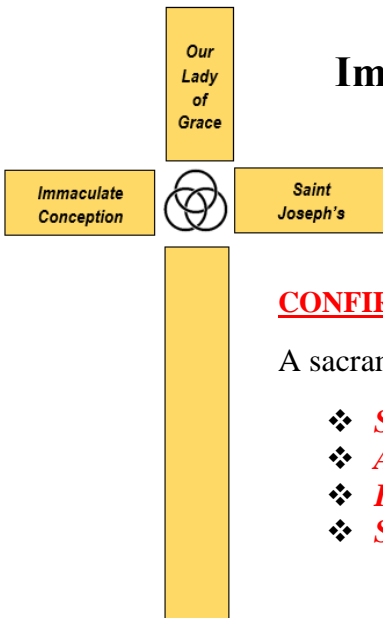


# Office of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry

## Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph's

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### CONFIRMATION IS:

A sacrament of initiation where we are

- ❖ **Sealed** by the Holy Spirit
- ❖ **Anointed** with the oil of chrism
- ❖ **Filled** with God's grace
- ❖ **Sent** forth to change the world

### Confirmation is not:

- ❖ Graduation from Faith Formation
- ❖ The end of a person's spiritual journey
- ❖ About jumping through hoops and checking off boxes
- ❖ For the perfect but for the ready and willing

### OUR CONFIRMATION PROGRAM OFFERS:

An opportunity for teens to deepen their understanding that they are uniquely created by God and called into a relationship with Jesus Christ. We hope to **ENCOURAGE, CHALLENGE,** and **ACCOMPANY** them as they journey in faith and deepen in each young person their call to active discipleship.

### Candidate Participation

Each candidate is expected to participate in all the events of preparation for Confirmation. It is the responsibility of each Candidate to clear their calendars accordingly.

**Remember that this is YOUR commitment!!**

### Large and Small Group Sessions

All sessions meet on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30pm in the Parish Center at Immaculate Conception. Please arrive PROMPTLY and come with an open mind and heart. If you are unable to attend a session, it is your responsibility to contact the Evangelization and Catechesis (E&C) Office prior to the session. Absences will be accepted only for unavoidable conflicts and make-up will be expected. Each small group session is cumulative, we prefer your attendance with your scheduled group to build community with your peers and establish a rapport with your catechist(s).

### Commitment Mass

The *Rite of Becoming a Candidate* will be celebrated at Mass on the **weekend of January 20/21, 2024**. Candidates will select the Mass of their choice to attend within our parish communities. An email with a link to make your selection will be sent out in December. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass to sign the Book of the Elect.

### Confirmation Retreat

We are still finalizing the details of our Confirmation Retreat. The date, location and time are currently TBD, yet we plan to hold it on a **weekend day in March 2023**. Additional information including the cost for the retreat will be made available as soon as possible. Diocesan guidelines state it is mandatory to complete a confirmation retreat. If a candidate is unable to attend our scheduled retreat, they will be asked to attend another confirmation retreat within the Diocese. Please inform the E&C Office as soon as possible if you have a conflict with any Saturdays in March 2023, as alternative retreats are often difficult to find.

**Please take time to read both sides of this sheet carefully. It contains important information!**

## **Called to Ministry, Called to Mission – Community Service**

Each candidate is expected to show a demonstrated commitment to community service through both Ministry (parish based) and Mission (benefiting the community) Service.

- Our Annual Morning of Service is a wonderful and *expected way* to fulfill your **Mission Service**. We highly encourage all confirmation candidates to participate. On- and off-site projects will be held on **Saturday, October 21st**. Please see the details on the Parish Website. To participate you must sign up using the online system.
- **Ministry Service** will be selected individually by each candidate, but must directly benefit our Tri-Parish Community by volunteering with an existing Parish Ministry Group at any one of the three parishes.

Candidates are asked to reflect on their service experiences and complete one service report (*provided in your folder*) for your Mission Service and one for your Ministry Service. It is recommended that you complete and turn in your service reports as you complete your service. The deadline for the reports is **Monday, April 17th**.

## **Letter to Fr. Tom**

Each candidate is asked to write a one-page letter to Fr. Tom detailing why they desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. A detailed explanation including specific instructions and letter due date are in your red folder.

## **Readiness Conversation**

Each candidate will be invited to meet one-on-one with Paula, a Confirmation catechist or Fr. Tom for a conversation designed to ensure that candidates are fully prepared to receive the Sacrament and to afford teens the opportunity to ask any questions or express any concerns they may have. The conversations will be scheduled, using an online signup, at mutually agreeable times between **Sunday, March and April 2024**.

## **Reconciliation**

Candidates are expected to renew their state of grace by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the weeks prior to Confirmation. Candidates are encouraged to attend the Parish Lenten Penance Service (date TBD). Alternatively, candidates can attend the regularly scheduled times for Reconciliation.

## **Confirmation Ceremony & Rehearsal**

Confirmation will be in **Spring 2024**, sometime after Easter. Generally, we receive a date for Confirmation (from the Bishop's Office) by early February. As soon as we receive our date candidates will be notified via email. It is very possible that the Confirmation Mass will be held on a weekday. There will be one celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation and in order to accommodate all candidates, sponsors, family and guests it will be held at **Immaculate Conception**.

A rehearsal will be scheduled as soon as we have our date for Confirmation. The rehearsal is within a few days of the ceremony. **All candidates and their sponsors (or a proxy) are required to attend.**

*If you are aware of a major school event that might be a conflict for multiple confirmation candidates in the Spring of 2024, please let our office know ASAP. We have the opportunity to block off dates that are not preferred if a large conflict is anticipated.*