

St. Cecilia Church Confirmation Program Handbook



ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LIVING SIGN OF GOD'S SAVING WORD

**1301 Sycamore Ave.
Tustin, CA 92780**

Revised 2025



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The Sacrament of Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation is ordered toward the witness and evangelization of the Christian faith. Confirmation gives one a special strength of the Holy Spirit to live out and share one's faith by word and action as true witness of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and to never to be ashamed of the Gospel. It is received by a validly baptized Catholic, increasing and deepening the grace received in Baptism. Like Baptism, Confirmation is an indelible mark received only once in one's lifetime. In the case of an individual that was baptized as an infant or small child, it may be the first time that one publicly confirms their beliefs to the parish community.

Mission Statement

At the heart of St. Cecilia Church, our Faith Formation Program is a vibrant Catholic ministry committed to guiding children and youth on their journey of faith. Rooted in the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church, we aim to:

- nurture and form young disciples by helping them grow in their relationship with Christ through prayer, learning, and active participation in the life of the Church.
- strive to cultivate strong character and a spirit of service, inspiring our students to live out their faith in everyday actions with compassion, integrity, and love.
- dedicate to presenting the teachings of the Catholic faith in meaningful and engaging ways, so that children not only learn about God but have a personal encounter with Him.
- believe that families are the first and most important teachers of the faith, and we are committed to partnering with them to build a strong foundation of Catholic values and practices at home.
- work to create a welcoming and faith-filled environment where every child can encounter Christ, grow in community, and be empowered to live as joyful witnesses of God's love.

Theme Statement

At St. Cecilia Church, our Faith Formation Program is rooted in the hope of Christ, who calls us to grow in faith, love, and service. **Hope is the foundation of our ministry - a living trust in God's promises and presence.** Through prayer, worship, sacramental preparation, and joyful community, we nurture young hearts and minds to become faithful disciples.

Together with families, we plant seeds of faith that are nourished through the Church's teachings, strengthened by the example of Christ, and guided by the Holy Spirit. **Rooted in hope, we grow as one body in Christ - firm in faith, resilient in love, and open to God's call.**





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Message from Fr. Michael



Dear Confirmation Candidates and Parents,

Peace in Christ!

It is with great joy and hope that I welcome you to this new year of the Confirmation Program here at St. Cecilia Church. As your pastor, I want you to know how blessed we are to accompany you on this sacred journey of faith, growth, and deeper encounter with Jesus Christ.

Confirmation is not just a requirement - it is a gift. Through this sacrament, the Holy Spirit strengthens you to live as bold and faithful disciples in the world. You are not the future of the Church, you are already the Church, and we need your energy, your gifts, and your hearts.

To our young candidates: I invite you to take this journey seriously. Ask questions, pray deeply, participate fully, and open your heart to the power of the Holy Spirit. God has great plans for you.

To our parents and sponsors: Thank you for your example of faith. Your support is crucial in helping our young people grow as committed Catholics. Your encouragement and witness are irreplaceable.

Let us walk in faith, hope, and love!



Program Components

Confirmation preparation for a high school youth is a two-year program beginning in the 9th, 10th or 11th grade and are for those who have already been baptized and received his/her First Holy Communion.



Confirmation Sessions

Participation in the Confirmation sessions is an essential component of the preparation process. These gatherings are not merely classes, but opportunities for teens to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith, grow in relationship with Jesus Christ, and build a sense of community with their peers.

In addition to session attendance, participation in the *Sunday Youth Mass at 4pm* is a **vital** and **required** part of our Confirmation preparation. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith, and it is through regular reception of the sacraments that we are spiritually nourished and prepared to live as disciples of Christ.

We ask parents to partner with us in prioritizing this commitment, ensuring that your teen is present, engaged, and growing throughout the year.



Youth Ministry

An essential part of the Confirmation journey is learning to live the Catholic faith within a supportive and Christ-centered community. Our youth ministry events are designed to help teens form authentic friendships, grow in discipleship, and experience the joy of belonging to the Church beyond the classroom setting.

These events include a variety of opportunities - such as social gatherings, service activities, worship nights, and community outreach - that allow teens to encounter Christ in one another and put their faith into action. *Qualifying events will be advertised during class sessions, parent emails, and occasionally through the bulletin & mass slides.*

All Confirmation candidates are required to attend **a minimum of four (4) youth ministry events during the program year**. These experiences are not optional; they are a key component of holistic formation and help prepare candidates to embrace a lifelong commitment to faith and community.



