ST JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC CHURCH PONTE VEDRA, FLORIDA



ST. JOHN PAUL II

CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK 2023-24



2023-24



Confirmation Year 1 & 2

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ABOUT THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church #1316-1321

Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which confers the gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

Confirmation, like Baptism, **imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character** on the Christian's soul and, for this reason, one can receive this sacrament only once in one's life.

In the Latin Church this sacrament is administered after the **age of reason** has been reached, and its celebration is ordinarily reserved to **the bishop**, thus signifying that this sacrament strengthens the ecclesial bond.

A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must

- □ profess the faith
- $\hfill\square$ be in the state of grace
- $\hfill\square$ have the intention of receiving the sacrament
- □ and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs.

The **essential rite of Confirmation** is anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism, together with the laying on of the minister's hand and the words: *"Accipe signaculum doni Spiritus Sancti"* (Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.) in the Roman rite.

While Confirmation is generally celebrated separately from Baptism, its **connection with Baptism** is expressed, among other ways, by the renewal of baptismal promises.

The celebration of Confirmation during the Eucharistic Liturgy helps underline the unity of the sacraments of Christian initiation.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Parents, please read and discuss the following Code of Conduct for Faith Formation with your child.

The basic premise of this code of Conduct for Children and Youth is that all humanity functions at its best when behaviors and expectations are clearly outlined. Young people need to be made aware of correct and incorrect behaviors as well as the consequences associated with them. Forming good moral consciences in children and youth is a primary role of the family with support and guidance from the local Church community. This code is used in conjunction with existing local or diocesan policies, protocols or other codes and IS intended to supplement them.

Student Expectations: Christian behavior is always expected as lived out in the following:

- Attend weekly Mass.
- Participate in class, bring all materials needed for class (books/bible) and complete classwork when assigned.
- Small Groups: What is said in a small group discussion by a youth is to remain in the small group. That is, no youth is allowed to talk about personal information concerning another youth unless it is a life-threatening situation. This allows for openness, trust, and vulnerability amongst the youth in a Christian community.
- Participants are expected to respect the facilities being used.
- Dress must be in accord with the activity and appropriate for a Christian environment. All youth should dress modestly. All clothing should be free of vulgar or drug related messages. Shirts and shorts should be an appropriate length; no crop tops, visible undergarments, or shorts shorter than mid-thigh.
- For the safety of students, students should not wear flip flops to class.
- Cell phones, tablets, and any other electronic equipment should be placed on silent for Faith Formation Class and not used by students during class. Students will be asked to turn in their cell phones at the beginning of class and will receive them back at the end.

Unacceptable behavior and lack of cooperation will not be tolerated and will be addressed appropriately. Examples of unacceptable behavior are as follows, though not limited to:

- Disrespect for adults and peers.
- Use of vulgar language, gestures and use of racial slurs

- Damaging of property
- Fighting or intent to injure others.
- Possession of weapons, alcohol or drugs.
- No Bullying. No child or youth has the right to treat another in any manner that will cause physical or emotional pain. Therefore, harassment of any kind is viewed as unchristian and therefore unacceptable.

Each child that is being registered into the 2023/2024 Faith Formation Program is required to read and to understand the Code of Conduct.

CONFIRMATION YEAR 1

Preparation during the 7th grade is foundational and essential. Great efforts are made to create an atmosphere of acceptance and community in order to encourage the candidates to explore their relationship with Christ in the context of the church community. Candidates are encouraged to ask questions, strengthen their prayer lives, engage in service to others and seek a deeper union with Christ.

ATTENDANCE

The sacramental preparation is an ungraded structure and readiness is determined to a great extent by participation and attendance. A student should not miss more than 4 classes* during the Confirmation Preparations. Make-up work is required and signed by a parent for any class which is missed.

*If a candidate misses more than 4 Faith Formation sessions each year, then we may suggest that the candidate consider waiting until he or she can maintain consistent attendance for the sake of sufficient preparation. Conversation with Family Llfe Coordinator and/or Pastor will take place to help with discernment.

