

Welcome to St. Andrew the Apostle's Confirmation Preparation Program!



Confirmation, A Sacrament with many levels

"Confirmation is when you get a new name,"
"Confirmation is a time when you are growing up."
People think of Confirmation in these ways and in others. But what is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a Sacrament in which

We receive the Holy Spirit;

We are joined more closely to the Church;

**We are made strong to bear witness to
Jesus Christ.**

A Sacrament

This is one of the ways in which we receive God's grace. An outward sign shows us what is really happening. A sacrament is an action of Jesus Christ in the Church. Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation. Through Baptism, we were made sons and daughters of God. In Confirmation, our relationship as children of God the Father is strengthened and we are united more firmly to Christ.

We receive the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a person. He is the third person of the Blessed Trinity and is truly God, equal with the Father and the Son. Through Confirmation, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are increased in us.

We are joined more closely to the Church

The Church is the whole people of God, founded by Jesus Christ to continue his teaching and his saving work on earth. We become members of the Church by our Baptism, and we are joined more closely by Confirmation.

We are made strong to bear witness.

A Christian is meant to show in daily life what Jesus taught us. We should also be able to tell others about Jesus. This is sometimes difficult and needs strength and courage. The Holy Spirit gives us the strength we need to be strong Christians.

To Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the second person of the Blessed Trinity, truly God and truly man. He came to bring us the fullness of life and He redeemed us from our sins. We bear witness to Him and to His saving work that continues through the Church.

Program Overview

Recognizing that each person is created in the image and likeness of God and is called to holiness, each element of our 2-Year Confirmation Program is designed to support our young people to know, love and serve God within the family of the Catholic Church, as committed disciples of Jesus Christ in readiness for a full outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of their Confirmation. Our classes afford our young people the opportunity to understand the sacrament of Confirmation and the teachings of the Church. Weekly Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and their Confirmation retreat provide students with occasions to grow in prayer and sacramental living. Finally, through participation in service projects and parish activities, each student can put their knowledge and love of God and neighbor into action.

The Rite of Confirmation

Confirmation, given only once, imprints and indelible spiritual character on the soul. The anointing with sacred chrism, the essential rite of the sacrament, is done with the laying on of hands and is a sign of the consecration expressing and imparting a spiritual seal, the seal of the Holy Spirit. *Far from being a graduation*, this seal signifies a total belonging to Christ, enrollment in Christ's service forever, and a commitment to live out and spread the Good News.

Tips and Suggestions for a Great Year

- Nourish your faith by attending Sunday Mass together as a family and attending Life Nights & Parish events.
- Pray daily and find a way to incorporate prayer into your family's life (e.g.: Rosary, Reading the Bible, Grace before Meals, Bedtime prayers, Stations of the Cross)
- Stay informed through the Confirmation website: <http://standrewsv.org/Youth/Confirmation>, or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/salifeteen/> & Flocknotes.
- Plan ahead and review the whole year, for class dates, rehearsals, service opportunities and Life Teen events.

Confirmation Class Times

Classes meet every Monday that Buena is in session from 7:00 PM to 8:15 PM, from 28 Aug – 14 Apr

Year 1: Madonna Hall

Year 2: Kino Hall

Retreat

The Confirmation Retreat is a critical part of Confirmation preparation. It gives the candidates the chance to “get away” from things that prevent them from focusing on our Lord. We will have fun and relax, but more importantly, we will fill-up their spiritual battery. It will have a deep impact on the candidate’s spirituality. Candidates will experience a weekend retreat on the weekend of **16-18 Feb 2024** at La Purisima Retreat Center in Hereford.

The **WEEKEND RETREAT is MANDATORY** for Candidates choosing to be confirmed. If you are unable to attend this weekend it will be your responsibility to locate a parish that will take you on their retreat and receive a written letter signed by their confirmation coordinator that you attended. I hope all will attend the retreat we have planned for you to share in one experience together.

Service and Outreach

Candidates are expected to accept their share in the responsibility and joy of serving others. **All confirmation candidates are called to participate in various parish and community service activities to complete a goal of 40 hours of service each year.** There will be many service and outreach opportunities throughout the year. We also encourage parents and sponsors to work with their teen to complete the Community Service and outreach opportunities together. A parish activity can be anything that you do at our parish (e.g., Life Teen, serving at Mass, etc.) A Community service project must provide direct assistance to someone in need in keeping with the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (e.g., serving at St Vincent DePaul or Knights of Columbus or at any charitable events.)

Stewardship

Stewardship is an important part of any person’s commitment and obligation to a group or organization. Stewardship is composed of three areas: time (service), treasure (financial responsibilities), and talent (using your abilities). In order to better understand what WE are responsible for our Church and community, every Confirmation candidate will be expected to continually fulfill their share of the responsibility. This can be done in the following ways:

- Participation in service projects
- Financially supporting our Church and charities
- Sharing your talents at Mass (The 5 PM Sunday Life Teen Mass is designed for teens to serve in many roles of the Mass.)

Liturgy

At the center of our Catholic Christian faith is the celebration of the Eucharist, the True Presence of Christ in the bread, wine and in the people who eat His body and blood. It is at Mass, at liturgy, where we come together with all of our Catholic Christian friends to celebrate as one church.

Sponsors

Sponsors are people on whom you can rely during your faith journey. They should be people with a deep commitment to the Catholic faith and who are active, confirmed members of their parish. They should be willing to listen to you, help you answer questions, and be willing to share their faith and example with you. Sponsors are expected to maintain **REGULAR** contact with their candidate to not only pray, but to socialize and develop a strong relationship. Please take time to discern your Sponsor and have them complete the Sponsor Form. All Sponsors must have their Sponsor Information Form signed and sealed by their parish pastor.

Life Teen

We feel your journey in faith during the high school years will not be easy and Life Teen will give you a fun faith community in which to enjoy learning who to grow in your faith. Confirmation sessions focus primarily on faith and religious formation. Life Teen is designed to create a place where teens can support each other and grow in faith and friendship while learning how to apply your Catholic values and beliefs in your daily life. Life Teen also sponsors many social activities so you can start to meet others whose faith is important to them as well as offering additional service opportunities. **As part of the preparation for your Confirmation we ask that each Confirmation student attend at least one Life Night each month. Life Nights are on Sundays after the Life Teen Mass from 6:30-8:00 PM in Madonna Hall.**

We are excited to have you as part of our Confirmation process this year! Please know that we are praying for you regularly and are excited for what God has in store for us all this year!

Confirmation is on Sunday, Apr 14th at 5:00 PM!