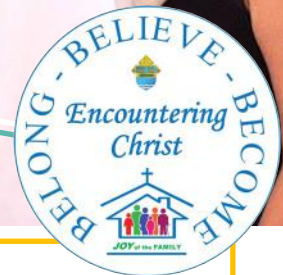


THE SPIRIT: PARENT EDITION



Basic Requirements for the Reception of Confirmation: Catechism of the Catholic Church 1319

- ☒ Have a desire to receive the sacrament.
- ☒ Are living in a state of grace.
- ☒ Are willing to renew their baptismal promises.
- ☒ Have been formed and understand what they are seeking in the sacrament.
- ☒ Accept the call to discipleship.

Preparation for Confirmation begins by joining a youth ministry small group. If you have a young person in middle or high school, Contact the parish office for more information.

For More Information about the
Diocese of Palm Beach Vision:



The Vision



The Process

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Sacrament of Confirmation! We are here to help you navigate this journey as a family and recognize that we are ministering in a different time. Families, especially young people, are facing unique and difficult challenges and our standard methods of formation are no longer working. Pope Francis writes, "Youth ministry, as traditionally carried out, has been significantly affected by social and cultural changes. Young people frequently fail to find in our usual programs a response to their concerns, their needs, their problems and issues." *Christus Vivit* 202

As you begin this journey, know that this process may look a little different from your past experiences. In response to the social and cultural changes we have partnered with the Diocese of Palm Beach to shift the method for Confirmation Preparation away from the academic, requirement driven classroom model, toward a conversion focused encounter with Christ and His Church. In this style of preparation, reception is not driven by a specific confirmation date but rather the readiness of a young person to receive the sacrament along with their fulfillment of the basic requirements. This journey begins when a young person joins a mentored small group within our parish youth ministry strategy.

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about this process. We know this won't answer all of your questions so we invite you to schedule a time when we can talk about your family's specific questions or concerns as you continue to support your child's journey toward Confirmation.

- **When will my young person receive Confirmation?**
Confirmation is celebrated every year for all young people who have discerned readiness and have met the basic requirements. That process begins in a youth ministry small group.
- **What is readiness?**
Readiness is based on a young person's openness of heart to receive the Sacrament and is a natural response to their formation experience that begins with an encounter and conversion to Jesus Christ. Readiness is cultivated when a young person is exposed to a life of prayer, worship, sacrament, and community. Mentored small groups help manifest that readiness.
- **How is readiness determined?**
Within a young person's small group, trained mentors facilitate both group and individual conversations or reflections to determine readiness.
- **When does Confirmation preparation begin?**
Now, don't wait! If your young person is in middle school, join a small group today. If your child is younger, join the parish faith formation or family formation process.
- **My child goes to Catholic School when does preparation begin for them?**
For Catholic School students, readiness is determined in the same manor above. Upon completion of the 8th grade your child, if not already participating, will be invited to join a youth ministry small group which includes preparation for Confirmation. We encourage middle school youth regardless of their school to join a youth ministry small group, it's not another religion class.

Confirmation within a Youth Ministry Setting

We are partnering with the Diocese of Palm Beach to create a vision for youth ministry in our parish where preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is no longer held out as a separate program of instruction, rather it is part of an intentional plan of formation within discipleship ministry that includes both middle and high school youth. Within this framework of relational small group ministry, using the OCIA as the model, young people are mentored through distinct and indefinite phases of conversion. They are formed (both heart and mind) toward the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation which organically becomes the natural response of a young person to the movement of their will to receive the sacrament and their desire to live a deeper life in Christ. This approach is also forward thinking past the current "graduation effect" of the sacrament and builds up sustainable parish ministry to young people that works to accompany them throughout their high school career and beyond.

The Five Distinct Phases of Discipleship with their Corresponding Formation Themes leading to Confirmation and Beyond



The Inquiry or Evangelization Phase

BELONG

Theme: The Kerygma / Evangelization

Focus: Build Relationships, Cultivate Trust, Meet Immediate Needs, Witness the Faith, Feed Curiosity, Encounter Jesus, Proclaim the Gospel, Parent Partnership.

Goal: Begin small mentorship groups that build trusting relationships and include need based catechesis.



The Catechumenal or Discovery Phase - A

BELONG ➡ BELIEVE

Theme: Anthropology / Theology of the Body

Focus: Anthropology, The Sacredness of the Human Body, Objective Truth, T.O.B., I Am Unmistakably Made, What is God's Desire for US and what is Our Response.

Goal: Young people will have a clearer understanding of who God created them to be and how they can respond to God's desire for their lives.



The Catechumenal or Discovery Phase - B

BELONG ➡ BELIEVE

Theme: Sacramental Life / Sacramental Economy

Focus: The Sacraments, Life in Christ, Knowledge and Participation, Encountering Christ, Holy Mass, True Presence, Focus on Eucharist.

Goal: To reintroduce young people to the Sacramental Life / Economy, especially the Eucharist which is the life blood of the Christian existence.



The Purification and Enlightenment Phase

BELIEVE

Theme: Immediate Sacramental Preparation and Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Focus: Discernment of Readiness to receive the Sacrament and Catechesis based on Sacramental need, Discernment of True Sponsorship/Lifelong Mentorship, The Communion of Saints and our place within that Communion, Reception of the Sacrament and Beginning of Mystagogia.

Goal: Discernment of readiness to receive and immediate preparation for the Sacrament.



The Mystagogia and Missionary Discipleship Phase

BECOME

Theme: Accompaniment, Discipleship, and Missionary Service

Focus: Deeper Formation and Spiritual Development, Mission / Service Opportunities, Continued Accompaniment.

Goal: To grow parish Youth Ministry that serves active missionary disciples by accompanying Youth toward continued encounters with Christ.