Formation for the celebration of Confirmation involves the cooperative efforts of parents (the primary educators), pastors, catechists, and young adults. It is a time for a young adolescent to become a mature, practicing Catholic, characterized by the willingness to personally follow Christ and actively participate in the vital mission of His Church. Immediate catechesis for the sacrament of Confirmation is a robust formation on what it means to be an authentic disciple of Christ. The confirmation student should be able to rationally express and zealously defend the truths of Catholic doctrine.

ATTENDANCE/MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

For every missed session, candidates will read one chapter of the Gospel of Matthew of their choice and write a paragraph reflecting on what they found meaningful.

CALENDAR - CONFIRMATION YEAR 1 ONLY



CONFIRMATION YEAR 2

The following information pertains to those in Confirmation Year 2 only. ROLE OF THE CANDIDATE

- Attend all sessions by arranging work and school schedules so that they can keep Sunday evenings clear.
- Come to sessions with an open mind and heart, asking questions and seeking understanding of answers presented.
- Complete all homework as assigned and turn in as scheduled.
- Participate in service projects
- Be able to explain their faith: Talk about faith in their own words and why they wish to live as Catholic Christians
- Attend the Confirmation Retreat
- Participate in parish life: Attending Mass on a regular basis and being involved in parish activities.

IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

The stage of immediate preparation for Confirmation includes the following, which the candidate is expected to perform:

- Attend all sessions being held for Confirmation preparation. This includes any parish activities that are part of the confirmation program and the retreat. All absences should be reported to the Family Life Coordinator's office by calling 904-330-0153 or via email: flc@nocateecatholic.com. Excessive absenteeism may result in the candidate not being properly prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and may delay the preparation process.
- Attend weekly Mass.
- Participate regularly in the life of the Church by attending Sunday and Holy Day Mass, receiving the Sacraments, including Reconciliation, and actively giving service to others.
- Complete and return all forms by the required date to be properly prepared and presented for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation at this time. The required forms can be turned into the group leader on or before the due date:
 - Copy of child's baptism certificate
 - Saint Report
 - ✤ Bishop Letter
 - Sponsor form
 - Service Hour Log

CLASS STRUCTURE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

The sacramental preparation is an ungraded structure and readiness is determined to a great extent by participation and attendance. A student should not miss more than 4 classes* during the Confirmation Preparations. Make-up work is required and signed by a parent for any class which is missed.

*If a candidate misses more than 4 Faith Formation sessions and/or are not attending Mass regularly, then we may suggest that the candidate consider waiting until he or she can maintain consistent attendance for the sake of sufficient preparation. Conversation with Family LIfe Coordinator and/or Pastor will take place to help with discernment.

Formation for the celebration of Confirmation involves the cooperative efforts of parents (the primary educators), pastors, catechists, and young adults. It is a time for a young adolescent to become a mature, practicing Catholic, characterized by the willingness to personally follow Christ and actively participate in the vital mission of His Church. Immediate catechesis for the sacrament of Confirmation is a robust formation on what it means to be an authentic disciple of Christ. The confirmation student should be able to rationally express and zealously defend the truths of Catholic doctrine.

ATTENDANCE/MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

At every class, important material from the Chosen curriculum is covered. When a candidate misses a class, it is expected that they will watch the online video of that night's lesson, and complete the "Watch It" worksheet found within the lesson of their workbook. The candidate should tear out the worksheet and make sure their name and the date completed are written at the top. The candidate should then return the worksheet to their small group leader who will mark them as complete for that missed lesson.

Information concerning how to log onto the website to view the videos will be sent via email after class begins.

REQUIRED: Candidates should not miss more than 4 in person classes. All missed lessons are due no more than 2 weeks after the missed class.

CALENDAR



2023-24

Confirmation Year Two



October

Schedule:

10/1 - Class

10/8 - Class

10/15 - No Class

10/22 - Family Class Event:

*Students and Families attend

SJPII Feast Day Celebration

after Noon Mass

10/29 - Class *Saint Report

and Sponsor Letter Due*

August

Parent Only Meeting: Sunday, 8/27 @ 6pm

September

Schedule: 9/10 - 1st Student Class 9/17 - Class ***Last page of** Handbook due 9/24 - NO Class

December

Schedule: 12/3 - Class 12/10 - Family Class Event -*Students and Families attend the Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival after Noon Mass 12/17 - Class 12/24 - NO Class 12/31 - NO Class