Service Hours

Christian service is at the heart of our faith. Jesus calls each of us to be His hands and feet in the world - to care for the poor, comfort the suffering, and serve our neighbors with compassion and humility. As part of our Confirmation preparation, we emphasize the importance of putting faith into action through works of mercy and acts of charity.

Service opportunities allow teens to encounter Christ in others, develop empathy, and respond to the Gospel call to love our neighbor. These experiences help form a lifelong habit of servant leadership and social responsibility rooted in Catholic teaching.

Confirmation Year 1 candidates are expected to complete **10 hours** of service & a reflection.
Confirmation Year 2 candidates are expected to complete **15 hours** of service & a reflection.

Service hours may be completed through parish-sponsored activities, community outreach, school, extracurriculars clubs and organizations, and more. Please note that personal chores or household responsibilities - while valuable - do not count toward service hours, as they are not considered acts of outreach or service to the broader community. **All hours must be completed and signed off by an appropriate supervisor(s) on the Service Hours Form. Completed forms (including a written reflection on the back) are due by April 12th, 2026.**



Retreats

Retreats are an incredible and necessary experience in the life of a young Catholic. Our Bishops have prioritized it as a requirement to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation because of its powerful effect on the youth's faith. Retreat is a time to escape the busyness of life to make time to focus on our relationship with Jesus Christ.

During retreats, participants will have the opportunity to be formed through a variety of key testimonies, activities, games, the sacraments (Mass & Confession), small groups, and much more! For many, retreats are the highlight of the youth's Confirmation journey.

Those enrolled in **Confirmation Year 1** will be required to attend our **single-day retreat on Sunday, November 23rd, 2025**; those enrolled in **Confirmation Year 2** will be required to attend our **weekend long (overnight) retreat on March 20th-22nd, 2026**. Pricing for retreats will be shared during the parent orientations.

Candidates who are unable to attend the dates listed are required to make-up the retreat through a different parish's Confirmation retreat. It is the family's responsibility to inform us as soon as possible if there is a conflict with the St. Cecilia Confirmation retreat dates to allow for ample time to find a different retreat offering. **Make-Up retreats aren't guaranteed as spaces are often limited with other parishes. Retreat fees, locations, and requirements, may vary.**

Saint Report

During the Confirmation Mass, each candidate who is ready to receive the Sacrament will be Confirmed by the Bishop and presented with the name of a Saint they have personally chosen. This Saint serves as a spiritual role model and companion on their lifelong journey of faith.

To assist in making a thoughtful and meaningful choice, Year 1 candidates will complete a brief research report focused on the life and legacy of their chosen Saint. **The Saint can be the same one chosen during their Baptism, or a new Saint.** This report gives students the opportunity to explore how the Saint followed God's call and lived a life of virtue - and how that example can inspire their own path as a disciple of Christ.

The Saint Report will be assigned in the middle of the program year. Candidates will receive instructions in class on how to write these reports, along with a detailed hand-out to guide them. **These reports are due on April 12th, 2026.** Parents, we ask for your collaboration in ensuring these reports are completed intentionally, fully, and in a timely manner.

Bishop Letter

Writing a letter to the Bishop is a meaningful opportunity for each Confirmation candidate to personally reflect on their faith and express their desire to receive the final Sacrament of Initiation. In this letter, Year 2 Confirmands are invited to share who Jesus Christ is to them, how their relationship with Him has grown, and why they are seeking to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church.

The Bishop values hearing directly from the young people of the diocese and takes time to read each letter with care. On occasion, he may even reference insights from these letters during the Confirmation Mass.

Rough Drafts to Bishop Letters are due on February 8th, 2026 and Final Drafts are due on February 23rd, 2026.



Safe Environment Training

As part of our commitment to the safety and well-being of every young person in our program, **Safe Environment Training is mandatory for all Confirmation candidates.**

The specific training, developed and mandated by the Diocese of Orange, is designed to equip teens with age-appropriate tools to recognize and respond to unsafe situations, understand healthy boundaries, and know how to speak up if they ever feel uncomfortable or threatened. It is one important way the Church safeguards the dignity and security of our children and youth.

