

Confirmation Process Overview Year 1

Dear Families,

Welcome to the High School Confirmation Process at Holy Trinity! We are thrilled to embark on this journey with you and your teen. Our goal is for students to experience a transformative encounter with the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Before we dive in, let's explore why Confirmation is so important:

Why does the Sacrament of Confirmation Matter?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) tells us that Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- its roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!"
- It unites us more firmly to Christ
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect; [and]
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1303

Why Does this Matter?

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly"- John 10:10

Confirmation unites us more firmly with Christ, and **that's what brings us a full life.** It is not just about what we need to know but why we should know it. Beyond teaching the only (or even mostly) what we need to know, we need to tell our teenagers that confirmation preparation is for learning the **next steps that will lead you to a better you.** That's it. Preparing for Confirmation is **learning how to be a disciple of Christ,** because we believe **that's the path to a fuller and more fulling life.**

The sacrament of Confirmation does just mean...

- I get to be an adult in the parish
- It makes me a better person
- I want to get my parents off of my back
- I need to do it to get married in the Church
- It's the last part of my religious education

It is so much more...

The sharing in the divine nature given to men through the grace of Christ bears a certain likeness to the origin, development, and nourishing of natural life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive the Eucharist the food of eternal life. By means of these sacraments of Christian initiation, **they thus receive in increasing measure the treasures of the divine life and advance toward the perfection of charity.**

-Catechism of the Catholic Church

In other words, preparing for Confirmation is preparing the next generation for a change in the way they approach life. Before Jesus commissioned his followers to go forth to make disciples, he said to them, **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,** and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

"You do not have to do this"
"You get to do this"

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What is our goal?

Our duty as a Confirmation team at Holy Trinity is to equip and prepare your teen to the best of our ability for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our goal as a confirmation program is **to facilitate and create a space where teens can encounter Jesus Christ, through prayer, knowledge and fellowship (Acts 2:42)**. Therefore, our intent is to provide a full experience the aims at our goal.

Components of our Confirmation Process

- **Faith Formation Sessions (Knowledge)**
 - Our curriculum, 'Purpose' by Life Teen, will guide us in growing closer to Jesus as a community.
- **Youth Ministry (Fellowship)**
 - Every Wednesday Bible Study at 7pm (optional but encouraged)
 - Fun Socials throughout the year
- **Retreat (Prayer/Encounter)**
 - Vital/Highlight of the Confirmation journey
 - Our Bishops have prioritized it as a requirement to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation
 - Retreat is a time to escape the business of life to make time to focus on our relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - Attendance at the retreat is mandatory. (Please email me if you have any questions)
- **Service (Community)**
 - Discipleship Service Project
 - Youth Mass

In addition to our components we have part of the diocesan requirements, there are four projects to complete:

1. **The Saint Report (Due on January 25th, 2025)**
2. **The Sponsor Affirmation Form**
3. **The Discipleship Mission Y1**
4. **The Letter to the Bishop will be completed in Year 2 (Interview)**

Our protocols are not for our benefit, but for yours. Confirmation classes are important because they encourage community and provide experiences that adequately prepare students for the Sacrament.

At Confirmation Mass Fr. Michael must acknowledge before the Bishop, **“The candidates we present are well instructed, are prepared and ready to receive the fullness of Christian Initiation in the Sacrament of Confirmation.”**

“To be well instructed” refers to attending and participating in Confirmation classes in addition to Sunday Mass. Class attendance will be taken at each session and revisited throughout the journey to ensure that our Pastor Fr. Michael is able to confidently present the Candidates to the Bishop.

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Mandatory Orientation Gathering options are on August 11th from 6:30-8:00pm or August 25th from 3:30-5:00pm

Absence Policy?

Please refer to our schedule for confirmation class dates corresponding to each confirmation year. We understand that emergencies and conflicts may arise, so you are allowed up to two excused absences. For non-emergency or non-illness related absences, please submit an approval request at least one week in advance for review by our Faith Formation Director, Jennifer Cahuantzi: jcahuantzi@holytrinityladera.org In case of emergencies or sickness, please notify us as soon as possible by emailing us at evaldez@holytrinityladera.org.

If you miss two sessions, attending a makeup session will be required; we will provide you with the schedule for these sessions. It's important to note that missing more than three classes may impact your eligibility to complete the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Make up Policy

- **First Absence:** If you miss a class for the first time, you will receive an email with instructions on how to complete a take-home makeup session. This session will be sent to you after your absence.
- **Second Absence:** If you miss a class a second time, you will be required to attend a makeup session. Details about this session will be announced at the end of the first half of the semester.

Year 1 sessions will meet on select Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

All meeting dates are equally important in the preparation process. Please refer to our absence policy on the Confirmation Process Overview.

**see calendar for exact dates of class sessions*

The session time is purposefully designed to allow families and teens to attend mass together at our LifeTeen Youth Mass at 5:30 pm.

"On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass."

- Catechism of the Catholic Church 2180.

We are excited to announce that the 5:30pm Mass is a Youth-dedicated mass. We encourage all students to get involved. Opportunities include serving as ushers, lectors, altar servers, and in our youth band. Please send an email to Emmanuel Pérez, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Discipleship at eperez@holytrinityladera.org if interested.

Our Core Team, Servant Leaders and Youth Ministry Team are excited to be journeying with you throughout the following Sunday experiences, bible studies, discipleship missions, retreats, and more.

Let's go find your purpose!

In Christ,

Beto Valdez
Coordinator of Confirmation and Youth Ministries
Holy Trinity Catholic Church

 evaldez@holytrinityladera.org  [@holytrinityyouthministry](https://www.instagram.com/holytrinityyouthministry)

 949-218-3131 ext. 106  [@holytrinityyouthministry](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityyouthministry)

 www.holytrinityladera.org/sacraments/confirmation/

PURPOSE

Youth Mass: 5:30pm

Sundays in the Parish Hall

Confirmation Sessions: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

BEGINNINGS: Introduction to the Confirmation Process

August 11th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm
or August 25th from 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Parent & Candidate Attendance Required

September 8th

SEEKING: WHAT IS OUR DESIRE?

September 22nd

REVEAL: IS GOD REAL?

October 6th

SAFE ENVIRONMENT SESSION:
HAPPY, HEALTHY, HOLY

October 27th

PARENT & CANDIDATE DINNER
6:30PM-8:30PM, PARISH HALL

November 16th

SATURDAY RETREAT AT HOLY TRINITY,
9AM-5PM

December 8th

REASONS: FAITH AND REASON

January 26th *SAINT REPORT DUE

BREATH: DOES A RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD MATTER?

February 9th

BROKENHEARTED & FAULT: WHY IS THERE EVIL
AND SUFFERING/OUR GOODNESS AND FALL

March 9th

PRODIGAL & MORE: WHY BELIEVE IN JESUS -
THE INCARNATION AND THE LIFE OF CHRIST

April 13th

NEW: WHY BELIEVE IN JESUS:
PASSION, DEATH, & RESURRECTION

May 18th

TRANSFORMATION & FOUNDATION :
ACTS OF THE APOSTLES & THE GOSPEL
MESSAGE

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