



Espiritu Santo Catholic Church  
Confirmation Preparation 2024-2025  
Information and Expectations

#### REGISTRATION / ENROLLMENT

- In order to receive a sacrament:
  - o The sacrament must be asked for (desire)
  - o There must be a willingness to learn about and receive enrichment
  - o There must be an “openness” to the process
  - o No sacrament is received as an “automatic”, simply because one belongs to a parish, school, etc.
- Candidates and their families are encouraged to be registered, active parishioners of Espiritu Santo parish.
- Candidates must be in at least the 8<sup>th</sup> grade AND have been in ongoing Religious Education and / or Catholic School for the past two years.
- Basic knowledge of scripture and Catholic doctrine is important because Candidates will be asked to make an informed mature commitment to the Church and to their faith.

#### SESSIONS

- We will have specific sacrament preparation sessions in the months leading to reception of the sacrament. Please refer to the syllabus / schedule for specific dates and session information.
- Participation is important to experience full enrichment, purpose and meaning.
- We will offer a day retreat opportunity during the process. This retreat is for Candidates (and their sponsors if available).

#### PARTICIPATION

- It is important that Candidates, Sponsors and Parents make every effort to attend AND participate in these sessions.
- We realize that absences due to illness are unavoidable, but please email Sue if you are going to miss a session, with the reason for the absence. [sue@espiritusanto.cc](mailto:sue@espiritusanto.cc)

*\*\*\*If you know you will have to miss multiple sessions due to scheduling conflicts you already foresee (i.e., soccer, baseball, cheerleading, football, etc. etc. ☺), you should consider delaying your family's participation until you are better able to commit. We want you to get the absolute most out of this experience – do not sell yourself or your faith short!*

## “HOMEWORK”

- In addition to the *Confirmed in the Spirit* curriculum, Candidates will be asked to engage in service and reflection. *Details of this service and reflection will be provided.* Included in reflection and response:
  - Why I want to receive the sacrament
  - Whom have I chosen to be my Confirmation Sponsor and why
  - What Confirmation (saint) name I have chosen and why (reflection on the saint who influenced my choice of Confirmation name)
  - Reflection on the service I have offered - and the faith experience it provided me as well as those I served
  - Personal Scripture Reflection
  - Encyclical Reflection
  - Synodal Reflection
- Please attach a copy of your service log to this reflection paper, listing the service you have completed up to this point (THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE DONE SERVING ... SERVICE TO OUR FAITH AND TO OTHERS IS LIFELONG!)

## COMMUNITY SERVICE / PARISH MINISTRY

- Candidates are expected to engage in meaningful service – within the parish community (hospitality, altar serving, choir, RE, SVDP, etc.) as well as throughout the greater (even global) community. Find organizations and efforts that you have a passion for. Serving as a family is highly encouraged ... and extremely meaningful!

## SPONSORS

- Sponsors are an important part of the Confirmation process.
- Please review the “What is a Confirmation Sponsor” handout before choosing your sponsor, then share it with them as you make your request to them.
- Sponsors are asked to participate in as much of the preparation as possible – understanding that many sponsors live out of town. If a sponsor cannot physically be with the Candidate on the journey, they should make every effort to contribute in prayer, conversation, and other communication.
- “HOMEWORK” FOR SPONSOR AND PARENT = both will be asked to write a letter of support and encouragement to the Candidate. These letters will be presented to the Candidate during retreat. *More information to be given.*
- Parents may not serve as sponsors – the sponsor is a symbol of the larger community’s support for the Candidate. Parents have a special and unique role as parent!

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- It is vital for parents to participate in this process with your child. We will offer periodic parent sessions to compliment the enrichment students are receiving during this wonderful process.
- Parents and Guardians are the first, foremost and forever teachers of the faith (and every life lesson!) for your children.

## INVITATION NOT IMPOSITION!

This is NOT a mandatory program. It is not a “program” at all. Candidates should be preparing for Confirmation because they desire the sacrament – or at the very least, they are open to being enriched and to allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to their hearts. We expect Candidates to be committed, respectful and active participants in all of our gatherings and activities. If this commitment & openness is not present, the time may not be right to celebrate the sacrament. And that is OK – please speak with Sue if you have any questions, apprehensions, or concerns.



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