

WELCOME TO CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2027

Vision Statement

The vision of St. Clare's Youth Ministry and Confirmation Program is to accompany young disciples along their journey to encounter and know Christ. Along this journey, the ministry hopes that these young people will become outstanding members of the parish community, learn the doctrines and tradition of the faith, and create community among their peers.

Confirmation is...

the third sacrament of initiation in the Catholic Church. In this sacrament, candidates are anointed with Sacred Chrism from the laying of hands of a minister. As in Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descends upon the candidates giving them a strengthening of baptismal grace.

¹ They also receive the gifts of courage, piety, understanding, wisdom, fear of the Lord, counsel, and knowledge. In doing so, candidates are called to live out their discipleship in the world as matured Christians.

The Confirmation program prepares young people from 8th-12th grade to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and is a cornerstone of our youth ministry.

REQUIREMENTS

Requirements to enroll in the program.

1. Enrolled in 8th-12th grade or are 14 years in age at the time of enrollment.
2. Have received the sacraments of Baptism and First Communion²
3. Registration Fee of \$400.00 ([Complete HERE](#))
4. Submit Baptism and First Communion Certificate via email to ryan.bao@dsj.org
5. Register using the QR Code at ([Complete HERE](#))



Requirements to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in addition to above.

1. Completed **ALL** but 3 sessions throughout the program or had made up the necessary number of sessions.
2. Attended the Confirmation Retreat, Confirmation Day Retreat, Rite of Acceptance, and Rite of Election.
3. Declared a suitable sponsor.
4. Intends to be confirmed.
5. Attends Mass frequently.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For all inquiries, please contact the you minister and confirmation director Ryan Bao at ryan.bao@dsj.org or (408) 248-7786 x109

¹ Acts 2:1-4, Compendium of the Catholic Church

² If haven't received these sacraments, please contact Ryan for alternate programs



SESSIONS/CALENDAR

All sessions on the calendar are required

Please view our calendar below. Note that it may be subject to change. In the case that there are changes, a new version will be communicated.

January							February							March						
Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28							28	29	30	31			
31																				
April							May							June						
Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												
July							August							September						
Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

WYD is Aug 3-8

	Confirmation Session
	Rite of Acceptance (Feb 6)
	Confirmation (Sept 25)
	Orientation (Jan 10)
	Rite of Election + Day Retreat (Aug 29)
	Confirmation Rehearsal (Sept 24)
	Holiday/Important Days
	Confirmation Retreat (March 5-7)
	Confirmation Small Groups



Confirmation Orientation	January 10th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	January 16th-18th	-
Confirmation Session	January 24th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Confirmation Small Groups	January 25th-29th	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Rite of Acceptance	February 6th	5:00 PM-6:00 PM
Confirmation Session	February 7th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Ash Wednesday	February 10th	-
Winter Break/President's Day	February 13th-15th	-
Confirmation Small Groups	February 22nd-26th	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Confirmation Session	February 28th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Confirmation Retreat	March 5th-7th	-
Confirmation Session	March 14th	1:30pm-2:30pm
Confirmation Small Groups	March 15th-19th	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Confirmation Session	March 21st	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Easter	March 28th	-
Confirmation Session	April 11th	1:30pm-2:30pm
Confirmation Small Groups	April 19th-23rd	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Confirmation Session	April 25th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Confirmation Session	May 2nd	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Mother's Day	May 9th	-
Confirmation Small Groups	May 10th-14th	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Confirmation Session	May 16th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Memorial Day	May 29th-31st	-
Confirmation Session	June 6th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Diocesan Youth Retreat (Optional)	June 14th-18th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Father's Day	June 20th	-
Confirmation Small Groups	June 21-25	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Confirmation Session	June 27th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Independence Day	July 4th	-
Confirmation Session	July 11th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Confirmation Small Groups	July 19th-23rd	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Confirmation Session	July 25th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Middle School Diocesan Youth Retreat	July 26th-30th	-
World Youth Day - Seoul, Korea	August 2nd-8th	-
Confirmation Session	August 15th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM



Confirmation Small Groups	August 23rd-27th	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Confirmation Day Retreat + Rite of Election	August 29th	10:00 AM-2:30 PM
Labor Day	September 4th-6th	-
Confirmation Small Groups	September 14th-18th	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Confirmation Last Session	September 19th	1:30 PM-2:30 PM
Confirmation Rehearsal	September 25th	7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Confirmation Day	September 26th	4:15 PM-6:15 PM

Confirmation Sessions - Sundays at 1:30 p.m.

