



**ST JOSEPH'S CONFIRMATION PROGRAM**  
**2016-2017**

“...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

*Acts of the Apostles 1:8 NAB*

“By the Sacrament of Confirmation,  
those 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.”

Rite of Confirmation

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## Who is Eligible?

- “Any baptized person not yet confirmed.”  
(CIC 889.1)
- Who has “participated in yearly ongoing faith formation since his/her reception of First Eucharist to assure a continuous, systematic, age appropriate catechesis.”
- Who “must be *active* members of the Church as noted in the Precepts of the Church.”
  - ◆ “...Attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days
  - ◆ ...Confess your sins at least once a year
  - ◆ ...Receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season
  - ◆ ...Observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church
  - ◆ ...Help to provide for the needs of the Church.” (CCC 2042)
- Will be of high school age or in high school in August 2016.



## 2016-2017 St. Joseph's Confirmation Program

The following are items which comprise St. Joseph's Confirmation Program. All of these areas are intended to help you, the Confirmation candidate, make decisions which prepare you for the spiritual formation that lies ahead.

### 1. Liturgy

At the center of the Catholic Christian faith is the celebration of the Eucharist, the real presence of Christ in the bread, wine and the people who receive His body and blood. It is at Mass, at Liturgy, where we come together with all of our Catholic Christian family to celebrate as one church. "When we are at Mass, we renew our Covenant with Jesus...the New Covenant that he instituted with us at the Last Supper. It is this Covenant...this promise made by the one who loves us...that allows us to one day spend eternity with our bridegroom in Heaven. When we skip Mass on Sunday, we are violating our covenant with God. We are saying to God, 'I don't need to be united to you. I don't need to worship you.' It may seem innocent, but we are actually *declining* His marriage proposal. We are not showing up for our own wedding. It is actually a grave sin if we miss Mass with intent to distance ourselves from God." It is very important that you are at Mass every Sunday. You are missed when you are not there.

It is also fitting for the people of our parish community to know you better, celebrate and walk with you on your journey toward being a full member. The best way to include others as well as to make your journey special is to celebrate and participate in Mass ministries as often as possible and share important stages of your preparation with the St. Joseph's Parish Family.

### 2. Confirmation Sessions

**Confirmation Sessions** focus primarily on faith and religious formation. We will gather once a month as community for prayer and praise. Guest speakers or catechists will present the teaching for each session on various topics. There may be small group breakout sessions for discussions or activities, and we will close with prayer. Each gathering will begin with 11:00 am Mass and will end by 2:00 pm.

## 2. Confirmation Sessions (*continued*)

At any session either the Confirmation Sponsor or parent(s) may attend with their Candidate if they have completed **Safe & Sacred™** online training “Protecting God’s Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” through the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. There will be opportunities to go deeper and grow as a parish community together. In this way, the whole community is being catechized and we are sharing our stories.

A calendar is in the Registration Packet with dates and times of all scheduled meeting times and events. This may be subject to change. It is necessary that each Candidate participates and attends each and every session. We cannot expect young people to have a real understanding of the sacraments based solely on a few classes in their formation year. In addition to helping them understand the *teachings* of our faith, the goal is to help them form a real *relationship* with our Lord that will last throughout their lives. Consistent participation in the parish religious education (Life Teen) program will help support the efforts being made at home, as well as creating a community of peers that share the same values.

### **Absences**

Candidates are expected to attend **ALL Confirmation Sessions**. Aware that unexpected illnesses and absences will occur, make up reflections will be provided to be completed and submitted to assure exposure and understanding of the topic. Absences may affect a candidate’s ability to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. If more than three sessions are missed, make-up work and commitment will need to be discussed with a catechist and youth minister to determine continuation. Failure to make up session assignments will be a reason for a candidate to return for formation with our next confirmation class (2018-19).

## 3. Family Formation

As we all know, parents are the primary Catechists for their children’s faith formation. It is important to remind ourselves of the promise made at your children’s baptism – to be diligent about your efforts to educate them in the ways of our

### 3. Family Formation (*continued*)

Catholic faith, until they are adults and responsible for their own faith growth.

With this in mind, we ask that as a family and/or as a Candidate/Sponsor team you take time weekly to read the Sunday readings and discuss them as they apply to your daily walk with Christ. This will give you an opportunity to connect spiritually throughout the year along with personal time scheduled together.

