

Frequently Asked Questions

Please note, all Confirmation Forms must be sent directly to the Religious Education Office, not handed in to the teacher in the classroom. If the office is closed a mailbox is located outside the office door for your convenience.

ATTENDANCE

All students to be confirmed must be attending their regularly scheduled class with either the Religious Education Program or in a Catholic School. The expectation is no RE classes are missed, attendance in all religion classes are a requirement. A flexibility system is in place for any family who might need to temporarily switch classes for *special occasion* reasons only. We do not switch classes for a *sports season*, etc.

BISHOP'S QUESTIONS

The Bishop provided us with 25 questions to help prepare the students. He will meet with the students prior to the Mass and ask them several questions. They should be prepared and ready to answer.

CONFESSION

Confession prior to the Confirmation Mass will take place on Wednesday evenings during regular scheduled Confession. The RE office will assign different Wednesdays to each of the classes, so as not to overwhelm our priests. Alternatively, you, the parents may take them to Confession during a weekend Mass and let the office know after the event that confession has been completed.

What if a student cannot make the date assigned for Confession?

The parents will then assume the responsibility of making sure their child/ren attend Confession at another time prior to Confirmation; options include during weekly Mass or at another Parish's scheduled time.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE FORM

What is the Yellow Confirmation Candidate Form?

This information about the candidate is necessary information needed for filling out our Parish's church ledger after a sacrament is received.

When is the Yellow Confirmation Candidate Form due?

Monday, 28th October, 2019

What if my child does not know who to pick for their saint yet?

Please turn the document in on time. Leave that line blank and we can fill it in when they turn in their saint report prior to the deadline date of **Monday, 9th March, 2020**.

CONFIRMATION MASS OR SERVICE

Is the Confirmation Mass or Service usually held on a Saturday or a Sunday?

The Mass is scheduled by the Bishop. Often, the Mass has been held on Saturday mornings but this is not a guarantee each year. As soon as the Bishop's office informs us of the Confirmation Mass date, we will send out the information to our families. It will also be posted on the SHOJ website, emailed to parents, and a letter sent home to the family address.

How long does a Confirmation Mass take?

This is determined by the Bishop along with how long his homily may be. Typically, the Mass is one hour long.

Is there a limit to the number of family members and friends that can be invited to the Confirmation Mass?

The Mass or service is a very special event in your child's life. You may invite anyone and everyone who you would like to share in this precious moment.

Can your child be in the alternative time slot for the Confirmation Mass or Service if there is a conflict?

If our parish has 2 Masses, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and you have a conflict that cannot be managed, please contact the RE office so we can help reschedule another option. If the whole day is a conflict, please contact the office as soon as possible and we will help you find another church or opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the event a change is needed, the Bishop requires a two week lead time.

Will the students be with their own class at Confirmation?

Yes, unless an individual child needs to switch to an alternate Mass or service.

What is the dress code for the Confirmation Mass?

Your child should wear nice church clothes and dress shoes. Boys do not need to wear blazers as red gowns will be worn.

Should the students expect to present something or talk during Mass?

The Bishop during his homily usually steps down off the Altar and may or may not ask the candidates a question. Please be prepared. We will try to help where possible. During rehearsal, we will ask for student volunteers to either read the petitions for Mass or bring down the gifts. If your child would like to do either of these, please ask them to notify the office ahead of rehearsal time.

CONFIRMATION TEST**What if my child has trouble passing the test?**

Our teachers will do everything needed to help your student study and pass the test. The passing grade for the test is 100%.

What if my child does not pass the test on the first try?

The student will only make corrections to mistakes made. They **do not** have to re-sit the

Test in its entirety.

Students may schedule a time, either before or after class to come in or alternatively, the parents may make an appt. with the office to bring their child in and correct any mistakes at a different time. We will not take any more class time to make corrections. Study guides can be found on this Confirmation Website.

When is the test held?

The test is held during class in December. This year, the date for the Confirmation test is 15th – 18th December, depending on which class they attend. All students **MUST** be in their regular scheduled class for the test.

GOWNS/RED CONFIRMATION ROBES

How do we know the correct size of the gown for my child?

All Candidates wear a red robe during the Confirmation Mass. We measure the Candidates when they arrive for their interview with the priest and prepare the correct size for them. They will sign their own gown out after the Confirmation Rehearsal and bring it with them to the Mass. We will meet prior to Mass with the Bishop and they will process into the Mass.

Do I return the Confirmation Gown?

Yes. After the Mass the Candidates will proceed downstairs to Muldowney Hall and they will return their gowns and pick up their Confirmation Certificate. All gowns MUST be returned. Thank you for support in this.

INTERVIEW WITH THE PASTOR

How does the interview with Father work?

