



Confirmation

Sunday, December 22, 2019

11:30 a.m. Mass

St. John the Evangelist Church

West Chester, Ohio

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Confirmation Celebration
Sunday, December 22
11:30 a.m. Mass
(arrive by 11:00 a.m.)
St. John the Evangelist Church, West Chester, Ohio

Volunteers

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We have a job for YOU! (parents, grandparents, older siblings, etc.) We need many 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 retreat.

Retreat Speaker - Assist with retreat by giving a roughly 10 minute talk on one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit with a 5 to 10 minute discussion to follow.

Retreat Lunch Team - Assist with pick up, set up, serving and clean up of lunch at the Confirmation Retreat.

Office Assistant - Assist with set up & tear down, sort materials, assist catechists if necessary, etc.

Mentor - In charge of leading a small group at each Confirmation session. Small groups will have 30 minutes of discussion and prayer at the start of each session.

Catechist - You will be teaching the same lesson to the youth 4 out of 6 weeks. You will be responsible for only 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.

There are many other ways to help!
To volunteer or for more info, please contact:
Youth Ministry Office
St. John the Evangelist Church
Pastoral Associate of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
513-777-6433
ssteinke@stjohnwc.org

³ **Confirmation Preparation Schedule**

Aug. 25 - Parent Info Meeting 12:30 pm Chapel

Sept. 13 - Registration Deadline

Sept. 28 - Conf. Retreat Pt. 1 12-5 pm in Center

-Retreat ends with Conf. Enrollment Ritual
@ 5 pm Mass

-Families are invited to attend Enrollment
Mass

Confirmation Preparation Sessions

Oct. 6 Conf. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Oct. 13 Conf. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Oct. 20 Conf. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Nov. 3 Conf. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Nov. 10 Conf. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Nov. 17 Conf. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Nov. 24 Conf. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Dec. 8 Conf. Retreat Pt. 2, 5 - 8:00 pm, Center

December 22 — Confirmation

Arrive at chapel by 11:00 am

Mass begins at 11:30 am

Mystagogia Sessions

Jan. 12 Myst. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Feb. 9 Myst. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Mar. 8 Myst. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Apr. 19 Myst. Session, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Center

Confirmation Checklist ✓

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- **Aug. 25** - Parent Info Meeting 12:30 p.m.
Chapel
- **Sept. 13** - Registration Due Date
Registration Includes: Baptismal Certificate,
Registration Form, Medical Release Form,
& Payment
- Confirmation Interview
Confirmation Letter to Fr. Don (turn in at
interview)
- **Oct.20** - Select A Sponsor
- **Nov. 17** - Choose Confirmation Name
- **Nov. 17** - Sponsor Conversation Reflections
- **Dec. 8** - Parish/Community Service

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 ssteinke@stjohnwc.org ahead of time!

There will be mandatory make-up sessions for those who miss a session. The schedule for make-up sessions will be posted on the website and sent to families in August.

If you know that you will miss more than two sessions due to conflicts, please contact the Youth Ministry office immediately at ssteinke@stjohnwc.org or 777-6433 to discuss your options.

Weather Policy

There is a chance that weather may cause the cancellation of our program. If there is a cancellation of the event due to weather, an e-mail will be sent out to all participants and parents. We will also be sending texts through a program known as *Remind*. This will send out an alert to both parents and youth that a session has been canceled. You can sign up for *Remind* by texting the phrase *@stjohnwc* to the number 81010



What Is A Candidate And A Sponsor?

The Candidate is the person discerning about, 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 her/his journey.

Each candidate must choose a sponsor who will help him or her prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. You need the support and presence of your sponsor. When choosing a sponsor, 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 (*See me if this is a problem.*)
- *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 she/he continues on their faith journey
- Assists with the service experiences if possible
- Participates in rehearsal
- Participates in the Confirmation celebration liturgy

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 **Sept. 28**. 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 2020. You only have to fill it out once, and it covers all on-site youth ministry activities until then.

Fee - The program fee is \$20.00. 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 September 28, 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 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

You may also use your middle name, or you may choose another name to add to your first and middle name. The bishop or his representative will speak your name as he anoints your head with the Holy Chrism at the Confirmation Mass.

You need to have your Confirmation name chosen and turned into the Youth Office by Nov. 17

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. You are encouraged to assist with the Mass in one of these ways:

- Altar Server
- Lector
- Eucharistic Minister

This will count as an experience of service.

A service event might be helping at Share-A-Lunch or a nursing home. 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 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.); Helping Elderly Neighbors; Catholic H.S. Service; Warm Welcomes

NOTE: Doing household chores or being paid to help a neighbor is not service! **If you have any questions about service, please contact the Youth Ministry office at sssteinke@stjohnwc.org or 777-6433.**

St. John Youth Ministry will provide many service opportunities (at least one per month) that you are invited to attend. You will receive alerts to upcoming service events you can participate in.



**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

St. John the Evangelist Church
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West Chester, OH 45069
513-777-6433 ext 114
steinke@stjohnwc.org

<http://www.stjohnwc.org/youth-ministry.html>

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