In a Confirmation session, we follow a curriculum that takes us through what we call “salvation history.” It starts with God and our creation. Then we dive into the Bible and the story of Jesus and his importance in our lives. We then move on to after Christ’s death, the Church, and the sacraments. Confirmation sessions are centered around teaching the faith. We might begin with an icebreaker, have a speaker give a quick talk, and then follow it up with an activity or discussion that helps break apart the teaching of the day. Of course, we will always end with some food and drinks. Confirmation sessions take place in the parish hall.

Small Group Sessions – Once a month at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of a small group session is to enter into deeper discussion on what we learn during Confirmation sessions. It is easier to talk in a small group than a large group. Remember you will only attend **one small group session a month** and **it will be on the same day of the week with the same group** within the light green days of the calendar. You will not be going to each day within the week, only the day you are assigned to. For this session, it is up to the candidates to do the talking to help them break open the topic. We will have some activities to guide us, but the conversation comes from the group. These sessions are always interesting because we never know where the conversation will go as we dive deeper into our faith. They usually last about an hour. Small group assignments will be communicated when registrations are complete. If there are any discrepancies, please contact Ryan to change groups. For the most part, we try to keep them the same for the whole year.

Rites of Acceptance and Election – Feb 7 5:00 p.m. Mass and Aug 30 at 10:30am Mass

The Rite of Acceptance is a formal rite where candidates, their families, and sponsors show their commitment to the formation within the program. This happens within the context of the Mass with the whole community present. The Rite of Election is quite similar. During this rite, candidates are presented again to the community as ready for the celebration of Confirmation before Confirmation itself and sign in the book of the elect. The Rite of Election will coincide with the Confirmation Day Retreat

Mass Attendance - Saturday/Sundays

Mass attendance is **required** in our program. The centrality of Christian life is found in our Sunday liturgy where we listen to the Word of God and receive communion. Candidates will need to make time over the weekend to attend Mass at St. Clare so that they can grow in spirit in the context of our parish community.



PAYMENT

This year, the total cost of the Confirmation Program is **\$400.00** per candidate.

This payment covers the entirety of the retreat including the retreat site, food, lodging, and a retreat shirt. It also helps cover other expenses in the program such as food and materials.

Should you have any questions about the pricing or require a needs-based scholarship, please inquire with ryan.bao@dsj.org.

Payment can be made at the parish office or [online](#).



SPONSORS

For Confirmation, all candidates are required to have a sponsor **not only present on the day of their Confirmation but present in their lives before the sacrament and after.**

Who is a sponsor?

Sponsors are similar to godparents who “help the baptized person to lead a Christian life in keeping with baptism and to fulfill faithfully the obligations inherent in it” (Code of Canon Law, 872). In other words, a sponsor is a designated companion along the faith journey of one that is being baptized or confirmed.

What are the requirements of a sponsor?

In Confirmation, a sponsor is preferably someone who is the godparent of the candidate but does not have to be. There are some other outlined requirements for a sponsor namely:

- A sponsor must be at least sixteen years old.
- A sponsor must be a fully initiated Catholic (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) and “leads a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken.”
- A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic
- A sponsor must not be bound by Church penalty.
- A sponsor must not be the parent of the one to be confirmed.
- A candidate must choose their sponsor, not their parent.

Sponsors should also, if married, be married within the Catholic Church. If you have any questions about any of these requirements, please let me know.

What does a sponsor do?

Sponsors accompany their candidate in their formation process, during their Confirmation, and after they are confirmed. They play a very practical role in the faith life of the sponsoree. To make it more simple, they might participate in some program sessions with their candidates, talk to them about faith, pray for them, or even take them out to a meal. If you think about it, this is



what any friend should do! A sponsor, however, is a bit more formal than any friend because they are named to be the companion or guide for a candidate and are explicitly there on the day of Confirmation.

Sponsors are required to be present at Confirmation Session (Sept 21), the rehearsal (Sept 24), and the Confirmation (Sept 25)

Who should I choose as my sponsor?

Start with your godparents. It is preferable to have their participation in your life be reflected in Confirmation. If you do not have a good relationship with them, you might consider choosing someone else who you are inspired by and have a closer relationship. Maybe this is a brother, sister, or relative. It can also be a friend who has been confirmed already. You want to find someone that is a good friend and mentor that can help guide you in your faith journey. They should not be someone who lives far away and you never see them. Rather, you should see them regularly.

If you need help choosing a sponsor or need someone to talk about your sponsor, please reach out to me.

How do I declare my sponsor?

Sponsors should be chosen at the beginning of Confirmation in the registration. We will receive more information from them as the program continues.



