

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

YEAR 1

INFORMATION PACKET





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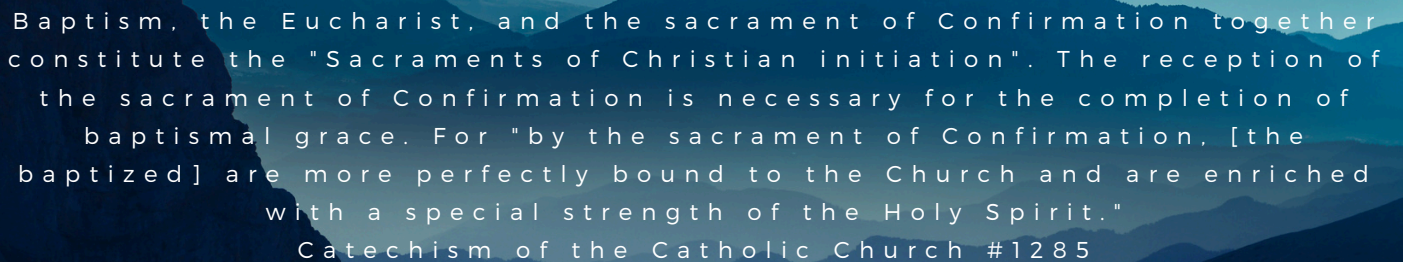
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YEAR 1 CONFIRMATION

2024/2025 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. 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 25
SEPTEMBER 1
SEPTEMBER 8
SEPTEMBER 15

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 29th | Retreat 12:30pm - 6:00pm

OCTOBER

Sunday 20th | Meeting 1

NOVEMBER

Sunday 3rd | Parent & Candidate
Breakfast 9:30am - 12:15pm
Sun 17th | Meeting 3

DECEMBER

Sunday 8th | Meeting 4

JANUARY

Sunday 5th | Meeting 5
Sunday 26th | Meeting 6

FEBRUARY

Sunday 16th | Meeting 7

MARCH

Sunday 9th | Meeting 8
Sunday 23rd | Meeting 9

APRIL

Sunday 13th | Meeting 10

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, inclusive space for teens to pray, serve, and grow in relationship with Christ. We strive to provide young people and their parents with encounters to grow closer to God and each other. All high school students are welcome! You don't 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 gatherings are a great accompaniment to the Confirmation journey.



BIBLE STUDY

Every Wednesday from 7:00pm to 8:45pm we have a Bible Study in the Youth Room for all high school students. It is no ordinary Bible Study! 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 friendly environment to grow in faith and fellowship.

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. **Dates coming soon!**

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. **Dates coming soon!**

WHAT IF YOU MISS A MEETING?

HOW TO "MAKE UP" MISSED CONFIRMATION MEETINGS

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.



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 as soon as possible.



SPONSORS

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. Please see the Sponsor Affirmation Form at the end of this packet ([due by our last meeting on April 13th](#)).

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 complete a reflection (at the end of this packet) on the Saint they have chosen for their Confirmation. [This is due by our last Year 1 meeting on April 13th.](#)

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 areas soon! And take pictures! You'll find out why later.

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

Saint Reflection

Your Name: _____

Date: _____

Confirmation Saint Name:

Space for Creativity
(DOODLES, ILLUSTRATION, TEXT, ETC
THAT PERTAIN TO YOUR SAINT)

General facts:
(BIRTH DATE, LOCATION, CAUSE OF DEATH ETC.)

What is your saint the patron of and why?

What are some interesting or inspiring events in the life of your saint?

PLEASE TURN OVER

Why did you choose this Saint?



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, April 13th 2025](#) Confirmation records & certificates are completed with this information.