



IGNITE

CONFIRMATION

Parent / Teen Information Meeting 26 August 2025

Opening Prayer: Eucharistic Adoration

1) Confirmation, the Gospel, and You

- a) Sacraments are God's means of communicating the Divine Life to Us
- b) Original Holiness, but through Adam and Eve, sin entered the world, disrupting the natural order of the entire universe and leaving us in need of a savior

2) What Confirmation is Not

- a) A Catholic Bar Mitzvah – age and experience are not requirements, not their “own” commitment
- b) A Finish Line – this is not the end of Catholic formation; it is a beginning in the spiritual life
- c) Graduation – again, this is not the end, but a springboard to more
- d) So I Can Get Married in the Church / Be a Godparent / Make Grandma Happy

3) What Confirmation Is

- a) A Sacrament
 - i) An outward sign, instituted by Christ, to give Grace
 - ii) A way of God to communicate His life to us for our salvation
- b) A Sealing of Our Baptismal Promises and Strengthening of Our Baptismal Graces
 - i) By Baptism, we die with Christ to our sin and rise to new life with Him. This is not a ritual cleansing; it is a spiritual death and a completely new type of life given by Him. Here it is that we can understand Paul's statement *It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me* (Galatians 2:20).
- c) A Call to Mission and Vocation
 - i) “As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life” (Rite of Baptism)
 - ii) “it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross” (CCC 1303)
- d) Increases the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Us
 - i) “Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.” -St. Ambrose
 - ii) Isaiah 11:1-3

4) Formation at Saint Raphael

- a) 1 Year Program – 8th Grade only from now until March 2025
- b) Ignites – Monthly Formation Sessions
 - i) Meeting monthly underscores the reality that formation is a process, a journey—it cannot be completed without a community of support and a willingness to experience. That is also the reason formation differs from PSR or day school Religion Classes. Our aim is not to attain mastery of a subject or earn something like

a diploma. It is to open our minds and hearts to receive the graces that God desires to pour out upon us, to increase the vocabulary of the Holy Spirit in us, and to mature as disciples.

- ii) Follow the format of the Mass: Gather, Proclaim, Break, Send
- iii) It is about Faith which seeks Understanding – *Fides quaerens Intellectum*

c) Retreat at St. Leonard Youth Retreat Center

- i) to give your teens the forum to test and explore their faith in a training ground uniquely suited to that task
- ii) One day, off campus, to delve deeply into the questions “who am I in light of the Gospel?” and “what is God asking of me in my life right now?”
- iii) Men on January 24th / Women on January 25th

d) Service Experience

- i) An opportunity to engage in the work of the Church – within our Parish (liturgical ministries and social justice programs), in our Catholic Church (Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul), and in our community
- ii) Two Options
 - (1) A year-long Apostolate – one big project with multiple meetings or components
 - (a) e.g., Fish Frys, Preschool PSR or PSR Aide, Lector, Marthas
 - (2) 15 Hours done anywhere

e) Choosing a Sponsor

- i) As soon as possible – we want them to journey with you
- ii) Is someone you can talk freely with about Faith and Life
- iii) Meets the Requirements of the Church
 - (1) Older than 16, all Sacraments of Initiation, not a Parent, if Married it is valid
 - (2) Get a letter from their home parish stating they are eligible to be a sponsor

f) Choosing a New Name

- i) Reflects the Ontological (Inward) Change you are undergoing
- ii) Unites you more closely to the entire Communion of Saints
- iii) Is an Intercessor, Mentor, and Friend that You Ask for and choose
- iv) Must be a saint or blessed – you are choosing a role model, not just a name

g) Registering Your Teen *Register from the Email sent to you* or email jgill@saintraphaelparish.com

5) Expectations

- a) Attendance at All Events – reasonable absences are okay, but make this a priority
- b) Meaningful Engagement – this is to help you receive God’s life given to you
- c) Regular Communication – monthly email updates, www.saintraphaelparish.com/confirmation
- d) Parental Involvement – make opportunities for spiritual growth as a parent and a family
- e) Openness to the Holy Spirit – let God work in your life

6) Important Dates

a) September 21	IgNight Unleash the Gospel	5-6:30pm	
b) October 19	IgNight Unleash Holiness	5-6:30pm	
c) November 16	IgNight Unleash Mercy	5-6:30pm	<i>Confirmation Name and Sponsor due</i>
d) December 14	IgNight Unleash Love	5-6:30pm	
e) January 24 & 25	Retreat at St. Leonard	All Day	
f) February 1	IgNight Unleash You	5-6:30pm	<i>Service Experience due</i>
g) February 26	Confirmation Rehearsal	7-8pm	<i>Thursday – Sponsors Should Attend</i>
h) March 1	Rite of Confirmation	3pm	<i>with Bishop Malesic</i>

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses.

-Acts 1:8