Journaling on your family discussions, your confirmation journey, and/or questions you have are excellent ways to enter into a conversation with God and can be a powerful and transformational form of prayer.

### 4. Stewardship

Stewardship is acknowledging God as Creator and Giver of all. Stewardship involves responsible management of our

God-given resources of time, talent, and treasure. Stewards as disciples of Jesus Christ see themselves as caretakers of all God's gifts. Prayer, worship, offering and action, eagerly sharing our gifts out of love for God and one another is a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent, and treasure we have each received.

Stewardship is a path to holiness. It makes us more like Christ who came not to be served, but to serve. It is a grateful awareness that all we have and all we are comes freely from God. When we offer our lives back to God in love, He blesses that generosity a hundredfold.

Candidates are expected to accept their share of the responsibility to serve others in Christ. All confirmation candidates are asked to participate in **at least four (4) stewardship (service / outreach) events**. The candidate will need to complete an event where you have served each of the following:

1. your family,
2. your parish family, AND
3. your community, local or worldwide.

#### 4. Stewardship *(continued)*

At least one of the events should be:

- a service **with your family members working together.**
- a liturgical ministry. At least one of the events
- should include serving someone in need face-to-face. This can be helping our St. Vincent de Paul food distribution in the parish, working at a soup kitchen, visiting the homebound or nursing home resident or working on a mission trip, for example.

Service and outreach opportunities will be available at various times throughout the year in order for you to serve in a variety of situations and organizations. Service and outreach opportunities organized by other service groups may be considered confirmation service events. You may also create your own service opportunities.

Parents and sponsors are encouraged to work with their teen to complete service and outreach opportunities. Without parents' support the projects will be impossible to facilitate and complete. If you know of any community projects that need assistance, please contact the youth minister so we may provide additional opportunities or participate as a group.

You will need to complete a stewardship reflection form and submit it to the youth minister within two weeks of your service to others.

#### 5. Retreats

Retreats are such an important part of the Confirmation process; they are even important in life. How many times do we look forward to a vacation from school or from our everyday lives? Some time just about anywhere to “get away” and recharge our batteries. Retreats are intended to do the same. They give people the chance to “get away” from things that prevent them from focusing on our Lord. Retreats allow candidates to go away, to have fun, relax, but more importantly, to recharge the spiritual battery and experience



## 5. Retreats (*continued*)

the Mass and their faith beyond here at St. Joseph's. When you return from retreat, you can be guaranteed that your life will be changed.

Candidates will need to attend:

1. **The St. Joseph's Confirmation retreat AND**
2. **an additional retreat outside the parish.**

The St. Joseph's Confirmation retreat will be March 2017, all day Saturday and Sunday. If you are unable to attend our weekend retreat, it will be your responsibility to attend an approved retreat or locate a parish that will take you on their confirmation retreat and receive a letter signed by their Confirmation Coordinator that you attended their retreat.

Additional retreats outside the parish give the candidate the opportunity to experience the Catholic Church on a larger scale. We are a universal church and we are able to experience our faith with others in the area what we have in common. There are retreats within the deanery and the diocese in which we participate as a parish that you may attend. You may have family or friends that attend a different parish and you may be able to attend a retreat that they provide. The retreat must have a Catholic focus and attended between now and April 30, 2017.

## 6. Sponsors

Sponsors are people who you can rely on during your faith journey. They should be people with a deep commitment to the Catholic faith and who are active, confirmed members of their parish. They should be willing to listen to you, help you answer questions, and be willing to share their faith and example with you. Sponsors are expected to maintain regular contact with their candidate to not only pray, but to socialize and develop a stronger relationship. An ideal sponsor could be a Godparent, a close family friend or a catechist. They must be 16 years of age and they cannot be a parent of the confirmation candidate.

Confirmation Sponsors are invited to attend any **Confirmation Session** if they have completed **Safe & Sacred™** online

## 6. Sponsors *(continued)*

training “Protecting God’s Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” through the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. They will be invited to our Sponsors Luncheon, Sunday during our retreat and take part in the retreat with their Candidate. This will give you and your sponsor an opportunity to continue to share your faith before receiving the sacrament.

Please take time to discern your Sponsor and have them complete the Sponsor Information Form in this Registration Packet. You should choose your sponsor with enough time to turn in this form **by October 9, 2016**.

