

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always...” John 14:16



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

Confirmation Handbook

2025-2026

Sacramental Preparation for the Rite of Confirmation

Saint Joseph Parish
Sylvania, Ohio

What is Confirmation?

“In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is ‘sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit’ and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ.”

~USCCB.org

“Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world. . . . We receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for building up the community in loving service.”

~from the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*

Who Can Receive This Sacrament?

“Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation” (Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC], 1306).

“A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs.” (CCC, 1319).

Choosing a Sponsor

“Insofar as possible, there is to be a sponsor for the person to be confirmed; the sponsor is to take care that the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ...” (Code of Canon Law [CIC], c. 892). A sponsor must **be a practicing Catholic at least 16 years of age and have received the sacraments** of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation (CIC cc. 893 § 1, 874 § 1).

The candidate’s sponsor should be someone who can support and advise them on their spiritual journey. Ideally, the sponsor will also participate actively in the Confirmation preparation process.

Once a sponsor is selected, they must complete and return a sponsor form to the Youth Formation Office. **Sponsor forms are due Friday, October 24th**. If the sponsor is from another parish, we ask for a “letter of good standing” from

the parish of the sponsor. If the sponsor is a parishioner of Saint Joseph, Sylvania, we will confirm good standing.

Sponsor Responsibilities

- Complete the Sponsor Pledge and secure a “Letter of Good Standing” from your parish (if not a Saint Joseph Parishioner) by **October 24th**
- Pray with and for your candidate regularly
- Witness to your relationship with God and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Sponsors are encouraged to attend the following:

- Parent Catechesis Session (select one):
 - Sunday, September 28th, 4:00-5:00 pm (Family Center) **OR**
 - Monday, September 29th, 5:30-6:30 pm (Family Center)
- Confirmation Practice and Logistics Meeting:
 - Sunday, March 1st, 2026, 1:15-2:00 pm (Church)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

All candidates should celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. To encourage and support the candidate in their preparation, we recommend that a parent and/or sponsor set the example by receiving Reconciliation with the candidate. See the parish bulletin and website for opportunities for this sacrament!

Saint Name Selection

Confirmation candidates may choose their baptism name or another saint name (including names from the Bible) based on their devotion to or admiration for a particular saint. To learn about the saints and select a Confirmation name, we recommend reading books about the lives of the saints or researching them online at a website such as www.catholicsaints.info/alphabetical-list/. If candidates are struggling with selecting a name, contact Janaye in the Youth Formation Office and she will be happy to help! Please submit saint name selections on the accompanying form **no later than December 5th**.

Questions? Contact Janaye Ashman at (419) 885-5791 or email jashman@stjoesylvania.org!

Confirmation Formation Overview

Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation at Saint Joseph Parish is an intentional, prayerful process of preparing students to become fully initiated members of the Body of Christ. This consists of religious education classes, a retreat experience, a Confirmation interview, and service opportunities.

Religious Education

All confirmation candidates are required to be formed in the faith prior to their Confirmation. This can be achieved in three ways:

1. Students complete 7th and 8th grade religious education at Saint Joseph Parish School
2. Students complete 7th and 8th grade religious education through the Saint Joseph Parish faith formation program or through supported homeschool
3. Students complete 7th and 8th grade religious education at another Catholic school (Notre Dame, Saint Francis, Saint John's Jesuit, Saint Ursula, etc.)

Academy Student Confirmation Refresher

If the candidate attends one of the Catholic academies, they will need to attend the Academy Student Confirmation Refresher at Saint Joseph Parish held on **Saturday, January 10th from 9:30-10:45 am in the Hoffman Room (West Campus).**

Parent Catechesis

Parents and sponsors are asked to participate in one Catechesis session to support their child's sacramental formation. In this session, parents and sponsors will learn some basic theology behind the sacrament as well as suggestions for how to aid the candidate's preparation at home. Two dates are offered, but the presentation is the same on both days.