Participation in this training is a required component of the Confirmation program. Sessions are facilitated by trained professionals in a respectful and sensitive manner, and parents will be notified in advance of when the training will take place. **These sessions will be scheduled during Confirmation sessions - therefore, it is not necessary to participate or seek out these trainings elsewhere. This is only necessary for those children who were unable to attend these sessions. Exceptions will be made only for candidates whose parents choose to opt them out from the training completely.**

We are deeply committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for every teen entrusted to our care. If you have any questions about the content or purpose of the Safe Environment Training, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office.

Parent Involvement

The success of our Confirmation program is built on a foundation of strong partnership with our parents. Your involvement makes all the difference in creating a vibrant, welcoming, and faith-filled environment where our teens can grow spiritually and personally. From retreats and youth ministry nights to service projects and hospitality, parent volunteers are a vital part of making it all happen.

We understand that every family's schedule, strengths, and circumstances are unique, and we welcome participation in a wide variety of forms. Whether you're able to offer your time at an event, assist with food or supplies, serve during retreats, act as a catechist or classroom assistant, help with set-up and clean-up, chaperone activities, or support us behind the scenes - your contribution matters. Every helping hand brings our mission to life and makes a lasting impact.

Parent involvement is not just appreciated - it's essential. With a program as large and dynamic as ours, we simply could not offer the depth and quality of experiences our teens deserve without your generous support.

Throughout the year, we'll share opportunities to sign up for specific roles and events. We kindly ask each family to prayerfully consider how they might serve and support our Confirmation ministry. Your presence, in whatever form it takes, also sends a powerful message to your teen - that living our faith is something we do together, as a family and as part of a loving Church community.

If you have particular talents, areas of interest, or limitations we should be aware of, please don't hesitate to let us know. Feel free to email: mnunez@stcecilia.org, ncastelan@stcecilia.org, or call the Parish Office: (714) 544-3250 Ext. 116.

We're grateful for your "yes" - whether big or small - and we look forward to walking this journey of faith with you.



Program Expectations

All Confirmation candidates and their parents are expected to fully support and follow the expectations outlined in this handbook. These guidelines are in place to ensure a respectful, faith-filled, and organized environment where all participants can grow spiritually and prepare meaningfully for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Class Attendance

All Confirmands are required to attend all Confirmation class sessions. Students will be allowed to have a total of 2 absences for the entire year. In addition, Confirmands can reasonably expect to do make-up work for missed classes. Assignments will be emailed, and will be expected to be completed by the next class date. *The use of ChatGPT is strictly prohibited.*

Tardiness

All Confirmands are expected to be in their seats by the start of class time. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Each late arrival will be recorded. Two (2) late arrivals will count towards one (1) absence. **An excessive late arrivals of 15 minutes or more past the start of class time will result in an automatic absence, followed with a make-up assignment.** In addition, parents may be notified for a meeting with their child and the Coordinator & Pastor.

Absences

Every confirmand is granted two (2) absences per year. Absences must be communicated within at least 2 weeks, unless in the case of an emergency (i.e. death in family, illness, or injuries). All absences must be submitted to our parish office, or through email for approval. **Excessive absences, unapproved absences, or non-communicated absences can result in the Confirmand needing to repeat their year.**

Form Deadline Policies

All forms are expected to be turned in on time. This includes in-class assignments, reports, or forms including service hour documentation, permission slips, retreat payments, and more. We require both the collaboration of families and Confirmands to ensure that forms are being turned in by deadlines.

Release of Students

All students must check out with their catechist or designated staff member before leaving the premises. Confirmands **may not** leave on their own at the end of class or an event. If a student needs to leave before class or an event ends, **a parent/guardian must provide written notice in advance or speak directly with the Confirmation team.** We ask parents to be prompt when picking up students after sessions, retreats, or events.

