

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

YEAR 2

INFORMATION PACKET





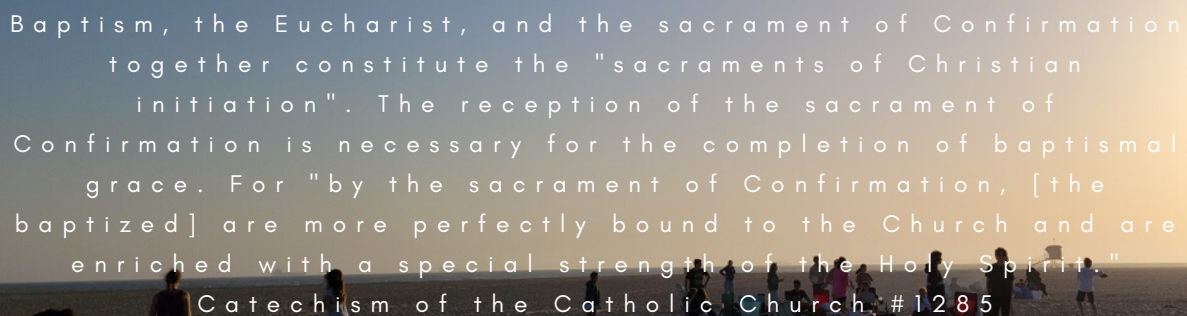
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YEAR 2 CONFIRMATION

2023/2024 OVERVIEW

Welcome to Year 2 of the Confirmation Journey! We are excited to continue on this journey of faith with you towards the Sacrament of Confirmation. In addition to our Sunday meetings, we have a lot in store for you this year. There will be an overnight, weekend retreat, special events for you and your sponsor, and some reflections & activities that you will complete on your own time. Please read through this packet carefully to learn more about your second year of Confirmation preparation.

A group of people are standing on a beach at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

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

This is your second year of preparation! We encourage and pray that you will continue to be open to good discussion & fellowship during our meetings.

Year 2 meets in the Youth Room on alternating Sundays from October to May. You have two times to choose from: 10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm. Candidates will continue with the time they selected in Year 1. You will be able to switch to a different meeting time throughout the year, but please let us know in advance. 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.

YEAR 2 CALENDAR

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

OCTOBER

Sunday 15th & 29th
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd & 17th
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

FEBRUARY

Sunday 4th & 25th
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

APRIL

Sunday 14th & 28th
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

NOVEMBER

Sunday 12th
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

JANUARY

Sunday 21st Sponsor & Candidate Event
2:00pm – 6:00pm incl. 5:00pm Mass

MARCH

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd Year 2 Retreat
Off-site Overnight*

Sunday 17th
10:00am – 11:15am or 3:45pm – 5:00pm

MAY

Confirmation Mass Rehearsal &
Confirmation Mass – Dates & times
will be announced when scheduled
by the Diocese

*The off-site Year 2 Retreat is a requirement of the Diocese of Orange. The cost of this retreat is included in your Confirmation fees. More details will follow.

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



@ssjyouthministry



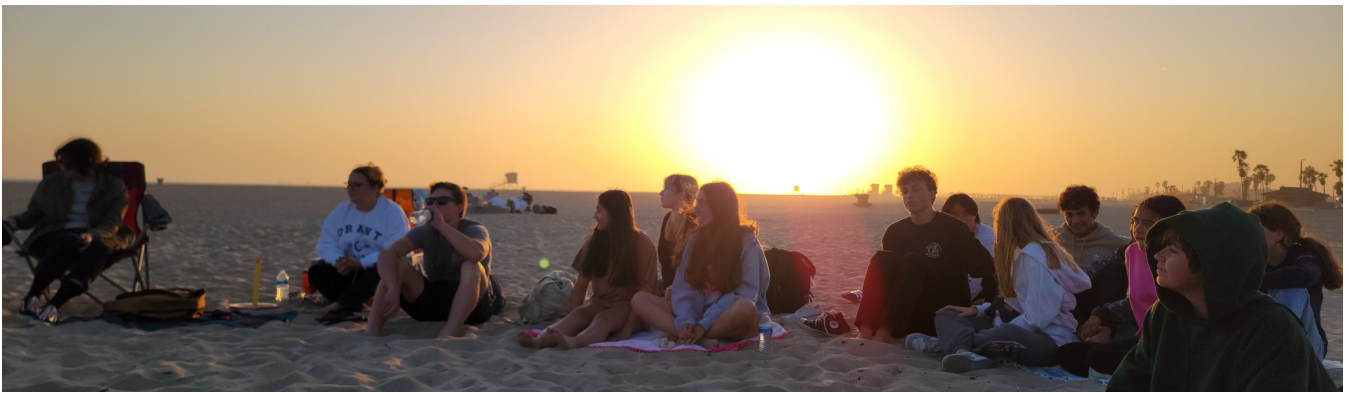
awatson@ssj.org



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 to 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 on **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

CONFIRMATION SAINT

*Confirmation is a Sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, whom the Lord sent upon His apostles at Pentecost. In Confirmation, the Baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as preparation for a mature Christian life. The Bishop dips his right thumb in the Chrism (oil) and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says: *NAME OF SAINT *, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

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. For example, Abram became Abraham (Genesis 17:5), Sarai became Sarah (Genesis 17:15), and Simon became Peter (Matthew 16:18). 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.

CHOOSING A SAINT AND WRITING A REFLECTION



When choosing a saint, you should choose someone who exemplifies a quality or passion that you will strive to emulate in your life. You may use your baptismal name which expresses the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation. However, if a new name is taken, it should be the name of a recognized Saint.