January Schedule: 1/7 - Class 1/14 - NO Class 1/21 - Class

1/28 - Class

11/12 - Class *Chili Cookoff 11/19 - Class 11/27 - NO Class

November

Schedule:

11/5 - Class

February

Schedule: 2/4 - Class 2/10 - *Saturday: Tentative RETREAT Day 2/11 - NO Class 2/18 - NO Class 2/25 - Class

March

Schedule: 3/3 - Class 3/10 - NO Class 3/17 - NO Class 3/24 - Class ***Bishop's** Letter due 3/31 - NO Class (Easter) April Schedule: 4/7 - NO Class 4/14 - Class ***Service Hrs Due** 4/21 - Class 4/28 - Last Class & Awards Ceremony

May

Confirmation Mass Rehearsal: Date/Time TBD

Confirmation Mass: Date/Time TBD



INFORMATION FOR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

The Role of a Confirmation Sponsor

A sponsor must be a person who knows the candidate and can help him/her on his/her spiritual journey and can share his/her own faith. This selection should be indicated at the beginning of the candidate's immediate preparation (8th grade) so that the sponsor can play an active part in the preparation process. Ideally, it should be someone who has been involved already in the candidate's spiritual formation, such as a godparent, a family member, or a member of the local parish.

Eligibility of a Confirmation Sponsor

- A sponsor must:
- Be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church (Canon 874.3)
- Good standing includes being in a marital state that is blessed by the Church
- Be at least 16 years old (Canon 874.2)
- Belong to the Catholic Church and have been fully initiated (have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) (Canon 874.3)
- Not be the biological parent of the candidate (Canon 874.5)
- Not be prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor

Suggestions for Sponsors

- Be a good Catholic role model. The primary job of a sponsor is to show a candidate how to live the faith as an adult. This includes going to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day, going to Confession regularly, and praying daily. But it also means bringing your faith into the ordinary situations in daily living: being a model of forgiveness, compassion, and personal sacrifice. If you are not growing in holiness yourself, you will not be able to help your candidate grow in holiness.
- Offer prayer support. Remember to pray for your candidate every day for the rest of your life. It can be as simple as offering a Hail Mary every morning or as complex as creating your own prayer routine. Remember your candidate in your Mass intention each Sunday and Holy Day. And let him/her know that you are praying for him/her.
- Show visible spiritual support. Make it a point to ask your candidate about his/her prayer life on a regular basis. Is he/she

getting to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day? If not, how can you help (take him/her yourself, talk to his/her parents about going as a family, etc)? Is he/she getting to Confession regularly? If not, how can you help?

 Mark the Confirmation Anniversary. Remember the date that your candidate is confirmed and celebrate it each year. Send a card, make a phone call, or go out to dinner. Do something to remind your candidate (and yourself) that this is a major event in both of your lives.

If the sponsor is not a member of SJPII, they will need to provide a completed "Confirmation Sponsor Form" or a letter from the sponsor's home parish acknowledging they are a practicing Catholic in good standing. (FORM FOLLOWS)

If the sponsor is a parishioner of SJPII, complete sections 1 and 2 completely. In section 3, only fill in the first line "Parish Name" with SJPII and we will verify the status in the office.

It is expected that you and your sponsor will have regular communication throughout the year as you prepare for Confirmation.

REQUIRED: SPONSOR LETTER DUE OCTOBER 29TH



Diocese of St. Augustine Sponsor/Godparent Eligibility Form

Person Receiving Sacrament	Full Name of Candidate		for Baptism	\Box Confirmation
	Parish Name			
	Parish Mailing Address			
	City, State, Zip		_ Phone ()	
	Date Sacrament(s) to be Administered:	Baptism	Confirmation	

From the Code of Canon Law: Sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and/or Confirmation must be Catholics who have been confirmed and have received the Sacrament of Eucharist. They must be free from canonical penalty and must lead a life in harmony with the faith in keeping with the function to be undertaken. (Canons # 874 & 893)

Sponsor Information	Full Name
Sponsor's Parish	Parish Name

Date

DUE: OCTOBER 29, 2023

SELECTING A CONFIRMATION SAINT

Each Confirmation candidate chooses a saint as a patron and is confirmed under that patron saint's name. The name is a symbol of your full initiation into the Church and her mission. When you are presented to the bishop at the Confirmation, he will call you by the name that you have chosen and mark you with the sign of the cross.