Mass Attendance

All Confirmands are expected to attend the 4 PM Sunday Mass with their class following the Confirmation class sessions. Regular participation of Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation is still expected of students outside of class sessions. *Exceptions will be given only to those who are actively serving in different masses such as altar servers. Parents/Guardians and Confirmands are required to show proof of service.*



Communication

To ensure effective communication, all families must provide accurate and up-to-date contact information. We primarily communicate through emails and possibly text messages - ***please check them regularly.*** If your phone number or email address changes at any point during the year, you must notify the Faith Formation Staff as soon as possible. ***Additionally, if your child will be absent from class or an event, please report the absence at least a week before the scheduled start time by contacting our office via phone (714) 544-3250 or email stcfaithformation@stcecilia.org.*** Our Parish Office Hours are: Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM (Lunch: 12 PM to 1 PM). Saturdays from 9 AM to 3 PM (Lunch: 12 PM to 12:30 PM). ***Timely communication helps us ensure the safety and proper tracking of all students.***

To Report an Absence

If your child will be absent from class, you must notify the Faith Formation Office in advance whenever possible either by phone or email. Early communication allows us to maintain accurate attendance records and helps ensure the safety and accountability of all students. Please report the absence before the scheduled start time by contacting our office via phone ***(714) 544-3250*** or email ***stcfaithformation@stcecilia.org.*** Our Parish Office Hours are: Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM (Lunch: 12 PM to 1 PM). Saturdays from 9 AM to 3 PM (Lunch: 12 PM to 12:30 PM).

To Receive Texts & Emails

All families will receive important updates from the Faith Formation Office primarily through emails and possibly even text messages. ***It is your responsibility to keep your contact information current.*** If your phone number or email address changes, please notify the Faith Formation Office immediately to ensure you continue receiving important information and not miss anything.

Parent Orientation

Parent participation is essential to the success of our Confirmation program. ***All parents/guardians are expected to attend the required orientation sessions at the beginning of each Confirmation year and possibly throughout the year.*** These orientations provide important information about the program structure, sacramental preparation, schedules, retreats, and parent/sponsor responsibilities. Attendance ensures clear communication between families and the Faith Formation Team and helps parents support their teen's faith journey. ***Failure to attend may result in delays or miscommunications in a student's progress through the program.***

Student Withdrawal

If a student needs to withdraw from our Confirmation Program, parents or guardians must notify the Faith Formation Team as soon as possible. This allows our team to update our records and ensure accurate communication. While we understand that circumstances may change, we ask that families communicate any decisions promptly and respectfully. ***If a student plans to return in a future year, re-registration will be required, and prior attendance or formation may be reviewed.***



Registration Timeline & Fees

Annual Registration Requirement:

All families, both new and returning, must register their child(ren) each year to participate in the Confirmation Program (Grades 9–11). Registration ensures that we have updated family contact information, emergency contacts, medical details, and sacramental records on file.

Registration Timeline:

- Registration opens in July each year.
- Returning families receive registration forms by email in early July.
- Forms are also available on the parish website: www.stcecilia.org.
- Early registration is recommended, as space is limited in some grade levels.
- Late registrations may be accepted depending on availability and at the discretion of the Confirmation Coordinator.

Registration Fees (2025-2026):

Confirmation Year 1

- 1 child: \$110
- 2 children: \$210
- 3 children: \$310
- 4+ children: \$400

Confirmation Year 2

- 1 child: \$130
- 2 children: \$250
- 3 children: \$370
- 4+ children: \$480

***Fees cover curriculum, classroom supplies, and program materials. Year 2 fees also include additional events, rehearsals, and receptions. Please note: Retreat Fees are not included and will be collected separately closer to the retreat date.**

***Refunds apply only to registration fees and are available until October 1st, which is the final deadline for registration fees. Refunds do not apply to retreat fees or any other program-related.**

Payment Plans:

- Families requiring financial assistance may request a payment plan.
- Plans must begin between July-September and be completed by December 31, 2025.
- Retreat fees are billed separately. If you are already on a Registration Fee payment plan, we understand that adding a Retreat Fee plan may feel difficult. Please know we are committed to supporting our families and will work with you to create a solution that best meets your needs.



Retreat Timeline & Fees

Annual Retreat Requirement:

Retreats are an essential part of our Confirmation preparation. Each student is required to attend their retreat: Confirmation Year 1 and Year 2 both have **required** retreats.