Dates for Parent Catechesis Sessions

Sunday, September 28th, from 4:00-5:00 pm (Family Center) **OR**
Monday, September 29th, from 5:30-6:30 pm (Family Center)

Confirmation Retreat

Saint Joseph Parish is joining St. Joan of Arc Parish for its Confirmation Retreat. **The retreat is intended for both the Candidate and at least one parent/guardian to attend together**, with the aim of spiritual renewal and inspiration for the whole family. The retreat will be **Saturday, January 31st, 2026** from 1:00-4:00 pm **at St. Joan of Arc Parish** (5856 Heatherdowns Blvd, Toledo 43614).

Service Requirement

Candidates will be asked to actively live out their faith by giving **eight hours** of service to the parish and the community at large over at least **three** unique service opportunities. Students are asked to notate their service activities on the form at the back of this handbook, to be turned in at their scheduled Confirmation interviews on **January 20th or 24th**.

Service opportunities abound at Saint Joseph parish! The **Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, Service Saturdays**, and **any parish ministry or event needing volunteers** are excellent ways to “reach out in service to all,” in keeping with our parish mission statement!

The Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy are listed below for reference. In the context of Confirmation preparation, the Corporal works of mercy are particularly applicable as service opportunities.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feeding the Hungry
Sheltering the Homeless
Clothing the Naked
Visiting the Sick
Visiting the Imprisoned
Giving to the Poor
Burying the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Counseling the Doubtful
Instructing the Ignorant
Admonishing the Sinner
Comforting the Sorrowful
Forgiving Injuries
Bearing Wrongs Patiently
Praying for the Living and the Dead

Service activities relating to the Works of Mercy include (but are not limited to):

- Joseph's Meals or another local food pantry (feeding the hungry)
- Sorting/distributing clothing with a local drive (clothing the naked)
- Preparing and delivering a care package to someone who is sick or homebound (visiting the sick)
- Acting as a class aide for religious education at Saint Joseph (instructing the ignorant)

Service Saturdays

On select Saturdays, the Office of Youth Formation will offer a Service Saturday. A member of the department will plan a service event and publicize the event in advance in the bulletin. These Service Saturdays are a wonderful opportunity for students (and their families) to engage with the community and put their faith into action!

Other Parish Service Opportunities

Participation in altar server ministry, children's choir, hospitality ministry (greeting churchgoers before weekend Masses), helping out with the parish 5K or festival, or assisting with Giving Tree operations are also great ways to get involved serving others!

Confirmation Interview

A parish staff member will hold an interview with each Confirmation candidate to discuss their desire and readiness to receive this sacrament. Interviews will last approximately 15 minutes. Saint Joseph Parish School students will be interviewed during the school day on **Tuesday, January 20th, 2026** (9:30-11:00am). Saint Joseph Parish Religious Education, Homeschool, and Catholic Academy students will be interviewed on **Saturday, January 24th, 2026** (9:30-11:00am). Further details and a schedule will be forthcoming.

Note about Due Dates

Please be prompt when turning in the sponsor pledge form, saint name form and service form by the above due dates. This ensures that the Youth Formation office has adequate time to create the Mass program, schedule Confirmation interviews, and make other necessary preparations. Thank you!



