



Confirmation

Saturday, February 12, 2022

5 p.m. Mass

St. John the Evangelist Church

West Chester, Ohio

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Confirmation Celebration

Saturday, February 12, 2022

5 p.m. Mass

St. John the Evangelist Church

West Chester, Ohio

Volunteer Roles

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We have a job for YOU! (Parishioners, parents, grandparents, older siblings, etc.) We need multiple volunteers to make this preparation happen. Please prayerfully consider helping.

Retreat Small Group Leader - Assist by leading discussions with your small group of 8-10 on either day of the Confirmation retreats. **Dates:** Sat, Oct. 23 and Sat, Feb. 5

Mentor - In charge of assisting a catechist at each Confirmation session. Will be in charge of helping to lead discussion, prayer, and any other activities.

Catechist (and Catechist substitute)- You will be teaching a lesson to the youth during Confirmation prep. You will only need be responsible for 1 lesson throughout the entire duration of sessions.

Please Note: Because of the nature of our process, we are seeking people for Mentors & Catechists who will commit to being here for EVERY meeting.

Communication

To keep in contact with students and parents on Confirmation updates and reminders, I will be using the app GroupMe. I will also be sending a weekly email. Please download the free app GroupMe and use the QR code to be added to the Confirmation 2022 GroupMe chat.

Joe Neidhard
Youth Minister
St. John the Evangelist
513-777-6433 ext. 114
jneidhard@stjohnwc.org



3 **Confirmation Preparation Schedule**

Aug. 29 - Parent Info Meeting

- ◆ 12:30 - 2 pm in Favret Hall

Sept. 26 - Registration Deadline

All Events Below are Mandatory

Confirmation Preparation Sessions

Oct. 10 Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Center

Oct. 17 Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Center

Oct. 23 - Conf. Retreat Pt. 1

- ◆ 1 pm - 5 pm in the Parish Center
- ◆ Enrollment ritual to follow at 5 pm Mass

Nov. 7 Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Center

Nov. 14 Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Center

Dec. 5 Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Center

Dec. 12 Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Center

Jan. 9 Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Center

Jan. 16 Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Center

Jan. 30 - Conf. Rehearsal

- ◆ 4:30 - 6 pm in the Chapel

Feb. 5 - Conf. Retreat Pt. 2

- ◆ 1 pm - 5:00 pm in the Parish Center

Saturday, February 12 — Confirmation

Arrive at chapel by 4:30 pm

Mass begins at 5 pm

Mystagogy Mar. 6

4:30 - 6:30 pm in the Parish Center

Confirmation Checklist ✓

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Pre-Confirmation Session Checklist

Parent Info Meeting

- ◆ **Date:** Aug. 29 - 12:30 - 2 pm in Favret Hall

Registration Due Date Sept. 26

Registration Includes: Baptismal Certificate,
Registration Form, Medical Release Form,
& Payment

Confirmation Student Checklist

**All forms, worksheets, and guidelines can be found
either in this Handbook or on the St. John Parish
Website.**

Select A Sponsor—Fill out form

- ◆ Due Date: **Oct. 17**

Choose Confirmation Name—Fill out form

- ◆ Due Date: **Jan. 9**

Parish/Community Service

- ◆ Due Date: **Jan. 30**

Confirmation Interview and Letter of Intent to Father Don

- ◆ **(must sign up online by November 7)**

Three St. John Youth Ministry Events Outside Confirmation Prep Sessions.

- ◆ Due Date: **February 12**

Attendance Policy

- Each of the preparation sessions are mandatory and must be attended. If you are going to miss a session, make sure you e-mail Joe at jneidhard@stjohnwc.org ahead of time!
- There will be mandatory make-up work for those who miss a session. The make-up work is much more time-intensive and requires outside research so it is best to make all sessions.
- If you know that you will miss more than two sessions due to conflicts, please contact Joe immediately through e-mail or 513-777-6433 ext. 114 to discuss your options.

Weather Policy

If inclement weather forces the cancellation of a meeting or retreat, an e-mail and GroupMe message will be sent out to all participants and parents. Refer to page 2 in order to receive instructions for GroupMe.



St. John Youth Ministry Events Requirement

All Confirmation students are required to attend **three** High School Youth Ministry events outside of the regular Confirmation Prep Sessions. Each student will need to sign in with Joe Neidhard. This practice will be an example of full and active participation within the Catholic Church which will prepare the student to join the St. John Community. Check website for events.

- ♦ **Due Date: February 12**

What Is A Candidate And A Sponsor?

The *candidate* is the person discerning, or preparing for, Confirmation. The *sponsor* is the person chosen by the candidate as a representative of the Catholic Church community to support the candidate on their journey.

Each candidate must choose a sponsor who will help them prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. You need the support and presence of your sponsor—so when choosing, keep in mind that the sponsor must take an active part in the process. Please carefully read the following descriptions of the requirements, role, and participation of the sponsor.