Retreat Fees Information:

- Retreat fees are charged **separately** from registration fees.
- Payments are due by the deadlines listed below.
- Monthly payment plans are available; however, the plan amount will reflect the fee in effect at the time of registration.
- **Families are strongly encouraged to register and make payments on time to avoid higher fees.**
- Participants from outside parishes are required to pay the higher retreat rate. Late fees apply to those who register in the last registration window (i.e. November 17th - November 22nd, or March 9th - March 19th).
- **Retreat fees are non-refundable.**

Retreat Fees (2025-2026):

Confirmation Year 1 Retreat

- Standard Fee: \$115 (payments collection begin at the Parent Retreat Orientation)
- October 26 - November 9: \$115
- November 10 - November 16: \$130
- November 17 - November 22: \$145
- Outside Parish Rate: \$130

Confirmation Year 2 Retreat:

- Standard Fee: \$215 (payments collection begin at the Parent Retreat Orientation)
- February 8 - February 22: \$215
- February 23 - March 8: \$230
- March 9 - March 19: \$245
- Outside Parish Rate: \$230

Payment Plans & Deadlines:

- Families requiring financial assistance may request a payment plan.
- Plans for Confirmation Year 1 Retreat must begin in October 2025 and be completed by **December 31, 2025.**
- Plans for Confirmation Year 2 Retreat must begin in February 2026 and be completed by **April 1st, 2026.**
- **Retreat fees are billed separately.** If you are already on a Registration Fee payment plan, we understand that adding a Retreat Fee plan may feel difficult. Please know we are committed to supporting our families and will work with you to create a solution that best meets your needs.



Code of Conduct

All students in the Confirmation Program are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the values of our Catholic faith. This includes showing respect for others, participating fully, and maintaining a safe and welcoming environment. The following guidelines help ensure a positive and faith-filled experience for everyone involved.

Learning Environment

Students are expected to come on time, prepared, and ready to engage within their class. In order to create an environment that will be conducive toward the spiritual development of all those involved, students are expected to avoid distracting themselves and others - whether verbally, through the use of electronics, or being disruptive during class sessions. Any instances of bullying, disruption, disrespect, or even harm will result in parents being contacted immediately, and may result in expulsion depending on the severity and frequency of the behavior.

In Class Behavior

Students are expected to come to class prepared, attentive, and ready to participate respectfully. Furthermore, students are expected to engage in respectful conversations with their Faith Sharers and classmates. Disruptive behavior, inappropriate language, or disrespect toward catechists, peers, or church property will not be tolerated. Warnings will be issued, and if the behavior persists, absences may be given, followed with conversations with parents/Guardians and the Confirmation team and/or Pastor.

Restrooms

Students are encouraged to use the restroom before class begins. During class, bathroom breaks should be limited and only taken when necessary, to minimize disruptions. Students must ask for permission before leaving the classroom and must return promptly. For safety, only one student will be allowed to be dismissed from class at a time. Please note, that phone use or intentionally spending excessive amount of time in the restroom may result in consequences.

Food & Drink

Food and non-water drinks are strictly prohibited in both the school, Msgr. Sammon building facilities, and Church settings. Confirmands are encouraged to have lunch before hand. Water, however, is permitted.

Electronic Use

The use of any electronic device (phones, headphones, tablets, etc.) is strictly prohibited during class - unless granted permission by catechists or Moses Nunez for in-class activities.

Dress Code

All Confirmation candidates are expected to dress modestly and appropriately for all sessions, retreats, and liturgical events. Clothing should be clean and respectful of the sacred setting in which our gatherings take place. Students are asked to avoid clothing with offensive language, images, or logos. Outfits that reveal midriffs, shoulders, undergarments, or are excessively short are not permitted. Shorts and skirts should be at least fingertip-length, and shoes must be safe for walking and participation in group activities.



Public Displays of Affection

Confirmation candidates are expected to conduct themselves in a way that respects their peers, adult leaders, and the sacred nature of our program. Public displays of affection - such as kissing, cuddling, or hand-holding in an intimate or romantic manner - are not permitted at any Confirmation sessions, retreats, or parish events. This expectation is in place to maintain a focused, respectful, and spiritually centered environment where all teens feel comfortable. Our goal is to foster healthy friendships and a sense of community rooted in mutual respect and dignity.

Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking

The use or possession of drugs, alcohol, or any other prohibited substances is strictly forbidden. If there is reasonable suspicion that a Confirmand is in possession of such substances, the matter will be investigated, and parents/guardians may be notified. Any Confirmand found using, possessing, or distributing these substances is subject to immediate removal from the program.

