

## Confirmation for Teens

Confirmation preparation is part of our tri-parish Youth Ministries program for the parishes of Our Lady of Grace, Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph's. Confirmation is celebrated in the Spring of each year, typically by teens in their junior year of high school. In accordance with Diocesan requirements, candidates for confirmation must:

- be at least 15 years old
- have completed the prior year's catechetical study
- engage in an immediate preparation program
- have a demonstrated commitment to living their baptismal call toward serving others
- complete a retreat, specifically in preparation for Confirmation

Our confirmation preparation process includes a variety of events including instructional sessions, community service, ritual and prayer experiences, sponsor and candidate gatherings, attendance and participation in liturgy, a retreat and more.

Each August, teens entering 11th grade, who were enrolled the YM program as 10th graders receive a Welcome Letter with the details of the Confirmation Preparation Program and a complete Calendar of all Confirmation Sessions for the year.

**Teens that are new to the area, have been away from formal faith formation or attend private school should contact the Youth Ministries office as soon as possible to discuss our program.**

[2023-2024 Confirmation Program Overview](#)

[2023-2024 Printable Confirmation Welcome Letter](#)

[2023-2024 Printable Confirmation Calendar](#)

**Attendance at all sessions and activities is expected  
Unless otherwise noted, all Confirmation preparation gatherings are held at Immaculate  
Conception Church.**

| Date   | Time                      | Description                                     | Location  |
|--|---------------------------|---|---|
| October 2rd  | 7 - 8:00pm                | Introductory evening for candidates and parents | Parish Hall   |
| October 16th   | 7 - 8:30pm                | Large Group Session                             | Parish Hall   |
| November 13th  | 7 - 8:30pm                | Large Group Session                             | Parish Hall   |
| December 11th  | 7 - 8:30pm                | Large Group Session                             | Parish Hall   |
| January 20 <u>or</u> 21, 2024                                    | Mass of Candidates Choice | Commitment Mass                                 | Candidates must select a Mass to attend in advance:<br>6pm at IC<br>9am at IC<br>11:00am at OLG |
| January 22, 2024   | 7 - 8:30pm                | Small Group Session                             | Parish Center Meeting Rooms   |
| February 12th  | 7 - 8:30pm                | Small Group Session                             | Parish Center Meeting Rooms   |
| February 26th  | 7 - 8:30pm                | Small Group Session                             | Parish Center Meeting Rooms   |
| Candidates must select a date in advance March 4th or March 11th | 7 - 8:30pm                | Sponsor and Candidate Evening                   | Church and Parish Hall  |
| March 18th   | 7- 8:30pm                 | Small Group Session                             |   |
| March 27th   | 7 - 8:30pm                | Small Group Session                             | Parish Center Meeting Rooms   |
| April 15th   | 7 - 8:30pm                | Small Group Session                             | Parish Center Meeting Rooms   |

**The dates and times for the below will be announced once details are finalized.**

**Safe Environment Training**

**Confirmation Retreat**

**Lenten Penance Service**

**Confirmation Rehearsal**

**Sacrament of Confirmation**

**CONFIRMATION will be celebrated in the Spring of 2024 (after Easter). We will receive a date from the Bishop's Office in late January and will share it with you as soon as we have received it.**

**Confirmation Retreat - INFORMATION will be provided to candidates and families as soon as it is finalized. As a reminder - a retreat in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is a requirement of the Diocese of Albany.**

## **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Candidates are expected to renew their state of grace by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the Confirmation Mass. We anticipate that a Lenten Penance Service will be scheduled within our communities. Candidates may also receive the Sacrament at a time of their choosing.

## **Required Paperwork and Forms**

*for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation*

Due dates are indicated after each form. Hard copies of each can be found in your candidate red folder that was distributed at our candidate/parent informational session. If you need another copy you can print each form by clicking the name. Please check back - for printable forms. They will be available after the information session in October.

## **Community Service Expectations**

*for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation*

Each candidate is expected to continue a demonstrated commitment to living as a disciple of Christ by completing community service through both Ministry and Mission. Mission Service meets the needs of those in the greater community, while Ministry Service meets the needs of our own Parishes.

There is no minimum number of hours required, rather, we ask candidates to make a commitment and fulfill that commitment. Candidates then complete and submit 2 service reports - 1 based on their Mission Service opportunity and 1 based on their Ministry Service opportunity.

**To deepen the bonds of community within our Parishes and specifically among the Confirmation candidates, it is our tradition that ALL CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES have a shared Mission Service experience that we organize/coordinate.**

**For 2023-2024, ALL CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES are encouraged to participate in our TRI-PARISH MORNING OF SERVICE** - On October 10th Candidates will need to SIGN UP using the online form (more details to follow) and select the project of their choice. Confirmation candidates are encouraged to select an off-site project.

After participating in the Morning of Service (MOS), please be sure to complete and return your Mission Service Reflection based on that experience.

IF you do not participate in the MOS, you must notify Paula and discuss an alternative mission service experience.

Ministry Service will be selected individually by each candidate, but must directly benefit one of the parishes with our three parish communities by volunteering with an existing Ministry Group. If you need suggestions, please reach out to our office and we will match you with a ministry group that fits with your strengths and interests. It is our hope that this interaction will lead to continued Ministry involvement post-Confirmation.

Candidates are asked to prayerfully reflect on their service experiences and complete one service report for your Mission Service and one for your Ministry Service. It is recommended that you complete and turn in your service reports as soon as possible after completing the service opportunity. The absolute deadline for submission of service reports is April 17th.

### **CONFIRMATION READINESS CONVERSATIONS**

One on one conversations for candidates preparing to receive the Sacrament in Spring of 2024 will be scheduled between March and April 2024. Candidates will have the option of selecting dates/times that are convenient for them.

Be prepared to discuss these questions during your conversation:

1. What does being confirmed mean to you? Why do you want to receive the Sacrament?
2. How have you grown in your faith in the past year?
3. Who is your confirmation sponsor and how do they best represent their Catholic faith identity?
4. Who is your confirmation Saint and what qualities do you hope to emulate from their lives as you continue on your faith journey?
5. How do you plan to continue to deepen your faith after Confirmation?

Candidates will also have the opportunity to ask questions that they may have.