Requirements for Your Sponsor

- Should be at least 16 years old
- *Must* be a Confirmed Catholic
- *Must* have already received the Sacrament of Eucharist
- *Must* lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role of sponsor (good practicing Catholic)
- May NOT be the parent of the candidate!
(other relatives okay)
 - *Does *not* have to be the same sex as the candidate.
 - *Does *not* have to be the Baptismal sponsor

The Role of the Sponsor is:

- To journey with the Confirmation candidate through the discernment and preparation process
- To present the candidate to the bishop for anointing
- To support the newly Confirmed young adult as they continue on their faith journey
- Assists with the service experiences if possible
- Participates in rehearsal
- Participates in the Confirmation celebration liturgy

Sponsor Night

We ask that all sponsors attend the final confirmation meeting with their candidates Jan. 16 at the Parish Center. We can make accommodations for out-of-town sponsors to Zoom into this meeting, otherwise make-up work will be assigned.

Our Confirmation Process

Why High School Preparation ?

High School preparation for Confirmation is a long-time tradition at St. John. We prepare during the high school years because we believe that young people in grades 9-12 are better able to understand the process, to participate more fully in the process, and to make an informed choice about receiving the sacrament.

Registration - Registration forms are now available online! Please visit www.stjohnwc.org/confirmation to register. Paper Registration forms are available in the Parish/Church office.

Baptismal Certificate - If the candidate was **not** baptized at St. John, or if they **did not** receive First Eucharist here, we **must** have a copy of the baptismal certificate. If you don't have the certificate, please get us a copy by **Oct. 10** The church where they were baptized can mail or fax the information to St. John. (Fax to 513-777-9741.)

Medical Release form - We will keep the form on file until September 2022. You only have to fill it out once, and it covers all on-site youth ministry activities until then.

Fee - The program fee is \$25.00. It covers materials and supplies. You can pay with cash or check. Checks should be made payable to St. John Church. If this fee is a hardship for you, please contact the Youth Ministry office. No one will be denied the opportunity to participate because of their inability to pay.

Which Small Group Am I In?

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Please note that you can give us **two names of people** you'd like to be with in a small group during preparation. We will make sure that you're with at least **one** of these people. If you register late, the groups may be full, and you will not get your choice in group.

Discernment & Preparation

This is a process of discernment and preparation because during this time, the candidates are encouraged to consider everything they've learned and are still learning about themselves and their faith. Then, they decide for themselves if they want to be confirmed at this time. **It is the parents' responsibility to make sure that their child receives faith formation and preparation for sacraments. However, it is the candidate's decision to be confirmed or not confirmed.** When the preparation process is nearing completion, each Candidate will have an opportunity to give us their decision.

Confirmation Enrollment Ritual

On October 23, after the Confirmation Retreat at the 5:00 p.m. Mass, we will call forward all the Confirmation candidates for a special blessing as they begin their discernment and preparation. This lets the parish have the opportunity to witness the beginning of the process and to pray for the candidates. All are invited and encouraged to attend this Mass in support of the Confirmation candidates.

⁹ **Choosing Your Confirmation Name**

Long ago, when Baptism and Confirmation were celebrated together, a new name was chosen to indicate that this person was no longer the same person he/she was before, but that they had assumed a new Christian lifestyle. Except for the RCIA process (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, where we bring people into the Catholic Church) we no longer celebrate Baptism and Confirmation together. Instead, we celebrate Confirmation as a continuation and finalization of the initiation process.

In order to show unity in the initiation process, the Church encourages us to use our Baptismal name for Confirmation. However, you may choose to use a "Confirmation Name" instead. This name should be:

- A Christian name that holds special meaning for you
- The name of a saint or a good Christian role model

The bishop or his representative will speak your name as he anoints your head with the Chrism at the Confirmation Mass.

You need to have your Confirmation name chosen and the respective form filled out and turned into Joe Neidhard by Nov. 14

Interviews

This year, Fr. Don has agreed to interview all the candidates for the Confirmation program. Interviews will be done throughout the Confirmation program. **The Confirmation Interview is a mandatory part of the Confirmation Process.** Candidates will sign up online for an interview with Fr. Don. Interviews will take 15 minutes. Each candidate will also need to bring a handwritten letter to Fr. Don stating their intent to be Confirmed. More information on the letter including a template can be found on the Confirmation website.



Parish & Community Service

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At St. John, we want all candidates to have participated in **two** service events. These two service events can be done with our parish or another agency. We **do not** require a specific number of hours.

We encourage students to participate in the liturgy at St. John. The list below will count as an experience of service. You are encouraged to assist with the Mass in one of these ways:

- Altar Server
- Lector
- Eucharistic Minister
- Mass Choir (contact Lynn at Lmeisberger@stjohnwc.org)

Contact Scott at ssteinke@stjohnwc.org to coordinate your ministry assistance in serving, lecturing, and eucharistic ministering.

If the candidate is already serving as an Altar Attendant, Eucharistic Minister, or in some other position frequently, they only need to do one other experience of service. After completing service events, candidates must fill out a questionnaire describing service performed as well as how the service impacted them. This form can be found on the St. John Confirmation web page.

Examples of Service:

Nursery Worker (at church); Soup Kitchen; Our Daily Bread; Share-A-Lunch; Reach Out Lakota; Project Restore; Scouting Service Projects; Catechist Aide (PSR, etc.); Catholic H.S. Service; Matthew 25 Ministries; Hands Against Hunger.

St. John Youth Ministry will provide many service opportunities (at least one per month) that you are invited to attend. The service events will count for either the service requirement **OR** the required youth ministry events **but not both**.

NOTE: Doing household chores or being paid for work is not service!



**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

St. John the Evangelist Church
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<http://www.stjohnwc.org/youth-ministry.html>

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