

Sacrament Years

Students and parents/guardians are expected to attend sacramental preparation classes, workshops, and/or retreats, as well as participate in group service activities, on additional days, including Saturdays and/or Sundays.

Students from grades 6 through high school may be confirmed, as long as they have been enrolled in faith formation for at least two years and have participated in all of the necessary sacramental preparation. Similarly, students in grades 3 and above may receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and/or Holy Eucharist, as long as they have been enrolled in faith formation for at least two years and have participated in all of the necessary sacramental preparation for these sacraments.

Furthermore, class placement and the reception of the Sacrament will be determined by the knowledge and understanding shown and expressed by the sacramental candidate at the discretion of the catechist, the Director of Faith Formation (DRE), and the Pastor.

Sacrament Fees: Students receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion or that of Confirmation will be charged a fee to cover all religious education materials necessary for sacramental preparation as well as sacramental workshops and/or retreats. If your child cannot attend the required sacramental retreat offered at St. Joseph Church, s/he may need to pay an additional fee to attend a retreat at another Parish.

Confirmation Sponsor: an individual who accepts the crucial role of guiding a candidate in the life of discipleship. A parent cannot be the Godparent or Sponsor for his or her child. To be permitted to take on the function of Sponsor, a person must:

- Obtain a sponsor certificate from the pastor of the parish in which s/he is registered and practicing his/her faith.
- Be not less than sixteen years of age.
- Not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared.
- Be a practicing Catholic who attends Mass on the weekends and holy days; has been confirmed and has received the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist; and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.
- If married, must be in a valid marriage recognized by the Catholic Church.

For additional information, please review the **GUIDELINES for Parents in Choosing a Godparent for Your Child's Baptism and for Confirmation Candidates in Choosing a Sponsor**. If you are a parishioner at St. Joseph, and you are asked to be a sponsor/godparent for someone at St. Joseph or another parish, please call the Rectory office at 203.748.8177.