

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

YEAR 1

INFORMATION PACKET





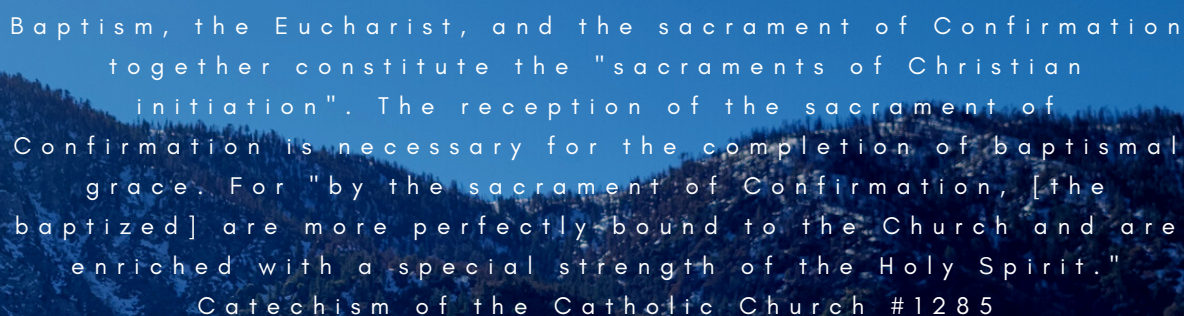
CONTENTS

- 1 Overview of Year 1
- 2 Parent Info Meetings
- 3 Meeting Calendar
- 4 Youth Ministry Calendar
- 5 Missed Meetings
- 6 Sponsors Saints Service
- 7 Parent Participation
- 8 Registration

YEAR 1 CONFIRMATION

2023/2024 OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Confirmation Journey at Saints Simon & Jude Catholic Church! The Sacrament of Confirmation consists of two years of preparation for those in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade. As the junior and senior years of High School can be demanding, it is recommended that Candidates begin their preparation in 9th grade. This also helps foster community and faith alongside their peers. However, the two year journey can begin anytime up until the senior year of High School. Preparation includes meetings, special events for candidates/sponsor/parents, a Year 1 day retreat, a Year 2 weekend retreat, and service in the community. But most importantly, this is an opportunity for high school students to learn more about their Catholic faith, experience their faith, and discover why being fully initiated into the Catholic Church is an incredible gift.



Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation". The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit."
Catechism of the Catholic Church #1285

MEETINGS

Year 1 meets in the Youth Room on alternating Sundays beginning in October and ending in May. We have two class times to choose from: 10:00am - 11:15am or 3:45pm - 5:00pm. Candidates must sign up for their preferred meeting time at registration but will be able to switch to a different meeting if needed throughout the year.

We begin with a large group gathering and then break up into small groups led by our high school Peer Ministers and adult small group leaders. Meetings will end with the celebration of Mass at 11:15am and 5:00pm. Candidates are not required to attend this Mass but we encourage attendance alongside their family. This can be a journey of faith for the whole family!



PARENT & CANDIDATE INFO MEETINGS

This meeting is for the parent/guardian(s) and child who will be beginning the Confirmation Journey. It will provide you with all the information that you need to know about Confirmation preparation at Saints Simon & Jude.

At least one parent should attend with the candidate. You only need to attend one meeting. This meeting is necessary in order to receive full details of the two year journey along with a Q&A time.

Meetings will be held on Sunday mornings from 12:15pm -12:45pm in the Youth Room on each of the following dates. If possible, please let us know in advance which meeting you will be attending.

AUGUST 20
AUGUST 27
SEPTEMBER 3
SEPTEMBER 10
SEPTEMBER 17

Contact Andrew Watson to RSVP or for more information – awatson@ssj.org 714-794-1856

YEAR 1 CALENDAR

Meetings are in the Youth Room on the following Sundays.
Candidates have two class times to choose from when they register: 10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm. Please check your emails for reminders and updates.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 24th Retreat 12:30pm – 6:00pm
More information will be sent via email

OCTOBER

Sunday 8th & 22nd
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

DECEMBER

Sunday 10th
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

FEBRUARY

Sunday 18th
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

NOVEMBER

Sun 5th Parent & Candidate Breakfast
9:45am – 12:15pm
Sunday 26th 10:00am or 3:45pm

JANUARY

Sunday 7th & 28th
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

MARCH

Sunday 10th & 24th
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

APRIL

Sunday 21st
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

To see our full calendar for Year 1 & Year 2 and all other parish events please visit our website – www.ssj.org



@ssjyouthministry



awatson@ssj.org



YOUTH MINISTRY

SAINTS SIMON & JUDE YOUTH

Saints Simon & Jude Youth is a welcoming and inclusive space for teens to pray, serve, and grow in relationship with Christ. We strive to provide young people and their parents encounters to grow closer to God and each other. All high school students are welcome. You do not need to be a part of the Confirmation Journey in order to attend and there are no "requirements" for Confirmation Candidates to attend either. However, all of our Youth Ministry gatherings are a great accompaniment to the Confirmation journey.



BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday from 7:00pm to 8:30pm we have a Bible Study in the Youth Room for all high school students. This is the perfect opportunity to pause in the middle of the week, hang out with friends, eat snacks, play games, and discuss Sunday's Gospel. It offers everyone a safe and friendly environment to grow in faith and fellowship. You don't need to be in Confirmation or a Peer Minister to attend. All are welcome.

