



The Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Confirmation Schedule, 2011-2012

Years I and II

You and your parent(s) have decided that you want to be confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church. We celebrate that choice and have designed a two year program to help you be ready to receive the sacrament. You prepare to be Confirmed at Blessed Sacrament by completing all the elements in the two year program.

All Year I Confirmation candidates are expected to attend an Orientation Session with their sponsor or a parent/guardian.

The Orientation for Year I candidates is on Sunday, Sept. 25, from 4:30-6:30PM, in the Blessed Sacrament Church*.

* We will meet in the church for the mandatory Orientation, to explain what is expected of the Confirmation candidates, and what is asked of their parents and sponsors. As part of the Orientation, all candidates and their parent (or sponsor) will participate in a special "Rite of Entrance", as part of our 5:30 Mass. This is an important beginning to the Confirmation program. **Year I Candidates and a parent or sponsor should plan to attend this Mass, rather than a Mass earlier in the day; they should bring their signed covenant forms, which will be used during the Mass.**

Date for Year I Candidates and Their Parent

Sunday, Sept. 25, 4:30-6:30PM; Orientation for Year I Candidates only

This session is for Year I Candidates only. Your parent needs to come to this session, too.

Session Dates for both Year I and Year II Candidates

We meet for all sessions in the Blessed Sacrament School Auditorium

Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011; 4:30 – 7:30PM

Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011; 4:30-7:30PM

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011; 4:30-7:30PM

Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012; 4:30-7:30PM

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012; 4:30-7:30PM

Sunday, March 11, 2012; 4:30-7:30

SNOW DATE: Sunday, March 25, 2012; 4:30-7:30PM

Retreat Dates

Year I: Sunday, October 30, 2011; 8:30AM-3:30PM

(All Year I Candidates will be going on their retreat on the same day.)

Year II: Sunday, January 22 OR Sunday, March 4; 9AM-6:30PM

(The candidates' small groups will be assigned to one of the days.)

Confirmation for Year II Candidates

Saturday, April 28, 2011 at 10:30AM and 1:30PM.

Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday, April 25, between 6 and 9PM. More details will follow in the spring.



2011-2012 Confirmation Program

Here are the program's four expectations:

1. Attend and Participate in ALL Monthly Sessions, as well as the Orientation in September. (Only ONE *EXCUSED* absence is allowed for the entire year.)

Sessions are once a month on Sundays from 4:30-7:30PM, and include everyone participating in our 5:30PM Mass; a snack is served after Mass, followed by our small group discussions.

Confirmation candidates are expected to be there for the *entire session*, (before Mass, during Mass, and after Mass...) in order to be considered to have completed the program.

If candidates have some other regular commitment that occurs on Sunday evenings, that they cannot miss for our monthly Confirmation sessions, then they will not be able to commit to the Confirmation program at our parish this year. The dates for this year's orientation and monthly sessions are on the other side of this sheet.

2. Participate in a Service Project with Your Group

In addition to the sessions, Confirmation candidates participate in **one service project each year, with their small group, not on their own.** We focus on one of the corporal works of mercy, doing what Jesus called us to do: feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned. Catholic faith grows and matures in shared community; therefore candidates will be expected to complete this service project with their small group, *not as individuals*. We know that many of you are doing community service with your schools or other organizations; however those will not count towards your Confirmation service project.

3. Participate in a One-Day Retreat

All Confirmation candidates will be expected to participate in our day-long retreat; a time for prayer, discussion, group activities, food, and fun. These retreats are not optional; it is an intentional piece of our program, and its goal is for us to build community together.

Retreat for Year I Candidates: Participate in a retreat day at an outdoor ropes course.

This retreat offers exhilarating and adventurous activities which encourage personal growth, group unity and spiritual development; and it accomplishes one of our biggest goals: to build community. And even though it's fun, it does have a theological purpose too... it helps us to see how we are "The body of Christ" for each other. This has been a big hit with the Confirmation candidates in the past! This retreat is held in the fall, so that all Year I Candidates will have the chance to get to know each other sooner.

Retreat for Year II Candidates: Participate in a retreat day at the Connors Retreat Center in Dover, MA. This day has also been successful in the past; this is due in great part to our Peer Ministers, who share their faith stories and coordinate the whole day. It is a chance for the Confirmation candidates to come away together, before being Confirmed, to realize that they are the "church" at Blessed Sacrament; that this is their own faith, not just their parents' faith.

4. Write Monthly Reflections

Each month, Confirmation candidates will be asked to write a one-page reflection, which will be collected at the next meeting. These will give candidates a chance to think more about what was discussed, and how it impacts their lives as Catholics. **It is a key learning component, and so the expectation is that these reflections will be turned in on time.**

Questions? Contact Margaret Bouffard, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, at 508-668-4700 ext.17;
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