

Dear 8th Grade Families:

It is hard to believe that Confirmation is just about a month away, so we thought we would take this opportunity to share some logistical information regarding the sacrament.

We have been working diligently to ensure that we can celebrate this sacrament in a way that ensures safety, joy, and reverence for all of our families. As you may be aware, there are many new safety protocols in place that we need to follow when we gather in the church, which include limiting the number of people allowed to attend sacramental celebrations.

Each confirmand will be allowed to invite their sponsor, and two additional guests, for a total of 4. The total number of 4 attendees per family includes the child being confirmed, their sponsor and two other guests/parents. We know that it is very difficult to have a limit on attendees, so in order to allow other family members to participate in this joyful celebration, it is our hope to livestream each Confirmation on the St. Joseph's Facebook page. In order for us to do that, we have to have permission from each family. In addition, a COVID Health Screening Form must be completed for each practice and each Confirmation ceremony. These forms will be emailed to you on the day of the practice and on the day of Confirmation. It is imperative that they be completed in order to ensure the safety of all who will be in attendance. On the COVID questionnaire, we will also ask for your consent to livestream.

We have put the Confirmation parent letter on our webpage which lists all of the pertinent dates and times of practices, etc.. Here is a link in case you need to reference it again:

http://www.saintjosephreligiouseducation.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Confirmation_Letter_Revision_11_18.322154135.pdf

We ask that on the night of practice, only the confirmand and one other adult attend. The adult in attendance should be their sponsor, but if their sponsor is unable to attend, another adult may fill in for the sponsor. We will distribute Confirmation robes and go over the Rite of Confirmation, which includes the role of the sponsor during the celebration. We will also assign pews so everyone will know where to sit on the night of Confirmation. Practice should take approximately 45 minutes.

On the night of Confirmation, we will not have a formal procession. We ask all families to go directly to the church, and each confirmand will sit in an assigned pew with their sponsor and their two guests. Under normal circumstances, we would celebrate Confirmation as part of the holy sacrifice of the Mass, Sadly, the current restrictions make it necessary for us to limit our celebration to the Rite of Confirmation itself. The celebration should last approximately one hour.

Although Confirmation will look different this year, it will still be an occasion for grace and we will work together to make our ceremony worthy of the Holy Spirit and memorable for the families of our candidates. We look forward to rejoicing together and celebrating this momentous occasion when your children take their first steps towards being adults in our faith.

Our office remains closed and we continue to work from home. Should you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail us: stjosephred@optonline.net

We continue to pray that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

God bless,

Mrs. Antoinette Gilligan

