

Confirmation F.A.Q.

The Archdiocese has decided to lower the confirmation age throughout the Archdiocese. The sacrament of confirmation gives us an extra-helping of the graces we received at baptism, deepening our capacity for connection to God, life in the Holy Spirit, and communion with the Church. This deepening of grace prepares us to be sent out, to go on mission bringing the light of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit into our families, our communities, and the world!

The important question is: does my child want to receive a deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit in order to go on mission, bringing Christ's light and the Holy Spirit into the world around them? If they do, then they are ready to receive the sacrament! Our family faith formation team is here to help you and your child think about that question, so you will not be alone in that decision-making process! We'll walk you through it step-by-step.

- Why is the confirmation age changing?
 - While many of us were taught that confirmation is meant to be a coming-of-age moment, that is not necessarily what the Catholic Church teaches about the sacrament. Rather, that was an accidental cultural association that developed over time. According to Maria Montessori (renowned expert on child-development and education), people between the ages of 6-12 and 18-24 are much more outward-focused and thoughtful about the needs of the world around them. Alternatively, from the ages of 0-6 and 12-18, we are naturally much more inward-focused as we go through significant changes and developments. With that in mind, age 10 is actually a great time for a child to think about this very outward-focused sacrament of confirmation.
 - Additionally, they will receive the grace of this sacrament now, and then, they'll get to continue un-packing the gift of this sacrament as they continue to mature in the coming years.
- I see that Confirmation will be available for everyone 5th grade and up this year. I'm not sure if my child is ready to be confirmed. Is Confirmation mandatory for everyone 5th grade and above?
 - The sacrament of confirmation will be available to anyone between 5th-10th grade who has already received Baptism and First Communion.

However, the first half of the faith formation year will be a discernment time when we help our young people think about whether or not they are ready to receive the sacrament. At a certain point in the year, we'll invite all of our eligible young people to make a decision about whether they are ready to receive the sacrament of confirmation this spring. Your family will have the option of waiting for another year to prepare for confirmation, if you choose.

- After this decision-making point, we will send out a separate registration form. This is how you will let us know exactly which members of your family intend to receive the sacrament of confirmation this year. This is also when we will gather baptismal certificates, sponsor information, other necessary information for sacramental recording, and a small confirmation prep fee.
- What does confirmation preparation look like for our Catholic School kids?
 - If any of our parishioners (5th grade and up) who are enrolled in a Catholic School would like to prepare for confirmation this year (2026-27), they are welcome to enroll in our Family Faith Formation program on Sunday morning or Monday evening. This is our only option for confirmation preparation this year.
 - However, next year (2027-28) and following, the confirmation preparation will happen in an evening workshop program (similar in structure to the way we do first reconciliation and first communion preparation). So, if any of our Catholic School families would prefer to wait until 2027-28 for confirmation preparation, that format will become available at that time.
- When will all of these people actually receive the sacrament of Confirmation?
 - We will offer several options for Confirmation Masses at Holy Family. Families will be invited to sign up for their preferred Mass date.
 - We need to wait on communication from the Archdiocese in order to confirm that schedule, so we will need to wait to give solid dates. However, our hope and intention is to offer several options on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays in late May.
- Does my family need to attend EVERY session in order to receive the sacrament?

- We want to make sure that everyone receiving the sacrament understands what they are receiving and is able to fully consent to receiving that sacrament. In light of that, if someone misses more than two sessions per semester, we will invite them to continue preparation next year and plan to receive the sacrament at that time.
- We understand that this requires sacrifice for your family in prioritizing sacramental preparation, and we believe that this moment of sacrifice can be an amazing witness to our young people, demonstrating with action that our Faith and our spiritual growth is worth prioritizing!
- What if my child doesn't want to receive the sacrament, should they go through the year of FFF given that it is focused on Confirmation?
 - Yes! Your whole family should join in for family faith formation this year, regardless of whether or not your child is receiving the sacrament this year. This is still an opportunity for your whole family to dive deeper into the faith together, and the content we explore will be relevant for everyone involved.
- After the confirmation year, should my family keep coming back to Family Faith Formation?
 - Absolutely! Confirmation is NOT graduation!!! Faith Formation is a life-long process! You are showing your kids that every time you yourself attend family faith formation and open yourself to learning more about the faith. We encourage our families to bring their whole family every year, regardless of whether it is a sacramental prep year or if they've received all of the sacraments of initiation.