Confirmation Preparation Dates 2025-2026

What	When
Confirmation Kick Off (Family Center) For all parents and students	Thursday, September 4 th , 5:30-6:30 pm
Parent & Sponsor Catechesis Session (Family Center) Only one session is needed	Sunday, September 28 th , 4:00-5:00 pm <i>or</i> Monday, September 29 th , 5:30-6:30 pm
Confirmation Sponsor Pledge Due	Friday, October 24 th
Confirmation Saint Name Form Due	Friday, December 5 th
Academy Student Refresher (West Campus – Hoffman) only for students of Catholic academies	Saturday, January 10 th , 9:30-10:45 am
Confirmation Interviews* (Family Center):	
Saint Joseph School Students	Tuesday, January 20 th , 9:30-11:00 am
Parish Rel. Ed., Homeschool, & Academy Students	Saturday, January 24 th , 9:30–11:00 am
Retreat (St. Joan of Arc Parish) Joint attendance – student and parent	Saturday, January 31 st , 1:00-4:00 pm
Confirmation Meeting & Practice (Church) For all students and a parent or sponsor	Sunday, March 1 st , 1:15-2:00 pm
Confirmation Mass Rosary Cathedral, Toledo	Sunday, March 15 th , 3:00pm

*Interview schedule will be sent in December

Due: October 24th, 2025

Candidate's Name _____

SPONSOR'S PLEDGE

After prayerful consideration, I am willing:

- To pray regularly for my candidate
- To support my candidate's spiritual growth
- To help identify the working of the Holy Spirit in my candidate's life
- To celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with my candidate
- To continue prayerful support of my candidate following Confirmation

Please answer the following questions:

Are you a practicing Catholic? _____

At which parish are you registered? _____

Have you received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation in the Catholic Church? _____

Print Sponsor's Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Return this form along with a letter of good standing from your parish **no later than October 24th** to:

Youth Formation Office

Saint Joseph Parish

5411 Main Street, Sylvania, Ohio 43560

- OR – email to: jrichardson@stjoesylvania.org

SAINT NAME SELECTION

Due Date: December 5th, 2025

Name: _____

Saint Name: _____

This will be the name on your nametag that the Bishop will announce at the Confirmation Ceremony.

What is your saint's feast day? _____

I chose this saint because: _____

What are some of the characteristics you admire or share with this saint?

What can you do in your everyday life to model this saint and ultimately Christ?

Candidate signature: _____

Parent signature: _____



Saint Joseph Parish

Service Form



Directions:

Record eight hours of service during at least three unique service opportunities. For each activity, write in the space below how this service impacted your parish or community:

- What did you do during this service opportunity?
- If this service was a Work of Mercy, which one?
- What was your favorite part about this service?

Service Performed	Date/Hours	Signature of Coordinator	Name of Coordinator

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Saint Joseph Parish

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Dear parents of Confirmation students,

This year's Confirmation retreat is scheduled for **January 31, 2026** at St Joan of Arc located at **5856 Heatherdowns Blvd, Toledo, OH 43614**. **This retreat is for students and parents!** Registration begins at **12:30 pm** with the retreat beginning at **1:00 pm and ending at 4:00 pm**. *Please arrive no later than 12:45 pm* for registration. John is an eye doctor and the theme this year will be "Sanctified." We are confident it will be a great experience for you! While it is required for at least one parent to attend with your child, we recommend that both parents attend.

There is one portion of the retreat in which John will provide a specific presentation just for the parents. (The students will be in the church for adoration during this time). John Wood has spoken all over the country and his book, "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission," has sold over a quarter million copies. New York Times Bestselling author Matthew Kelly has said, "I believe John is one of the great emerging Catholic voices of our time. John Wood has a passion that is contagious...read this book and make an effort to hear him speak!" This is NOT an informational meeting, this is an inspiring talk that you DON'T WANT TO MISS! We promise it will be worth your time and help you prepare with your son or daughter for this important sacrament. You will also receive a bag of materials worth over \$200.

IMPORTANT ACTION: To help make this retreat a memorable experience, we ask you to write a short care letter of encouragement to your son/daughter and invite their Confirmation sponsor to do so also. These letters will be distributed and read during Adoration time. It is important that each student receives at least one letter. **Please submit letters to Youth Formation Director Janaye Ashman by noon on January 16, 2026.**

Thanks and we look forward to seeing you on January 31!

Janaye Ashman

Saint Joseph, Sylvania



SANCTIFIED
SEE THE LIGHT. BE THE LIGHT.