

Contact Information

Confirmation Program Coordinators:

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Who is a Candidate for Confirmation?

The **confirmand** or candidate for Confirmation is defined as a baptized adolescent who has received the Sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist, and who participates in the parish's Confirmation-preparation program. The confirmand must meet the diocesan guidelines pertaining to age and readiness. It is the responsibility of the candidate to be open to receiving the grace of the sacrament, responding to his or her Baptism. It is through careful study and prayer that a candidate should prepare to receive Confirmation.

What are the age guidelines for the diocese?

By virtue of the authority granted by the Catholic Church, Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo has set the appropriate age for preparation and reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation to be when an individual is **both at least** 15 years of age and enrolled in **at least** the tenth grade. This new age is effective July 1, 2010.

I want to be a candidate. What next?

1. **Immediately** notify the parish office of your intent.
2. Be sure your family is registered in the parish.
3. Complete a Youth Registration form.
4. Complete a Confirmation Registration and Sponsor Form:
5. Attach proof of your Baptism and First Eucharist. We need certificate copies or parish name, address and phone number of the parish where they were received. Former parishes may Fax copies of certificates to 804-598-1467.
6. Attach Sponsor Attestation Form.

Completed Registration Forms and proof of Sacraments are needed immediately.

Registration Ends September 15th and candidate interviews will begin September 22nd completed by October 21st

Do I need a sponsor?

Choosing a Sponsor for Confirmation

Dear Candidate,

You will be asked to choose a sponsor to assist you in faithfully fulfilling your baptismal promises with the help of the Holy Spirit. In choosing this sponsor, you recognize their maturity and practice of the faith to help you conform more closely to Christ.

Requirements for Godparents and Confirmation Sponsors

Church Law (Code of Canon Law, can. 874 §1) requires that the godparent/sponsor be:

- **At least 16 years old**
- **Fully-initiated Catholic (having received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist)**
- **Not bound by any canonical penalty (e.g. a person who is married must be in a marriage which is recognized by the Church)**
- **Leading a life of faith befitting the role to be undertaken [regularly attending Mass on Sunday and living the faith)**
- **Not parents of the child (for infant Baptism)**
- **May be parent of the candidate (for Confirmation)**

NOTE: Form and all Confirmation Information is available for download at www.sjnpowhatan.org

Very Important !! We will be asking sponsors to participate in various activities and to attend some classes so please choose someone who lives close enough to take an active part in the process. If you are having trouble finding a sponsor, there are parishioners who will be glad to help. Just let us know.

Do I choose a "Confirmation Name"?

Since Confirmation is now seen in relationship to Baptism, any discussion of a Confirmation name must be placed in that context. The current Rite of Confirmation recommends that the sponsor for Confirmation be the baptismal godparent. It presumes that candidates for Confirmation will be addressed by their baptismal name. Nowhere does the rite mention the custom of choosing a separate Confirmation name. Neither does the Code of Canon Law. Only in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is there mention of a rite for a catechumen to receive a "baptismal name" before the celebration of that sacrament. While the affirmation of one's baptismal name is thus preferred, one could choose another saint's name or a mystery of the Lord to be pronounced by the bishop **in addition to (not in place of) the baptismal name.**

What are the elements of the program?

Inquiry Phase, Orientation and Discernment

Candidates and parents attend an orientation session to help candidates discern their readiness and disposition for sacramental preparation.

The pastor or his delegated individual(s) conduct separate interviews of both the candidate and his or her parents for beginning Confirmation preparation.

The pastor's invitation for the candidate to enter the program is based on the interviewer's assessment of:

1. Participation in the sacramental life of the Church, especially regular attendance at Sunday Mass and reception of Holy Communion.
2. Basic formation in the Gospel as evidenced through knowledge of the Catholic faith and desire for ongoing conversion.

Rite of Recognition and Call to Confirmation

SJN will celebrate the Rite of Recognition at a Sunday Mass. All candidates are expected to attend.

Catechetical Component

Each parish is responsible for creating a Confirmation Program following the diocesan Confirmation curriculum that is separate, distinct, and stand-alone Confirmation program from the 4-year systematic adolescent curriculum. The catechesis must cover all objectives included in the Confirmation curriculum—no more and no less. It is expected that the Confirmation program will not last more than six months, and will not require more than 15 contact hours with the candidates.

The instruction for Confirmation has been organized into four miniature courses or modules. These explore the sacrament within the entirety of the Catholic faith, and focus on the role of the Holy Spirit—in salvation history, in the sacraments and mission of the Church, and in the lives of those who are confirmed. It is important to note that there is coherence to these modules, as each one builds on the others.

The parish may choose a textbook for Confirmation preparation and structure the catechetical sessions accordingly. SJN has chosen ***Decision Point*** from ***DynamicCatholic.Com*** as the basis of our program. This will help candidates to grasp the meaning and purpose of Confirmation.

All candidates for Confirmation must participate in the Confirmation preparation program. **This includes all Catholic school students as well as home-school students.**

When are Meetings and Classes?

Confirmation Kickoff & Final Registration -

September 15, 2018 9:30 AM

Pre Confirmation Interviews

(required to complete registration)

will be held after the 5 PM Mass and between the Sunday Masses on:

Sept. 22/23 Sept 29/30 Oct 6/7 Oct 13/14 Oct 20/21

Contact Pam Sperbeck or Paul Sissons to schedule your time.

Pamela Sperbeck pjsquill@comcast.net 804-852-7785
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Candidate Preparation Meetings

Classes begin Sunday, **November 4, 2018**. We will meet in the Multi-Purpose Room at 9:45 each week. Meetings will end between 11:30 am and 11:45 am.

Meeting Dates:

Nov 4 Nov 11 Nov18 Jan 6 Jan 13 Jan 20 Jan 27 Feb 3 Feb 10

Feb 17 Feb 24 Mar 3

Classes will be held in the conference room between Masses.

What about a retreat and service projects?

Attendance at a one-day retreat (no overnight) is required. An overnight retreat is strongly encouraged. Most candidates choose to attend the Net Ministries retreat which is usually held at St Mary's, Richmond, date to be announced.

Service to the parish is a prerequisite; a specific service project is not required but strongly encouraged.

What else?

If you have further questions, contact Paul Sissons or you may call, leave a voicemail or email me at SJN. Deacon.ed.sjn@gmail.com 804-598-3754