Each candidate is invited to write a reflection on the saint they have chosen for their Confirmation. Candidates might know their saint already or they might have to do some research (a good online resource is www.catholic.org/saints) They will then write about one area in that saint's life that stood out to them. How did that saint truly live a life of faith? Why do you think the saint chose the way of God over the way of the world? Can you see yourself choosing God and being more like that Saint?

Reflections should be a minimum of one typed paged, double spaced. This will be the name you eventually take as your Confirmation name at the Confirmation Mass. **Your reflection is due by Sunday December 17th 2023.**

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

"Confirmation Sponsors will help the Confirmandi to fulfill their baptismal promise, faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit whom they have received. It is recommended that the candidate's baptism sponsor (godparent if still actively involved in the Confirmandi's life) also be their Confirmation sponsor. This expresses the relationship between the two sacraments and also makes the function and responsibility of the sponsor more effective."

You should have chosen your sponsor by the time Year 2 classes start in the Fall. This person will be your faith companion and will be invited to various events throughout the year. But you can invite them to attend Mass with you and other special events during the year as well (during Advent or Lent for example.) Enjoy this time of sharing and reflection with someone who is genuinely interested in your continued faith in Christ. **Please see the end of this packet for a form that your sponsor must complete.**

WHO CAN BE A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR?



Your confirmation sponsor must meet the qualifications below.

- Must be a confirmed and practicing Catholic (i.e. regular Mass attendance and be able to receive the Eucharist)
- Must be a person who is an example and witness of the Catholic faith in word and action
- Must be mature enough to fulfill their function as a sponsor (Minimum age of 16 years old)
- Must be someone who will attend liturgical celebrations, special events, and the Confirmation Mass with the candidate.
- A parent cannot be their son/daughter's sponsor. As parents already have a significant role in their son/daughter's faith life, the Church envisions that a godparent will step into this role in helping a Candidate to be a faithful Catholic follower of Christ.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

As disciples of Christ we are commanded to love one another. We can show this love through acts of service. 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, why would we ever connect that word to our faith? Think of Jesus' disciples. They spent years with Jesus learning about their faith and serving people along the way. That is why we invite each candidate to become involved in an area of Discipleship (Service) as part of *their* Confirmation journey.

DISCERNING DISCIPLESHIP & THE DIGITAL DISPLAY



Serving begins with a call. The world tells us that our gifts and talents are for personal gain - "what do I get out of it?" God's call is different; it allows us to share our lives with others in response to knowing our gifts, talents, and passions are from God. Pray about it and trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you into an area of service. Do not put any limit on the service area; you can serve in the church, at school, with family, in the neighborhood or for an organization. As it is a calling, there is no minimum or maximum number of hours you are "required" to complete. The amount of time spent serving is your call to answer.

Every candidate must put together a digital display (one slide - name & photo collage including descriptions) to showcase the ways they are living their faith through service. More information will follow later in the year. These will be part of a slideshow that will be on our website and shown after Mass in **Sunday April 28th 2024**. These displays are a great way for the entire parish to recognize their efforts and it may get some other parishioners thinking about their own life of service. As we know, the most powerful way for faith to stick is when we experience it or watch others living it! **Due Date for slides is April 24th.**

LETTER TO THE BISHOP

Candidates who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and are fully prepared must submit a typed letter to the Bishop of the Diocese of Orange. This letter must be written by the candidate and explain why they wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. It must be a minimum of one page in length but no longer than two pages. Please see below for more details on how and when to write this letter. "Does this Bishop really read all those letters?" Yes, he reads them and even mentions people by name in his homily at the Confirmation Mass!

WRITING THE LETTER TO THE BISHOP



- Address the top of your letter to "Most Reverend Kevin Vann". Then start your letter with "Your Excellency,"
- Introduce yourself giving your full baptismal name, your grade, and school.
- Mention the name of the saint you have chosen for Confirmation and the reason you chose that particular saint.
- Explain the reasons why you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Mention one class, retreat theme/experience, etc. that had a positive impact on your sacramental preparation.
- Explain the discipleship you completed during the Confirmation journey.
- Mention your sponsor by name and the reason you chose him/her.
- Include a reflection on the Gospel passage that will be read during the Confirmation Mass (TBD). What does this passage teach us? How will you be able to live your life to reflect this message? The Gospel passage will be confirmed at a later date.
- Sign your letter with your first and last name

Return unfolded (not in a folder or envelope) no later than 3/17/24

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 on 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.

SPONSOR AFFIRMATION FORM

This letter of affirmation is to be given to the sponsor to complete and return to the Director of Confirmation at Saints Simon & Jude Catholic Church. If the sponsor is not a registered parishioner of Saints Simon & Jude, they will have to deliver it to their home parish to obtain their Pastor's signature. If necessary, they can be returned by mail to: *Saints Simon & Jude Catholic Church, 20444 Magnolia St. Huntington Beach, CA 92646*

To sponsor a Candidate seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation, and being fully aware of the responsibilities associated with this honor, I hereby affirm:

- *My faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and my fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church (Canon law 872, 874:1.3);*
- *That I have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist (Canon law 874:1.3);*
- *That I practice my Catholic faith by regularly joining in the celebration of the Mass and reception of the Eucharist (Canon law 874:1.3);*
- *That I am no less than sixteen years of age (Canon law 874:1.2);*
- *That I am neither the father nor mother of the person to be Confirmed (Canon law 874:1.5);*

Name of **CANDIDATE** (first, middle, last)

(print) _____

Name of **SPONSOR** (first, middle, last)

(print) _____

Signature of SPONSOR

Date:_____

I am a registered member of the Catholic parish of

Must be returned to Saints Simon & Jude Catholic Church by Sunday, January 21st 2024
Confirmation records & certificates are completed with this information.