Fr. Lundberg will give the office 2-3 separate dates for interviews, (This will depend on the number of students we have for interviews that year). The dates will be given out via email and the Confirmation Webpage. The classes will be divided into each of these dates to make them as even as possible. If the date given to your child does not work with your schedule, please contact the office and choose one of the other dates provided. The priests will have your child's completed Confirmation folder in front of them before your child enters the room and will be expecting them on that day.

How long does an interview take?

It will depend on your child and if they are prepared to give answers when asked. If they are unsure on how to answer questions, it may take longer until the priest understands the child is ready to be confirmed.

Best form of preparation, know your saint! And review your study guides.

How are the interviews scheduled?

Fr. Lundberg will review his calendar and give 2 or 3 dates that will work with his schedule. On your child's assigned date, they will come through the Religious Education Office door (# 4) where they will be met by the Director and put into the appropriate order for their interview. They will be measured for their Confirmation gown at this time. Once they have had their interview, they may be picked up at the front door of the school, unless the parent chooses to wait for them in the school multipurpose room.

PARENT MEETING

A parent must attend the Parent Meeting to receive all the handouts and the information necessary to help guide their child through the confirmation process. If a parent is unable to attend the meeting, they must contact the RE office and set up a time to come in and receive the necessary information and forms.

The only parent meeting we have throughout the year is held in September. If you missed this meeting, please contact the office for details to set up an appointment to come in.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

We do not encourage our families to stand up and take photographs and video of the ceremony during Mass. This is a special occasion for your child and family, but it is also a Mass. Every year we have a professional photographer on site, Westervelt Photography, located in downtown Winchester to take individual, family, and class photos the day of the Mass. They have been with us for many years and do a very professional job. If your child chooses to take a photograph with the Bishop, please make sure they are still wearing their red robe. The Bishop's request!

RECEPTION

After the Confirmation Mass or service, a light reception is offered in Muldowney Hall for all newly confirmed and their families and friends. Please enjoy!
You are asked to turn your Confirmation gowns back in at this time and pick up your Confirmation Certificate. A table will be located in Muldowney Hall just for this purpose.

REGISTRATION

If we do not have class in the Fall, prior to Confirmation, do I need to register my child?

Yes. Registration forms will be mailed out in **spring 2020**. You must register your child back into the program by the date on the registration form. This informs the office that your child still wishes to be confirmed in the fall of 2020 and puts them on the roster for the retreat.

How much will it cost to register?

The cost is \$75.00 per student. This helps the office offset the cost for both the retreat and Confirmation preparations.

Will my child be in the classroom again in fall 2020 prior to Confirmation?

No, students will not have weekly classes in the fall. They are encouraged to look into the Youth Group. Youth Group activities can be found in the front cover of the church bulletin and also on the church website. It is well participated and organized with activities held mostly on Sunday evenings.

If my student attends the Academy, why do I need to register with the Religious Education Program?

The registration form you will receive in the mail needs to be filled out and mailed back to the Religious Education office, not the school, prior to the registration deadline date. This completed form and payment informs us of your child's intention to continue and be confirmed in the fall.

Didn't I already pay for Confirmation in my SHA school tuition fees?

No, fees specific to cost of the retreat, confirmation gowns, and Mass were **NEVER** collected by the school. As Confirmation occurs when your child is attending high school, no tuition has been paid to SHA since they are in a new school year.

What does this \$75.00 cover?

The fees collected at the time of registration helps the RE office offset the costs incurred for the Confirmation Retreat (staff and food), Confirmation Mass and Reception, Confirmation gown, printing, and Diocesan administration costs. If you would like a breakdown of these costs, please feel free to contact the office at (540) 662-2651.

REHEARSAL

When does rehearsal occur?

Rehearsal typically takes place two-four days prior to the Mass unless it falls on a Thanksgiving weekend or at a time where the date conflicts with another parish event. We will notify you months ahead of our date for rehearsal.

Your child must attend the rehearsal that compliments their Mass time slot. They may not, for example, attend the 1st rehearsal when they are assigned the 2nd Mass as this will not help them be appropriately positioned and can be confusing for the Pastor and RE office. Please ensure you have eliminated any rehearsal conflicts and way in advance as the Parish expectation is students will be present for rehearsal. In the event of special circumstances, please contact the Director of Religious Education a minimum of 7 days remaining before the Mass.

Candidate must bring their Sponsor to rehearsal with them. If this is not possible then a parent can stand in their place, with an expectation the parent discusses and shows the Sponsor where to sit and what to do on the day of the Mass. This is a Bishop mandated requirement.

How long does the rehearsal take?

Rehearsal usually lasts about 75 minutes. Please remember to bring your sponsor (or parent).

What if we can't make it to the rehearsal?

Rehearsal is Mandatory, candidates need to attend. Skipping the rehearsal will not benefit your student's confidence or their sponsor's knowledge of what is required of them at the Confirmation Mass. Gowns are also handed out to the STUDENT ONLY after rehearsals have concluded. Rehearsal is a diocesan requirement.