Facility & Materials

All students are expected to show care and respect for the parish facilities, classrooms, retreat sites, and any other locations used throughout the Confirmation program. This includes treating all property - whether it belongs to the church, retreat center, or another organization - with courtesy and responsibility. Furniture, classrooms, restrooms, and common areas should be left clean and orderly after use. Students are also expected to handle all materials provided during sessions, such as Bibles, workbooks, and handouts, with care and attention. These resources are provided to support their faith journey and should not be written on (unless directed), defaced, or lost.

Intentional damage to property or misuse of materials may result in disciplinary action and will require the student and their family to cover repair or replacement costs. Respecting the space and items entrusted to us is not only a matter of good conduct - it is also a reflection of gratitude for the gifts God has given us and for the community that supports our formation in faith.

Discipline Policy

Our Confirmation program strives to provide a welcoming and spiritually enriching environment where each student can grow in faith, knowledge, and community. To protect that environment, all candidates are expected to act respectfully and responsibly during every session, retreat, and parish activity. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior, including inappropriate language, lack of participation, or disregard for the rules of conduct, will not be tolerated.

Should behavioral concerns arise, a progressive disciplinary approach will be followed. A verbal reminder may be given first, followed by direct communication with the student's parent or guardian. If the issue persists or is more serious in nature, a meeting with the Confirmation Coordinator and/or parish clergy may be required. In some cases, students may be placed on probation, asked to miss certain events, or—if necessary—dismissed from the program entirely. These decisions are made with prayerful consideration, always with the goal of guiding young people toward growth, accountability, and deeper formation.



Safe Environment

The safety and well-being of every young person in our Confirmation program is of utmost importance. As part of our parish and diocesan commitment to providing a safe and nurturing environment, all adult volunteers, catechists, and staff involved in the program have completed Safe Environment training and have passed background checks in accordance with diocesan policy. We follow strict guidelines to ensure appropriate boundaries and supervision at all times, including during classes, retreats, and off-site events.

In addition, our program incorporates age-appropriate discussions and materials approved by the diocese to help students recognize personal boundaries, practice respectful behavior, and understand what to do if they ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable. These sessions are presented with care and sensitivity, and parents will be notified in advance if any specific materials will be used. We encourage open communication between parents and teens. If you or your child ever have concerns about a situation, behavior, or experience within the program, we urge you to speak with the Confirmation Coordinator. Together, we are committed to creating a formation experience rooted in trust, dignity, and the love of Christ.

Emergencies

The safety and well-being of all our students is our highest priority. In the event of an emergency during Confirmation sessions, the following procedures will be followed:

Medical Emergencies: If a student becomes seriously ill or injured, 911 will be called immediately. Parents/guardians will be contacted as soon as possible using the contact information provided at registration. Basic first aid will be administered by a trained staff member or volunteer until professional help arrives. Please ensure that all emergency contact and medical information (including allergies, medications, and conditions) is kept up to date with the Faith Formation Office.

Natural Disasters (Earthquake, Fire, etc.): Our catechists and staff are trained in basic emergency procedures. Students will be evacuated to a designated safe area if necessary. Parents will be notified via text, email, or phone as soon as it is safe to do so. You will be informed when and where you can pick up your child if the program is dismissed early due to an emergency.

Lockdown or Shelter-in-Place Situations: In the event of a security threat, the parish grounds may go into lockdown or shelter-in-place. Students will remain indoors in a secure location under adult supervision. Communication will be sent out once it is safe and permitted to do so.

Emergency Pick-Up: **Only individuals listed on the registration form as authorized to pick up a child will be allowed to do so.** Proper ID may be required. Please notify the office immediately if there are changes to your pick-up authorization list.

Communication During Emergencies: We will use the following channels to notify parents in the event of an emergency: Email or text message (ensure contact info is up to date). Direct phone calls if necessary.



Confirmation 2 Additional Requirements

Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation is a sacred and life-changing moment in the faith journey of a young Catholic. As such, full participation in the preparation process is essential. **In order to be eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, each candidate must complete all the requirements of our parish program.** These include earning a minimum of four (4) Youth Ministry credits, completing at least fifteen (15) hours of approved Christian service, submitting a letter to the Bishop by the stated deadline, and demonstrating consistent attendance at Confirmation sessions. Candidates must also attend and actively participate in a Confirmation specific weekend-long retreat, which is designed to help deepen their relationship with Christ and their understanding of the Holy Spirit.