A patron saint is someone already in heaven with whom we feel a connection, want to imitate, and from whom we request intercession throughout life.

The tradition of taking on a new name reflects a new role in life. This is evident throughout the Scriptures, e.g. "Abram" was changed to "Abraham" which means "Father of Many Nations," and Simon was changed to "Peter" which means "Rock" because Jesus founded His Church upon him as the first pope.

When you choose a new name for your Confirmation, it should be the name of a saint you have read and learned about, admire, and want to imitate. You should not choose a Saint because you like his/her name. You should choose a saint that you want to be like. In choosing a saint name, spend some time and research a saint that you would like to model your own life after. Tell us about why you chose this saint and hand this form along with an essay report to the parish office or at confirmation class by the November class meeting.

Practical Guidelines in Selecting a Saint

- You should be familiar with this saint's life. It is to be hoped that you see similarities between you and this saint and/or want to aspire to be like this saint.
- The saint you select should be someone you look up to as a hero.
- You should develop a personal devotion to this saint and build a relationship with him/her through constant prayer.
- You should try to learn about a lot of saints. That way you will make a better decision choosing your patron saint. Moreover, the more saints you are familiar with the easier it becomes for you to request their intercession (even from the ones that are not your special Confirmation patron); the saints are always eager and happy to help us.

HELPFUL SAINT WEBSITES:

https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/

https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/saints

SAINT PROJECT GUIDELINES

Students are encouraged to choose a Saint who will draw them closer to Christ and serve as a role model of faith. Create a project using a tri-fold board on the Saint you have chosen as your Patron Saint for Confirmation.

The Saint Project should include the following information:

- Saint Name (title)
- Picture of your Saint
- Feast Day/Memorial Day of Saint
- Describe the life of your saint.
- What were his/her special virtues, qualities, or deeds that made for a holy life?
- Why have you chosen this Saint?
- Why are they a good role model to follow

REQUIRED: SAINT PROJECT TRIFOLD DUE OCTOBER 29th

LETTER TO THE BISHOP

It is essential that each candidate express his or her desire to be confirmed in writing to the Bishop. In the letter you share who you are and a little about yourself, why you wish to be confirmed, as well as who your confirmation saint is and why you chose that saint. Before the celebration of Confirmation, <u>the Bishop is required by Canon</u> Law to know that candidates have been properly prepared. He should also know that each candidate has a desire for, and knowledge of, the sacrament.

To help the Bishop meet his responsibilities, each Confirmation candidate must write a personal letter to the Bishop requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. The purpose of this letter is to introduce yourself to the Bishop and to explain your Confirmation preparation experience as well as to assure him that you are asking for the sacrament freely. All of the letters are mailed together from the Parish to the confirming Bishop prior to the Confirmation ceremony; for this reason, **late letters will not be accepted**. **The Bishop personally reads each letter he is sent and often refers to them during the Confirmation ceremony**.

The questions below should help you reflect on some of the things you may want to include in your letter to the Bishop. Answer the questions below, and

then write a first draft of your letter requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation. Then, after leaving it sit and praying on it for some time, write your final draft.

- Your letter should be about one page in length using 1-inch margins and a business-style 12- point font. Single space the paragraphs of the letter please.
- **The letter MUST be TYPED**. It must be your own work and signed by you.

Dear Bishop Pohlmeier,

- In what ways has the preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation helped you?
- How does the Catholic Church understand the Eucharist? What does the Eucharist mean to you personally?
- What will you do for the Church for the society as a confirmed Catholic?
- What is your basic prayer life? Tell me about your prayer life as an individual and as part of a family.
- Explain the definition of stewardship and how Confirmation calls you to be a steward for others.
- Is there a particular Saint you have come to know about and learn about? If so, who is it? What qualities of the Saint do you hope to imitate in your life after Confirmation?

REQUIRED: LETTER TO THE BISHOP DUE MARCH 24TH

The letters can be turned into their group leaders starting March 3rd.