Do I need to bring anything with me to rehearsal?

You should bring your Confirmation sponsor with you to rehearsal. If the sponsor you have chosen is not available, i.e. not in town yet or still at work, bring a parent with you. The parent can pass the information and logistics along to the sponsor when they arrive on the day of the Mass. Please pass along, Sponsors are asked to be seated in the church at least 10 minutes prior to the procession of the Confirmandi.

During rehearsal, we will ask students to either read the petitions for Mass or bring down the gifts. If your child would like to do either of these, please ask them to notify the office ahead of rehearsal time.

The candidates will sign their own gowns out after rehearsal and sign them back in after the Mass when they obtain their Confirmation certificate. All gowns MUST be returned after the Mass or a bill of \$50.00 for the gown will be sent home.

RETREAT

All Confirmandi are **required** to attend a retreat prior to being confirmed in the Catholic faith. Our Confirmation Retreat is held in the fall, typically early October, but we will not have confirmation of the date until spring. Once we have this date confirmed, we will notify you via email and regular mail.

Our retreat is one day long. We host NET Ministries to hold our retreat.

What if my child is not available for the retreat at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church?

We will pass along contact numbers to you, so you may contact other parishes in our diocese and attend a retreat at one of them on a date conducive to your schedule.

They **MUST** attend a retreat prior to being confirmed.

When your child reports to the front door of the Academy building and signs in with the Religious Education Office and NET Ministries, they may not leave that retreat until it has concluded. If they choose to leave early, they will still be obliged to attend a retreat somewhere else in our diocese prior to being confirmed.

SAINT REPORT

How do we know what to write?

This report has a rubric that was given to you in the handouts at the parent meeting. If you are unable to locate this document, feel free to download it off the website, found on the Confirmation Webpage. **Date due: Monday, 9th March, 2020**

SERVICE HOURS

How many service hours are needed?

The Pastor asks that each student completes all 20 service hours and turns in their service hours form prior to an interview with the priest. This way the priest may see what they have been working on during the year for their service hours.

At least 10 service hours must be church hours and 10 hours can be community.

See guidelines on Service Hours page.

How do I log my Service Hours?

A salmon form is given to all students during class at the beginning of the school year. It also lists ideas for opportunities and what category they fall under.

How can I find out about service opportunities?

The Religious Education office will send out regular emails as opportunities come available. Check your email regularly or go to the Confirmation page on the church website for alternative ideas.

When do the service hours start and end?

The service hours start on **1st September, 2019** of their 2nd year in the Confirmation program and must be turned in to the Religious Education Office no later than **24th July, 2020**.

Guidelines for service hours can also be found under Service Hours on this website.

SPONSOR

What if my child does not know who to pick for a Confirmation Sponsor?

Please contact the office and we will try to help you work that out.

What is a Sponsor Certificate and where can I get one?

It is a document that shows us the person your child picked is in good standing with the church and tries to live a fully Christian life. If your child picks a sponsor who attends a parish other than Sacred Heart of Jesus, they will need to go to the Pastor of their church and ask for a *Certificate of Eligibility* or a *Sponsor Certificate for Confirmation*.

If your child picks a sponsor in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church then you may download off our church website the appropriate certificate, *Sponsor Certificate for Confirmation* and ask the sponsor to fill it out and bring it to either the Religious Education Office or the Rectory for a final signature from the Director of Religious Education or the Pastor.

Certificate due no later than Monday, 9th March, 2020

What if my Sponsor is unable to attend the Confirmation Mass?

If the Sponsor is unable to attend the Mass then a Proxy may be used in their place.

The Proxy must also be in good standing with the church and thus, be able to fill out a Sponsor Certificate too. As a Sponsor (or Proxy), they too will be encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Penance prior to Confirmation as Confirmation is a sacrament of the living and have been informed that they are expected to receive the Eucharist at Mass also.

YOUTH GROUP

What happens after the Confirmation Mass?

Your child will not have any more classes in a Religious Education setting. It will be up to the parents to make sure their child is still engaged in their faith. One way to do this is to encourage your child to check out and get involved with our parish Youth Group.

They typically meet on Sunday evenings, but occasionally meet on other evenings too.

Have your child look at the church bulletin under *Youth Disciples* to see what is going on.

Confirmation Timeline for those who will be confirmed Fall, 2020

Requirement	Date Due	Requirement Completed
Confirmation Candidate Form	Monday, 28 th October, 2019	
Confirmation Test	During class 15 th – 18 th December, 2019	
Sponsor Certificate	Monday, 9 th March, 2020	
Saint report	Monday, 9 th March, 2020	
Registration for fall, 2020 (Retreat Registration is included)	No later than Friday, 22 nd May, 2020	
Service Hours	Friday, 24 th July, 2020	
Confession	Wed Evening or during Mass. Fall 2020	
Rehearsal	Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 6:30pm	
Confirmation	Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 7:00pm	