Each candidate is also expected to be spiritually prepared and personally willing to receive the sacrament. This means entering into the final stages of preparation with a genuine desire to live out their Catholic faith more fully, and freely choosing to be Confirmed. All candidates must attend the Confirmation rehearsal with their sponsor, as it ensures both are aware of their roles during the liturgy and understand the significance of what they are about to receive.

It is the shared responsibility of parents, sponsors, and the candidates themselves to remain attentive to program communications. Emails, reminders, and key updates regarding requirements, events, and Mass details will be sent throughout the year. Families are expected to stay informed and follow through in a timely manner. The date for the Confirmation Mass will be announced once it has been confirmed by the Diocese. We thank you for your support in making this sacramental journey one of faith, readiness, and reverence.

Sponsor Requirements & Orientations

Choosing a sponsor is one of the most important steps in the Confirmation preparation journey. A sponsor is a spiritual mentor who will walk alongside the candidate not only during the months of preparation but also beyond the day of the sacrament. Their role is to support, encourage, and guide the candidate in living out a mature and committed Catholic faith.

According to the Diocese of Orange, a Confirmation sponsor must meet the following requirements: **they must be at least 16 years old, have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation, and must be actively practicing their Catholic faith.** *This includes regular Mass attendance and, if married, being in a valid sacramental marriage.* **A parent may not serve as a sponsor, and sponsors must be in good standing with the Church.**

Our parish also requires that sponsors participate in a Sponsor Orientation in February, where we will go over their responsibilities, expectations, and how to spiritually accompany their candidate. In addition, sponsors are expected to journey with their candidate by checking in regularly, praying with and for them, attending "Journeying Together" faith night scheduled on April 30th, and discussing key elements of the Confirmation process. **Sponsors must also be present for the Confirmation rehearsal and the Confirmation Mass, as they will stand beside the candidate during the sacrament.**

It is the responsibility of both the candidate and their family to select a sponsor who meets the diocesan and parish guidelines and who will take this commitment seriously. Sponsors are not just ceremonial figures—they are lifelong partners in faith, entrusted with helping the candidate grow in their relationship with Christ and the Church.



Summary of Responsibilities

Summary of Confirmation 1 Requirements

- Attend All Confirmation Sessions from 2:15 PM -5 PM, missing no more than 2 sessions per year.
- Obtain 4 Youth Ministry Credits by attending Youth Events Throughout the Year by April 12th, 2026.
- Complete 10 Service Hours & complete a written reflection by April 12th, 2026.
- Attend the *entirety* of the Confirmation 1 Retreat or complete a make-up option if needed.
- Participate in a Safe Environment session (this will be part of a Confirmation session in January).
- Complete and turn in the Saint Report by April 12th, 2026.

Summary of Confirmation 2 Requirements

- Attend All Confirmation Sessions from 2:15 PM - 5 PM, missing no more than 2 sessions per year.
- Obtain 4 Youth Ministry Credits by attending Youth Events Throughout the Year by April 12th, 2026.
- Complete 15 Service Hours & complete a written reflection by April 12th, 2026.
- Attend the *entirety* of the Confirmation 2 Retreat, or complete a make-up option if needed.
- Participate in a Safe Environment session (this will be part of a Confirmation session in January).
- Complete and turn in the Final draft of Bishop Letters by February 23rd, 2026.
- Attend the Journeying Together Event with their Sponsor on April 30th, 2026.
- Attend Confirmation Mass Rehearsal with their Sponsor - Dates TBD.
- Attend Confirmation Mass with their Sponsor & Family - Dates TBD.

Thank You from St. Cecilia Staff

Thank you!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you - parents, sponsors, and especially our Confirmation candidates - for saying "yes" to this journey of faith.

Thank you for your commitment, your prayers, your presence, and your openness to what God is doing in your life. This journey is not just about preparing for a Sacrament; it's about growing in relationship with Jesus Christ, discovering your place in His Church, and being equipped to live as His disciple in the world.

We are honored to walk with you, and we look forward to the ways the Holy Spirit will continue to move in your heart and your life.

Let us remain faithful, joyful, and rooted in hope as we move forward together.