

Office of Religious Education

St. James the Apostle
490 South Park Blvd.
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

August 1, 2023

Dear Parents,

This year your son/daughter will be in their final year of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are very excited about this year and are happy to have your student receiving this sacrament at St. James. Our ministry in the Office of Religious Education is to support your efforts as a parent to raise your child of God in the faith that we all profess.

We recognize that there are many activities in your family's life; therefore, we wanted to give you the dates of the major events that your child will be required to attend in order to complete the two year formation process toward the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. These events and items are based on Diocesan regulations and attendance at these events and completion of the documents is **MANDATORY**.

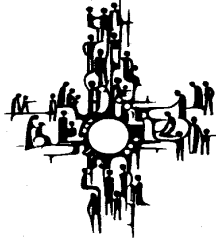
In addition to attendance at the events listed below, an integral part of their formation has been, and always will be, attendance at all classes. Absences of 3 or more classes may require a meeting between the candidate, parents and the RE staff to discuss the candidate's readiness to receive this sacrament. Students that attend St. James School, please follow the instructions of the teacher to complete these formation requirements; some may be completed in class while others you will complete at home. Thank you for your guidance to arrange your child's schedule to ensure their attendance at classes and the formation events.

As the dates approach we will provide you with additional details via our electronic newsletter, ***Sacramental REminders***, which is sent at the end of every month. We primarily use email to communicate with you throughout the year, so if your email address changes, please notify us at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to celebrating these sacraments with your child and your family. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Joyfully,

Lisa Weesner
Coordinator of Religious Education



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Requirements and due dates for those in their second year of their Confirmation formation are as follows with more information and useful forms regarding specific requirements on the parish website under Worship & Sacraments/Confirmation.

- **Items due October 2, 2023**

- Height for Confirmation gown (a link will be provided in the REminders in early Fall)
- Confirmation sponsor's name and email (a link will be provided in REminders in early Fall). Please note that a Confirmation sponsor should be a person that each candidate believes to be a good steward of the Catholic faith and someone that will help guide them as they continue their travels of learning about our faith and our mission as His disciples. There should only be one sponsor who must meet the following requirements:

- be 16 years of age or older by the date of Confirmation;
- be a confirmed Catholic;
- not be the mother or father of the candidate;
- if married, be validly married according to the laws of the Catholic Church;
- attend Mass on Sundays & Holy days and receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation regularly;
- and leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on.

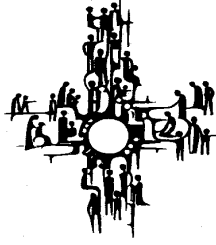
- **November, 2023 - Confirmation retreat (candidate and sponsor)**

Diocesan policy states that all students wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation **MUST** attend a Confirmation retreat prior to the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The St. James the Apostle Confirmation Retreat will be an online event. This allows each candidate to interact with their sponsor throughout the retreat.

The Confirmation retreat will be emailed to both the candidate and sponsor on November 1, 2023. The Confirmand and their sponsor should complete it together and submit the completed retreat by **December 13, 2023**.

- **Formation Review**

an assessment will be given December 5 & 6th during class time to ensure that the student is prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In order that the students are prepared to take the assessment,, a **Confirmation Formation Study Guide** is available on the parish website under Worship & Sacraments/Confirmation. Please note, dependent on the student's score, they may be asked to correct their mistakes.



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- **Items Due December 12/13, 2023**

- Confirmation Sponsor's Signed & Sealed Eligibility Form & a copy of the Sponsor's Confirmation Certificate
- Confirmation Online Retreat submitted

- **January 23/24, 2024 Confirmation Interviews (candidate only)**

Confirmation interviews will be held during class. Interviews are conducted in 20 minute segments and include four students in each group. In order that the students are prepared, the interview questions are available on the parish website under Worship & Sacraments/Confirmation.

Items Due at interview:

- Confirmation (Saint) Name Report I (a link will be provided in REminders in late Fall)
- Service Project (for final year) (link is available on the parish website under Worship & Sacraments/Confirmation)

- **Rehearsal for Rite of Confirmation (candidate and sponsor)** – Rehearsal for the Rite of Confirmation will be the day before the Confirmation Mass from 5:30-6:30 PM at St. James the Apostle Church. This is a **MANDATORY** rehearsal. **Both**, candidates and their sponsors need to be present at the rehearsal as we will walk through the ceremony. If a candidate and sponsor are both not present, then it affects the seating and the ceremony itself for all the confirmation candidates. If for some reason, the candidate and/or sponsor cannot be present at the rehearsal, we ask that an adult member or friend of the family come so that the 2 assigned seats are occupied and so that they can explain the process to the candidate and the sponsor.
- **Mass for the Rite of Confirmation (all are welcome)** - awaiting date/time from the Diocese, which typically arrives in December. We have requested dates in March, 2024 (excluding Spring Break) but the Diocese provides the final time and date to each parish.