

# Important Information

## Dates

Sessions: 2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 4/27, 5/4

2pm to 3:30pm in the Holy Family Church

Saint Report: Due last session: May 4th

Retreat: Must attend one youth ministry retreat.

HS: March 28 – 30 / MS: April 4-6 OR Mar. 15

Rehearsal: TBD.

Confirmation @SJV (for both HFK and SJV kids): May 14, 6:30pm

*Candidates and Sponsors must arrive by 6:00 p.m.*

## Dress Code

At the Sacrament of Baptism we wear special gowns, at First Communion we wear white dresses or suits, and at our wedding we wear special garments. It is fitting to dress in celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation as well.

While the Church greatly respects the uniqueness and individuality in each of its members, it holds that modesty is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Teaching modesty to children and adolescents means awakening in them respect for the human person.

## Appropriate dress:

- Young Women: modest dress, skirt and blouse, pant suit or dress pants and blouse, dress shoes.
- Young Men: dress pants (can be khakis), shirt and tie, jacket optional, dress shoes.

If you have questions, concerns, or would like to discuss anything further, please contact Daniel Hartmann or Cathleen Ito

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# Sacrament of Confirmation Handbook



**ST. JOHN VIANEY &  
HOLY FAMILY KIRLAND**

# Prayer

**Spirit of God, grant me:**

**The gift of wisdom, to see the world through your eyes; the gift of counsel, to make difficult decisions;**

**The gifts of knowledge and understanding, to use my mind to know you and to love you;**

**The gift of fortitude, to have the courage to live in the faith despite the difficulties and disappointments;**

**The gift of piety to be able to express my special love and commitment to you; And the right kind of awesome fear that makes me pause to wonder and revere God's Love.**

**Amen.**

# Sponsor Responsibilities

As a sponsor, you take on more than a casual interest in one person's spiritual life. You can be a valuable instrument by listening to his/her thoughts, sharing your own experiences and understanding, and by introducing him/her to whatever will enhance Catholic Christian growth.

The ministry and responsibility of a sponsor goes beyond the moment of Confirmation. It is our hope that our Confirmation candidates are fortunate enough to find sponsors who care for them and are eager to participate in their preparation and continue to guide them throughout their lives.

**Below are the requirements of a Sponsor for Confirmation:**

- Be sufficiently mature, emotionally and spiritually, and at least 16 years of age. ***The parent may not be the sponsor.***
- Be an active member of the Catholic Church and initiated in the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.
- Be able to commit personal time to the candidate during the preparation time; (if possible attend Sunday preparation Sessions with your candidate) be present for Confirmation.
- Pray daily for your candidate and his/her family.
- Accompany the candidate in serving others, attending Mass, and receiving the sacraments.
- Meet regularly with the candidate and discuss the Faith with them.

“We earnestly desire each of you to demonstrate the same eagerness for the fulfillment of hope until the end, so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who, through faith and patience, are inheriting the promises.” - *Hebrews 6:11-12*

# Candidate Responsibilities

Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit. This is in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.

## **Requirements of those seeking to be confirmed:**

Regular Sunday (Saturday evening) Mass attendance

Completed Application form

Completed Commitment form (given by first session)

Copy of Baptismal certificate (if not baptized at SJV or HFK)

Choice of saint to model and completed Saint Report

Name of Sponsor and Sponsor Form

Attendance at all sessions, retreat, and rehearsal

## Choosing a Saint

Selecting a new name for Confirmation is optional; however, we are requiring the candidates to search for a saint to learn about; one that will serve as a model of faith and relationship with God. This research will be written up in report form and handed in at the last session on April 3. We have a cloud of witnesses with whom to be in relationship and who will pray for us. They are models whose lives and virtues can be imitated. Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed.

# Confirmation

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, whom the Lord sent upon his apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized.

Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation, including Baptism and Eucharist.

In Baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life. In Eucharist, the great sign of Christian unity, the faithful are nourished and strengthened. They are transformed into a more loving and united community of believers. Through these sacramental rites the faithful are officially acknowledged as Christians. They are commissioned to carry out the mission of Christ and his Church.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation time in the parish is a time when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among them.

**“Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” - Acts 8:14-16**

# The Rite of Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated during Mass. It begins after the Liturgy of the Word and is presided over by the (arch)bishop.

There are four parts to the rite:

- Renewal of baptismal vows
- Laying on of hands
- Anointing with oil
- Sign of peace

Then they laid hands on them and they received  
the Holy Spirit.” -Acts 8:17

Confirmation confers on the baptized an indelible character, the seal of the Lord, and enriches them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit which conforms them more closely to Christ. It also binds them more perfectly to the Church, and gives them grace and strength, as true witnesses of Christ, to spread the Lord’s presence among others and to defend the faith by word and deed.

The rite itself has a twofold meaning: the laying on of hands is the biblical gesture by which the gifts of the Holy Spirit is invoked, while the anointing with Chrism and the accompanying prayers express clearly the effects of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation together constitute the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.

# Parental Responsibilities

It has been your faith and your witness that have laid the foundation for your child’s faith. While the candidate must want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, your opinion of this sacrament has a dramatic impact on your child. Encouragement and enthusiasm for this sacrament are one of the greatest gifts you can give.

## Here are your responsibilities in your child’s Confirmation preparation:

- Make Confirmation preparation events a priority for the family.
- Mark your calendars with all events for preparation.
- Assist your child in the timely completion of all requirements.
- Assist your child in the selection of a suitable sponsor.
- Encourage and initiate meetings with your child and their sponsor.
- Serve as a proxy when the sponsor is unable to attend or complete the necessary requirements.
- Live your Catholic faith through prayer, sacraments, and service.
- Encourage your child to continue to learn and grow in faith.
- Pray with your child.

“Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and reject not  
your mother’s teaching” -Proverbs 1:8