiving an amazing Sacrament.

CONFIRMATION HOURS 2025-2026

Need 15 Hours: Preferably serving the Parish Community through a Parish Ministry to practice loving and living our Catholic Faith

Name _____

| Date | Service/volunteering or Ministry event attended | Hours | Signature of Person in Charge |
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| NOW THAT YOU GAVE YOUR TIME AND LOVE THROUGH SERVICE OR ATTENDING A MINISTRY EVENT, WHAT DID YOU LEARN OR GET OUT OF IT? | | | |
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