## 7. Saint

Choosing a saint name is an essential part of Confirmation and it is an acknowledgement that the Holy Spirit will change you through the grace of this Sacrament. We see in Scripture that Jesus changed the name of some of his disciples to signify that their role had been changed and that they were becoming, in a sense, a new person. When choosing a saint, you should choose someone who exemplifies a quality that you wish to have, somebody whose life you want to emulate, or somebody you have something in common with. You should also be asking for the prayers and intercession of the saint that you choose. There are thousands of saints that are acknowledged for a wide variety of reasons.

You will need to report on the saint you choose, so you will want to begin looking through lists of saints in books or on the internet, to choose someone who you can relate to and ask to start praying for you.



## 8. St. Joseph's LIFE TEEN

Confirmation candidates will need to participate in 75% of St. Joseph's LIFE TEEN activities (LIFE Nights, Cuppa Joe, Youth Mass, service, socials, etc.) Consistent participation in the parish religious education program will help support the efforts being made at home and the formation process, as well as creating a community of peers that share the same values. We cannot expect young people to have a real understanding of the sacraments based solely on a few classes in their sacramental year. In addition to helping teens understand the *teachings* of our faith, the goal is to help them form a real *relationship* with our Lord that will last throughout their lives.

**St. Joseph's LIFE TEEN** is religious education for all high school teens. We will meet on most Sunday evenings through the year. We gather to discuss topics that affect teens, and what our Church teaches in regards to the topic, what Sunday readings mean to us and other topics. We want to learn who we are as Church and how we can show and tell others about our Faith. And we want to do that in a comfortable, non-threatening environment, with our peers.

Your journey in faith during the high school years will not be easy and LIFE TEEN will help give you a more complete experience. Confirmation sessions focus primarily on faith and religious formation. Our LIFE Nights are designed to create a place where teens can support each other and grow in faith and friendship while learning how to apply Catholic values and beliefs into your daily life. St. Joseph's LIFE TEEN, along with the Carmel Deanery, sponsor several social activities so you can meet others whose faith is important to them.

## Parent Involvement

There is absolutely no reason parents should not be involved in the Confirmation Program in some way. This program relies on the **volunteers** to make it possible. With that in mind, we ask that you consider where your talents and time can be used to make our confirmation program the best! Each Parent Team will be known by their Patron Saint and we hope it will help you on your *confirmation* to sainthood.

- **St. Charles Borromeo Team-** St. Charles Borromeo is the Patron Saint of Catechists. We are always looking for parents to help facilitate group discussions that take place during the *Confirmation Sessions*. The commitment will involve meeting with the Confirmation Coordinator, Small Group Facilitation on *Confirmation Sessions*, Coordinating a Service Projects. **\*\*Safe & Sacred™** online training “Protecting God’s Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” through the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana is mandatory for this ministry.
- **St. Joseph Team-** St. Joseph is the Patron Saint of Parents. We are looking for parents who will assist the Catechists with the annual Service Projects. **\*\*Safe & Sacred™** online training “Protecting God’s Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” through the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana is mandatory for this ministry.
- **St. Peter Team-** St. Peter is known as the Gatekeeper. We are looking for parents to help prepare supplies for our retreat prior to sessions. This will require you to contact/meet with the coordinator prior to the *Confirmation Sessions* to gather the list and the supplies for the upcoming sessions.
- **St. Martha Team-** St. Martha is the Patron Saint of Cooks. We are looking for parents who are willing to coordinate or provide snacks for the *Confirmation Sessions* as well as our Retreat dinners. This could be as little as a one time commitment if we get enough parents to help.
- **Guardian Angels-** Guardian Angels are our Prayer Warriors. This is a group of parents that will gather to pray for the teens of our parish.

## **NOTES**

# 2016-2017 St. Joseph Confirmation Program

## Overview

### Our Program Requirements are:

- Attend ALL Confirmation Sessions, or complete make-up assignment.
- Participate in four (4) stewardship events and report on the service and spiritual affect of service.
- Participate in the St. Joseph Confirmation retreat AND a retreat outside the parish. Participation in retreats completed between now and April 30, 2017 is acceptable.
- Participate in Sunday Liturgies each week and holy days of obligation.
- Participate in LIFE Nights and Youth activities throughout the year.
- Complete a total of one hour of Adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament or attend an Adoration Retreat

### You will need to:

- Choose a sponsor who is an active Catholic and fully initiated into the Catholic Church.
- Choose a Saint who you would model your life after and report on his or her life.
- Discuss your faith journey, past, present, as well as future plans to peers in a witness situation or with your youth minister/catechist