SOCIALS

Every month we will have at least one high school social event. These will be held here at the church or at an off-site venue. This is an opportunity for all high school students to gather in community, share a meal together, and have some fun. These evenings will include dinner & games here at the church, beach bonfires, bowling, or a movie night, for example. Our first three socials will be - **off-site event 10/15 - Friendsgiving 11/12 - Christmas Party 12/17**

XLTS

XLT stands for Exalt, which is a night of prayer for our entire community. We will have contemporary praise & worship, a message from a guest speaker, Confession, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

XLT in the Church- 8/18 11/10 3/15

WHAT IF YOU MISS A MEETING?

Confirmation Meetings foster community, encourage experiential faith, and promote discussions on a variety of topics & issues. At the end of Year 2, our Pastor must be able to present Candidates to the Bishop at the Confirmation Mass by saying, "The candidates presented are prepared and ready to receive the fullness of Christian Initiation in the Sacrament of Confirmation." To be "prepared and ready" refers to attending and participating in the meetings along with regular Mass attendance.

Attendance will be taken for each class and revisited throughout the journey to ensure we are able to present them to the Bishop fully prepared. However, we know that schedules, sickness, and family events can sometimes be hard to navigate.

HOW TO "MAKE UP" MISSED CONFIRMATION MEETINGS



The Confirmation classes are standalone. There is no "make-up" class that fully revisits the topic. However, if a class is missed through illness or because of an important family event, we ask that the candidate attend another Youth Ministry event such as Bible Study, XLT, or social event and complete an at-home reflection. These opportunities for "make-ups" should only be used if necessary. Candidates are of course invited to Youth Ministry events in addition to class attendance. Please see the previous page for more information on our High School Youth Ministry and please follow us on social media.

@ssjyouthministry  @ssjcatholicchurch

SPONSORS, SAINTS & SERVICE

YEAR 1 & YEAR 2

There are a few additional components to the Confirmation journey that Year 1 Candidates can start to think and pray about. Each Candidate must pick a Sponsor, a Saint, and an area of discipleship (service.) In the past, these were normally focused on in the second year of the Confirmation Journey, but we want to encourage all candidates to consider making a decision on these aspects of Confirmation ASAP.



SPONSORS

Confirmation Sponsors will help the Confirmandi to fulfill their baptismal promise, faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit. It is recommended that the the sponsor be the candidate's godparent (if still actively involved in the Confirmandi's life.) However, a sponsor can be any faithful, confirmed Catholic who is over 16 years of age and not a parent/guardian. Sponsors should be a mentor, guide, an example in the life of the Candidate.

SAINTS

We see in scripture that God changed the names of people to signify their role had been changed and that they were becoming, in a sense, a new person. Choosing a Saint is an essential part of Confirmation and it is an acknowledgement that the Holy Spirit will change you through the grace of this Sacrament. In Year 1 each candidate is invited to write a reflection on the Saint they have chosen for their Confirmation. More info soon!

SERVICE / DISCIPLESHIP

People often take part in "Service Projects" as a way of helping others. However, the word "project" implies an act that has a beginning and an end. That is why we prefer to call this "Discipleship". Each candidate is invited to become involved in an area of Discipleship as part of their Confirmation journey. This should be something that serves our parish or local community. More information will be provided at a later date, but consider serving in some area soon!

PARENT PARTICIPATION

High School Confirmation and Youth Ministry at Saints Simon & Jude has always had magnificent support from parent volunteers and donors. Are you able to volunteer or offer support in some way? Please see below for some of the ways in which you can help and then consider filling out the volunteer form. Thank you in advance!

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AND SUPPORT YOUTH MINISTRY



[>> Click here to participate <<](#)

SMALL GROUP LEADER: Help lead small groups at Sunday Confirmation meetings or Middle School on Tuesday nights (only 1 hour twice a month)

HOSPITALITY: Provide chips, cookies, candy, and soda for Youth Ministry events. We have high school Bible Study every Wednesday.

GIFT CARDS & CASH: Domino's, Wing Stop, Smart n Final local restaurants, etc. These are great for youth night dinners and prizes.

COOKS & KITCHEN HELP: Help with cooking/grilling and food preparation for retreats and events.

RETREAT/EVENT HELP: Helping with retreat/events - setup, check-in, chaperoning, food service, etc.

REGISTRATION

YEAR 1 & YEAR 2

Thank you for taking the time to read through this information packet. Registration for Year 1 beginning in the Fall of 2023 includes both Year 1 & Year 2 and the Year 2 off-site weekend retreat. After registration and payment is completed no more forms or payments will be required! Please see the instructions below on how to register using our online form. Thank you again for joining us for the journey of Confirmation!

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT



In order to finalize registration please complete the following steps:

- Fill out the form using the link below
- Provide copies of Baptism and First Communion certificates
- Complete and return a copy of the Minor Permission & Release Form
- Submit payment or setup a payment plan by [clicking here](#).

REGISTER

We look forward to seeing you at one of the Parent & Candidate meetings this summer! In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Watson - awatson@ssj.org (714) 794-1856