SERVICE HOUR REQUIREMENT

Service projects are a way for you to use your gifts, talents and abilities to help others. To be a true service project neither you nor anyone in your immediate family can benefit, either directly or indirectly, from your service. The goal is to look beyond yourself and beyond those nearest to you and give of yourself to help someone else.

Before making your decision and commitment to a service project

- Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance
- Talk to your parents and sponsor
- Find out the needs of people in your Church, school, neighborhood or community

*The target is 15 hours for Year One and 15 hours for Year Two.

*Suggestion: 5 hours home service, 5 school/community, 5 Church.

Suggestions for Service Projects

These suggestions are some of the ways a candidate may choose to serve. Perhaps something on this list will give you other ideas on how to use your special gifts.

- □ Visit the elderly of the parish at home or in a nursing home
- □ Assist the elderly or a needy family with their chores (Cut grass, yard work, cooking,
- □ cleaning, shopping, etc.)
- □ Baby-sit for someone who needs help
- □ Organize or help with a recycling project
- □ Initiate a clean up campaign in the parish school or local park
- Do volunteer work in a hospital or in a hospice
- □ Write cards or letters to hospitalized children, teens or Military personnel Collect food for the poor or work in a food bank
- □ Collect, clean, and repair clothing for the poor
- □ Earn money for missions by washing cars, babysitting etc.
- □ Perform special services for the handicapped (read to the blind)
- □ Prepare meal or dessert for a family dealing with a death
- □ Collect toys for poor children (Box of Joy initiative)
- □ Make gifts or favors for those in hospital/nursing homes
- □ Bake for a bake sale
- □ Coach or assist with young children's sports activities
- □ Help with any of the SJPII festivals and parish events

Home service can include: chores, reading to a younger sibling, babysitting a sibling, visiting/playing a game with grandma, etc

Community can include: helping with Box of Joy, donating your time to a food bank, volunteering at an assisted living, etc

Church can include: altar serving, lectoring, setting up at an event, etc. *Person in charge of activity or Candidate's Parent signs for each service act.

*Any questions contact Dominic Salamida at flc@nocateecatholic.com. **REQUIRED: SERVICE HOURS DUE APRIL 14th**



St. John Paul II Service Hours

Student's Name: _____

Date	Hours	Project/Activity	Signature

*Service is a way of life for disciples of Jesus Christ. There is joy in service!

*Target is 15 hours for Year One and 15 for Year Two.

*Suggestion 5 hours home service, 5 school/community, 5 Church.

*Person in charge of activity or Candidate's Parent signs for each service act.

*Any questions contact Dominic Salamida at flc@nocateecatholic.com.

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CONFIRMATION RETREAT

You will be expected to attend a Confirmation retreat prior to receiving the sacrament. More information will be sent out closer to the retreat date.

REQUIRED: ATTEND DAY LONG RETREAT TBD

CONFIRMATION MASS

Confirmation Mass will take place on TBD. More information regarding guests will be sent out at a later time. Seating is limited.

Confirmation Mass Attire

Direct from the Diocese of St. Augustine Website:

**This dress code applies to candidates and sponsors. **

Candidates for Confirmation must be dressed in "Sunday-best" attire. The following norms apply:

1. For Young Men:

■Dress trousers (no jeans), with a shirt and tie. A coat is recommended.. Dress shoes are required.

2. For Young Women:

A dress, or a skirt and blouse, or a pantsuit, none of which may be tight fitting.

The dress or skirt must reach the knees (no miniskirts) and it must cover the back

The dress or blouse must have sleeves that cover the shoulders (spaghetti straps, etc are not sleeves)

■No low-cut tops on blouses or dresses.

Please ascertain prior to the ceremony that dress is appropriate.

Hair should be styled in such a way that the forehead is easily anointed.

CONFIRMATION HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the contents of the SJPII Confirmation Handbook 2023-24.

I agree to abide by the policies and due dates outlined in the SJPII Confirmation Handbook 2023-24. I understand that I will be notified of any changes.

Confirmandi First and Last Name: Please Print

Confirmandi Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian First and Last Name: Please Print

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

This form must be turned into the group leader by September 17th for Confirmation Year 2 students.