

“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

2026-2027

Sacramental Preparation for the Rite of Confirmation

Saint Joseph Parish
Sylvania, Ohio

Handbook Contents Overview

- About the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Confirmation Kickoff & Parent Catechesis (Sponsors welcome!)
- Sponsor Selection
- Saint Name Selection
- Service Opportunities
- Faith Formation Classes
- Confirmation Refresher
- Confirmation Retreat
- Confirmation Interview
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Confirmation Mass
- Dress Code
- Attachments: Confirmation Program Dates 2026-2027, Diocesan Godparent-Sponsor Eligibility Form, Saint Name Form, Service Forms, Confirmation Pledge

We are excited to walk on this faith formation journey with you and your child!

About the Sacrament of 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*

Confirmation Kickoff & Parent Catechesis (Sponsors also welcome!)

The Confirmation Kickoff parent meeting will be held on Sunday, September 20th from 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M in the elementary school Hoffman Room. If you are unable to attend on this date, a makeup session will be held on Monday, September 21st from 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. This meeting will include detailed discussion of program expectations, parent catechesis on Confirmation, and the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Sponsor Selection

The Confirmation candidate should select a faithful Catholic sponsor who is willing to support and advise them on their spiritual journey. According to the Code of Canon Law, can. 874, sponsors must have received the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation, be at least sixteen years of age, be a practicing Catholic, and, if married, have been married in the Catholic Church. Parents may not sponsor their own children. Once a sponsor is selected, they must complete the Diocese of Toledo Godparent-Sponsor Eligibility Form (stapled to the back of this handbook), have the pastor of their parish sign it, and return the completed form to Janaye. Sponsor forms are due by the end of the day Friday, October 23rd.

Saint Name Selection

Confirmation candidates may choose their baptismal 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 parish office and she will be happy to help! Please submit saint name selections on the accompanying form no later than December 6th.

Service Opportunities

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 two unique service opportunities. Students are asked to notate their service activities on the service

form, have it signed by the event coordinator, and turn it in at their scheduled Confirmation interview on January 26th or 30th.

Looking for service ideas? The Works of Mercy, listed below, are a great place to start:

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 or 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 Faith Formation at Saint Joseph (instructing the ignorant)

Other parish Service Opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Altar serving
- Children's choir
- Hospitality ministry (greeting churchgoers before weekend Masses)
- Parish 5K or festival
- Christmas Ministry

There are many other opportunities within the larger community, such as Saint Joseph Parish School and other local school initiatives, Helping Hands of Saint Louis, and Sylvania Area Family Services. Please contact Janaye with any questions!

Faith Formation Classes

Students may receive Faith Formation prior to making their sacraments by 1) completing 7th and 8th grade at Saint Joseph Parish School, 2) completing 7th and 8th grade Faith Formation through the Saint Joseph Parish Faith Formation program or supported homeschooling, or 3) completing 7th and 8th grade religious studies at a Catholic Academy.

Academy Student Confirmation Refresher

Sacramental preparation for Confirmation is not typically incorporated into religious studies at the Diocese of Toledo Catholic Academies, with the expectation that students will receive sacramental preparation at their parish. All parish Confirmation candidates who attend a Catholic Academy (and any other students who would like additional preparation before their interview) should plan to attend the Confirmation Refresher held on Saturday, January 9th, from 9:30-10:45 am in the West Campus Hoffman Room.

Confirmation Retreat

The Confirmation Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 23rd here at Saint Joseph Parish. This retreat is for both students and at least one parent or guardian. Parents asked to write a short letter of support and encouragement for their child to read at the retreat, to be sent to Janaye by the end of the day on Friday, January 8th. Stay tuned for further details about the retreat!

Confirmation Interview

A parish staff member will hold an interview with each Confirmation candidate to discuss their desire to receive this sacrament, and each candidate will sign a Confirmation Pledge Form. Interviews will last approximately 10 minutes. Saint Joseph Parish School students will be interviewed during the school day on Tuesday, January 26th, 2026 from 9:30-11:00 A.M. Saint Joseph Parish Faith Formation, Homeschool, and Catholic Academy students will be interviewed on Saturday, January 30th, 2026 from 9:30-11:00am. Further details and scheduled time slots will be forthcoming.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (available during Confirmation Retreat)

All candidates are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. We recommend that a parent and/or

sponsor set the example by also receiving Reconciliation with the candidate. The parish Confirmation Retreat will include the opportunity to attend Reconciliation.

Confirmation Mass

The Confirmation Mass will take place at Rosary Cathedral on Sunday, February 28th, 2027 at 3:00 P.M.

Dress Code

Boys are asked to wear a dress shirt and tie, slacks, and dress shoes. A suit or sport coat is optional. Girls are asked to wear a dress or dress top with slacks or a skirt. Skirts and dresses must fall past fingertip-length, and sleeveless or strappy dresses must be worn with a shawl or shrug to cover shoulders. Shoes with heels are not permitted, due to the steep steps at the Cathedral.

Note about Due Dates

Please be prompt when turning in the Godparent-Sponsor Eligibility Form, Saint Name Form, and Service Forms 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!

Questions?

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



Confirmation Program Dates 2026-2027

- Confirmation Kick-Off & Parent Catechesis.....Sunday, September 20th, 6:00 P.M-7:00 P.M.
- Confirmation Kick-Off & Parent
Catechesis Makeup SessionMonday, September 21st, 6:00 P.M-7:00 P.M.
- Diocesan Godparent-Sponsor Eligibility Form Due.....Friday, October 23rd, by end of day
- Saint Name Form Due.....Friday, December 6th, by end of day
- Parent Retreat Letters Due.....Friday, January 8th, by end of day
- Academy Student Refresher.....Saturday, January 9th, 9:30-10:45 A.M.
- Confirmation Retreat and Practice.....Saturday, January 23rd
- Confirmation Interviews – Saint Joseph School Students.....Tuesday, January 26th, 9:30- 11:00 A.M.
- Confirmation Interviews –
Faith Formation, Academy, and Homeschool Students.....Saturday, January 30th, 9:30- 11:00 A.M.
- Confirmation Mass.....Sunday, February 28th, 3:00 P.M. at Rosary Cathedral

SAINT NAME SELECTION

Due Date: December 6th, 2026

Confirmation Candidate Name: _____

Saint Name: _____

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



Name of Student: _____

Record eight hours of service during at least two 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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