ABSENCES

All session absences past the allotted 3 absences must be made up. For example, if you have 5 absences, you must do 2 make-up sessions. You are allowed to do as many small groups as you would like but you can only do option 1 once. Our absence policy ensures adequate preparation for Confirmation and a fairness for all candidates.

Option 1 - Written/Video Response

Write a letter or record a short video to Msgr. Fran stating your intention or reason for why you want to be confirmed in the Catholic Church and how you hope Confirmation will impact or has impacted your life. Also, include what you have learned through your Confirmation journey.

Requirements (Written): At least 500 words. Standard letter format (Greeting, Body, and Salutation)

Requirements (Video): At least 5 minutes.

Send this link or document to Ryan (ryan.bao@dsj.org)

Option 2 – You make an idea!

Think of an idea that might help you reflect on your Confirmation experience. We are open to your creativity and part of Confirmation is taking what you learn and going out to serve. Perhaps this a service project of some kind or a written essay about a particular topic in Confirmation that interested you. Please contact Ryan to discuss possibilities.

Option 3 - Additional Small Group

Each session is limited to 5 people. A calendly link will be communicated later during the year to sign up. Make up small groups will be communicated toward the end of the program.



RETREAT

Every year, the Confirmation candidates embark on a retreat. Our retreat will take place at Camp Redwood Glen on March 5-7. This will be a great opportunity for our youth to get away from their stresses and worries at school and at home and get a chance to focus on their call to Confirmation, reflect on their journey with Christ, grow to know Christ more, and form an even deeper relationship with their peers. The retreat info laid out in the following pages are subject to change, but should give you a better idea of what the retreat will be like. We will collaborate with St. Justin parish and Most Holy Trinity parish. The total attendees including candidates and leaders will be about 100 persons.

Location

[Camp Redwood Glen](#)

3100 Bean Creek Rd, Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Lodging

Retreatants should bring their own bedding such as a sleeping bag and pillow. They might also opt for a sheet and blanket. The camp provides a mattress on a bunk, sinks, showers, and toilettes. Please also provide your own towel and toiletries.



Schedule and transportation

Candidates should be dropped off at the St. Clare Parish Parking Lot on Friday, March 6th, at 4:30pm for check in. The bus will depart at 5:00pm. The bus ride takes about an hour. Retreatants will return via bus on March 8th at around 3:30pm. They may be picked up in the parish parking lot.

Meals

We will have designated mealtimes for all three meals (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner).

Friday: 7:00 pm Dinner | Snacks throughout

Saturday: 8:30 am Breakfast | 12:30 pm Lunch | 5:30 pm Dinner | Snacks throughout

Sunday: 8:30 am Breakfast | 12:30 pm Lunch | Snacks throughout



If your child has a food allergy, please let me know well before the retreat date. Otherwise, I will go off what has been entered in the registration form.

***We do ask that you **help donate snacks** for our candidates during the day. They can be anything from chips to fruit snacks and drinks. Please bring them to be loaded on the bus on Friday, March 6th.

Packing

All candidates should pack for the 2 nights and 3 days that we are at the retreat center. We will be in the Santa Cruz Mountains so plan accordingly. You may need a heavier jacket or layers.. Candidates will not need any swimming clothes but may want to bring clothes that they can get dirty. An example of a packing list can be found below:

- 3-4 shirts
- 1 hoodie
- 1 heavier jacket
- 2-3 pants
- Socks/underwear
- Comfortable shoes
- Shower Slippers/shoes
- Bathroom Towel
- Sleeping bag/quilt
- Pillow
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Body Soap
- A set of clothes to get dirty
- Needed medicine in a labeled ziplock bag

Candidates should NOT pack the following:

- Weapons (i.e. BB Guns, Firearms, Knives, Nunchucks, Swords, etc.)
- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Cigarettes, cigars, lighters
- Camping Equipment
- Swim Suits
- Inappropriate Clothing
- Homework

Emergency Contact Information

In the case of an emergency, I will email all parents using the email that is on file or send out a What'sApp Update. Usually if you do not hear from us, that is a good thing! "No news is good news"



To contact me in the case that you need to reach your son/daughter, call my cell number 408-728-5907.

We will be accompanied by many adult leaders. Some of which are health care professionals to help assist in circumstances that will arise.

Discipline

All retreatants are responsible for following the [youth code of conduct](#). Any breach in this will be considered by a case to case basis. If any youth is judged to have infringed the code of conduct in a serious way, they will be sent home and will require their parents to pick them up at the retreat site.

