

CONFIRMATION GUIDELINES

GUIDELINES for the Sacrament of Confirmation are established by the Archdiocese of Hartford and administered by St. John Fisher Parish. We are held accountable to the Archdiocese Confirmation process which requires us to include certain catechetical elements in the program. We are also required to report the fulfillment of this process to the Archdiocese.

As a result, the following is our program outline:

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

The Confirmation preparation schedule consists of meetings held twice per month, a mandatory retreat, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation being timely received prior to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Historically, Confirmation has been celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Joseph located at 140 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT in October, or November, of the candidates' 10th grade year. The precise date is typically released over the summer preceding the fall event.

COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS:

At St. John Fisher Parish, we have developed a Confirmation program that includes the importance of Christian service to others. It is our hope that our Confirmation candidates, nurtured by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, will continue serving our Parish and community even after Confirmation. Hence, we strongly recommend that each candidate participate in at least *four* service projects throughout their Confirmation journey.

To facilitate this, a schedule of service opportunities will be incorporated following *five* of the twice-monthly meetings held throughout the year for 9th grade students. In addition, there will be periodic onsite community outreach events. However, transportation must be provided by the parent or guardian for such service events held at the facility.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR:

Confirmation candidates will choose a sponsor to help guide them in their sacramental preparation. The function and criteria for a sponsor are set by Canon Law. The sponsor is required to complete and sign an affirmation form certifying that they conform to the following criteria:

1. Be fully initiated into the Catholic faith (Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Holy Matrimony in the Church (if applicable)).

2. Be at least 16 years of age.
3. Be a Catholic of good standing and registered with a Catholic Church.
4. Must be someone other than your parent.

The student's sponsor choice and the Sponsor Certificate are due by **December 17** class, *NO EXCEPTIONS*.

REFLECTION ESSAYS:

Confirmation candidates are asked to prayerfully reflect and compose *three* specific essay prompts throughout the 9th grade year:

1. *Self-Reflection* due on **November 5** class.
2. *Selecting a Confirmation Saint Name* due on **February 18** class.
3. *Service Reflection Essay for Christian Service Opportunities* due on **April 21** class.

SACRAMENT INFORMATION:

Before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Archdiocese verifies that candidates have received previous required preparatory sacraments: Baptism, First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Therefore, it is required that each candidate complete the *Confirmation: Archdiocese & Parish Information* form by **October 22** class.

For the candidates who have received prior sacraments at St. John Fisher Church, please indicate such on the form and we can access this info on file. However, if any candidate has received preparatory sacraments at a different Church, you will need to contact the Church directly to obtain accurate dates if you do not have access to the appropriate certificates.

MORE INFO:

Due dates for the above are also noted in the *Confirmation Year 1 Grade 9 Schedule*. Enclosed in your folder are copies of these forms and instructions on the essays. I have given deadlines but please feel free to hand in the required forms and essays earlier. Throughout the year I will be reminding the candidates of upcoming deadlines as well. It is preferred that hard copies be submitted to me at class, but you can also submit as a .pdf file to: Helena.thomas@stjfchurch.org. Please feel free to email me with any questions as well.