



# **Confirmation**

Saturday, April 20, 2024

5 pm Mass

St. John the Evangelist Church

West Chester, Ohio

Tri-County Catholics

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## **Confirmation Celebration**

Tuesday, April 20, 2024

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.

**Mentor** - In charge of assisting a catechist at small-group Confirmation sessions. 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, but you will present it to five different groups of candidates.

**Please Note: Because of the nature of our process, we are seeking people for Mentors & Catechists who will commit to being here for EVERY small-group meeting and most large-groups.**

## Communication

We will communicate primarily through e-mail for most confirmation information. There will also be periodic updates on our youth ministry Instagram page (@stjohnwc\_youth). You can follow our Instagram at the QR code below.

**Joe Neidhard**

*Youth Minister*

*St. John the Evangelist | Tri-County Catholics*

*513-777-6433 ext. 114*

*jneidhard@stjohnwc.org*



### 3 **Confirmation Preparation Schedule**

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**Aug. 27 - Parent Info Meeting**

- ◆ 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Favret Hall

**Sep. 24 - Registration Deadline**

**All Events Below are Mandatory**

**Confirmation Preparation Sessions**

**Oct. 8** Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Favret Hall

**Oct. 15** Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Favret Hall

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

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

**Dec. 3** Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Center

**Dec. 10** Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Favret Hall

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

**Jan. 14** Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Favret Hall

**Feb. 4** Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Center

**Mar. 3** Conf. Session, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, Favret Hall

**Apr. 6 - Confirmation Retreat**

- ◆ 1 pm - 6:00 pm at the **Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford**
- ◆ 5361 S. Milford Rd, Milford, OH 45150
- ◆ No meals provided, please eat ahead of the retreat.
- ◆ Concludes with Mass at JSC.

**Apr. 14 - Conf. Rehearsal**

- ◆ 12:30 - 1:30 pm in the Church

**Saturday, April 20 — Confirmation**

Arrive at chapel by 4:15 pm

Mass begins at 5 pm

## Confirmation Checklist ✓

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### Pre-Confirmation Session Checklist

**Parent Info Meeting**

- ◆ **Date:** Aug. 27 - 12:30 - 1:30 pm in Favret Hall

**Registration Due Date Sept. 24**

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. 15**

Choose Confirmation Name—Fill out form

- ◆ Due Date: **Feb. 4**

Parish/Community Service

- ◆ Due Date: **Apr. 14**

Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

- ◆ Due Date: **Apr. 20**

Three Tri-County Catholics Youth Ministry Events  
Outside Confirmation Prep Sessions.

- ◆ Due Date: **Apr. 20**

## 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 will be sent out to all participants and parents.



## Tri-County Catholics 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 that church's respective youth minister. This practice will be an example of full and active participation within the Catholic Church which will prepare the student to join the Tri-County Catholics Community. Check the TCC website for events.

- ♦ **Due Date: April 20**

## 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 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 March 3 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, and to make an informed choice about receiving the sacrament.

**Registration** - Registration forms are available online! Please visit [www.stjohnwc.org/confirmation](http://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. 8** 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 2024. 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, check, or online through WeShare. 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?** - 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.

**Why do I need to receive Reconciliation?** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation (or Confession, or Penance) is a deeply important and often misunderstood part of our Catholic faith. Reconciliation is less about admitting fault and more about healing your relationship with God. We are encouraged to go to confession ahead of most sacraments, including Confirmation. You can go to confession at any point with any priest at any parish before Confirmation mass on April 20, including the day of. At no point will you need to show anyone proof that you have gone.

**What is Tri-County Catholics?** - The last year, St. John West Chester has been paired with St. Michael Sharonville and St. Gabriel Glendale to create a new family of parishes as part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's Beacon's of Light program. Tri-County Catholics is the name we have chosen to represent our family.

## <sup>9</sup> **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 Feb. 4**

## **Letter of Intent**

We ask all candidates to hand write a letter of intent to our pastor, Fr. Ed Burns. In the past we have asked candidates to do this independently, we now write our letters during one of our early meetings. Here are some guidelines for writing, and an example letter can be found on the confirmation page of the parish website.

1. Address your letter in a respectful way, i.e., "Dear Fr. Burns"
2. Introduce yourself with your full name
3. State why you are writing the letter, i.e., your desire or intent to be confirmed.
4. State why you are choosing to be confirmed. Be honest and reflective, i.e., you want to continue your discipleship in the Church, your family/parents want you to be confirmed, because that is what you are supposed to do in 9th grade, etc.
5. Close your letter respectfully, i.e., "Sincerely" and sign your full name.

## 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](mailto:Lmeisberger@stjohnwc.org))

Contact Scott at [ssteinke@stjohnwc.org](mailto:ssteinke@stjohnwc.org) to coordinate your ministry assistance in serving, lecturing, and eucharistic ministering.

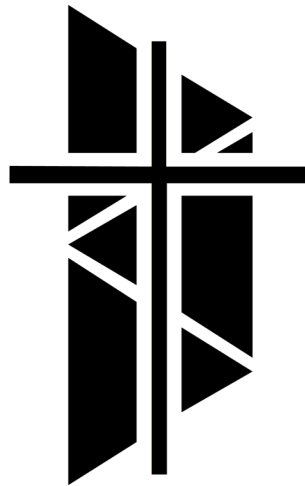
If the candidate is already serving as an Altar Attendant, Eucharistic Minister, or in some other position frequently, they only need to do one other experience of service. After completing service events, candidates must fill out a questionnaire describing service performed as well as how the service 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!

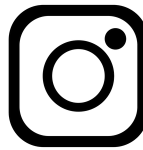


**Tri-County Catholics**

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St. Gabriel, Glendale*

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