



Dear Saint Joseph School Parents,

This year, all Catholic students in grades 6 through 8 who have not yet been confirmed will be prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. In recognition of the religious education they are already receiving, students enrolled at Saint Joseph will not have to attend the Confirmation preparation programs of their parish.

However, students will be confirmed with the other candidates *from their own parish* on the date of Confirmation (see schedule below). Students who wish to be confirmed must notify their own parish of their intent to receive the sacrament and request to be added to the roster of candidates. In addition, they must provide their parish with a copy of their baptismal certificate and complete a registration form. If a student cannot attend confirmation on the scheduled date, he/she must notify his/her parish to request permission to be confirmed on a different date. Such permission must be granted by the parish pastor. Should you or your child decide not to be confirmed, we ask that you notify your parish as well as the school of your decision.

In addition, candidates for Confirmation must meet the following requirements:

1. **Name:** Candidates should select a saint whose faith, virtue, and character are ideals to which the candidate aspires. This saint will become a personally chosen “patron saint” and the name of the saint will be used by the Bishop to confirm the candidate, e.g., “Joan of Arc, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The name of the saint is entered in the sacramental registry of the Church.
2. **Sponsor:** Candidates will also need a Sponsor, who must be a Catholic at least 16 years old and who has received all sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist) and who leads a life in harmony with the faith and role to be undertaken; who is not the father or mother of the candidate; and who is eligible to receive Holy Communion.
3. **Letter:** Candidates should write a one-page handwritten letter to Bishop Stika expressing their intent to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The letter should explain why the candidate wishes to be confirmed as well as why the particular Confirmation saint and Sponsor were chosen. This letter will be written at school and turned in to your parish Confirmation coordinator.
4. **Retreat:** Attend a Confirmation retreat hosted by the Diocese of Knoxville. This retreat is MANDATORY. If a student cannot attend the retreat scheduled for their deanery, he/she may register and attend a retreat at another deanery but transportation is the responsibility of the candidate and his/her family. Please see the Retreat Schedule below.
5. **Rehearsal:** Candidates (and parents) *may* be required to attend practice sessions, informational meetings, etc. for preparation on what to do at the actual Confirmation Mass. This may vary by parish.

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Confirmation completes the sacrament of Baptism (*Catechism*, 1304). While it is sometimes called the “sacrament of Christian maturity,” it does not require an





advanced age or an adult faith to be confirmed. It is not a “ratification” of baptism, but rather it is a strengthening of the grace that has been freely given in baptism (cf. *Catechism*, 1308). In some parts of the Church, Confirmation is bestowed at Baptism, even on infants. The advantages of bestowing the sacrament at an earlier age, before high school, include greater openness and receptivity to the Holy Spirit and to the life of grace.

As your child prepares for Confirmation this year, we encourage you to pray together as a family for an outpouring of the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. The best way to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation is to attend Mass each Sunday and participate regularly in the sacramental life of the Church.

(letter adapted from original by Mr. Dave Wells)

Confirmation Retreat Schedule 2018

All Retreats will begin at 10:00 am and continue through evening Vigil Mass (time depends on parish schedule)

Sat, November 11, 2017 – Saint Jude, Chattanooga	Sat, February 24, 2018 – Saint Mary, Johnson City
Sat, January 27, 2018 – Saint John Neumann, Knoxville	Sat, March 17, 2018 – Holy Trinity, Jefferson City

Cost is \$30 per person and all should bring a sack lunch with them. Registration information will be online soon.

Confirmation Schedule 2018

*All Confirmations will take place at the Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
(Only parishes of SJS families are listed)*

Group 1: Sat, April 7, 2018 @ 10:00 am Holy Ghost Immaculate Conception Sacred Heart Cathedral Saint Albert the Great Saint John XXIII	Group 5: Sat, April 21, 2018 @ 10:00 am Church of Divine Mercy
	Group 6: Sun, April 22, 2018 @ 4:00 pm Holy Trinity, Jefferson City
Group 2: Sat, April 7, 2018 @ 2:00 pm All Saints	Group 7: Sat, May 5, 2018 @ 2:00 pm
Group 3: Sat, April 14, 2018 @ 10:00 am	Group 8: Sun, May 6, 2018 @ 4:00 pm
Group 4: Sun, April 15, 2018 @ 4:00 pm Saint Teresa of Kolkata, Maynardville	Group 9: Sat, May 12, 2018 @ 10:00 am
	Group 10: Sat, May 19, 2018 @ 10:00 am

God bless,
 Mr. Andy Zengel
 Principal
azengel@sjsknox.org

