

CONFIRMATION

Handbook



SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY



A ROMAN CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY

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Welcome

Welcome to the Confirmation preparation program at Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Church! The entire parish community is excited to have you here and our Religious Education Team is looking forward to sharing this journey of faith with you. Preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation involves learning, sharing, serving, fellowship, spiritual growth, and fun! You will be given the opportunity to learn more about your Catholic faith and what it means to live your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation. While Baptism is the first step of initiation into the life of the Church, Confirmation can be seen as the completion of the Baptismal commitment. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace" (no. 1285). There are two primary effects from the sacrament of Confirmation: strengthening of one's bond with the Church, and reception of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Who may be Confirmed?

Confirmation candidates must:

- Have received the sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion.
- Be between the ages of twelve and eighteen.
- Have been adequately catechized (prepared) in the Roman Catholic faith. This is accomplished through ongoing participation in a Roman Catholic school or parish-sponsored religious education program.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the obligations of a practicing member of the Catholic Church.
- Have a sincere desire to receive the sacrament as well as an appreciation of sacramental life.
- Have sincerely attempted to fulfill the expectations as outlined in this guidebook.

Registration

Registration for the Confirmation Program takes place in May and is completed online through the parish website under the Religious Education tab > Confirmation Registration.

- The fee for Year 1 and for Year 2 Candidates (grades 7 – 9) is \$295.
- The sacramental fee for all St. Elizabeth School students is \$100. This form will be shared through St. Elizabeth School and can be returned to the Religious Education Office with payment.

If there is a financial hardship issue, please contact the Religious Education Office to discuss in confidence. We ask that all registrations be completed as soon as possible and **no later than June 5, 2022.**

Communications

All communications from the Religious Education Office will be sent through email and the Remind app. Download the app to your phone to stay connected!

- Year 1 (grade 7) text @STESCONF to 81010
- Year 2 (grades 8-9) text @STESCONFI to 81010

Pick-up and Drop-off

All Confirmation sessions and events in the church will utilize the church entrance for drop-off and pick-up. Please be on time and drive slowly!

Curriculum

We utilize Dynamic Catholic's Decision Point Confirmation program, and all Candidates are required to bring their workbook to each session. Year 1 Candidates will receive their workbooks at the first session. (Replacement workbooks are \$20.)

Food Policy

NO FOOD OR DRINK is allowed in the church.

Volunteers

Without parent volunteers, there is no Confirmation program. Parents who have contributed in the past, report that they've learned more about their faith and have grown in their own spiritual lives as a result of giving their time and energy.

Catechists in this program do not "teach" in the traditional classroom sense. They are responsible for overseeing a group of 12-15 Candidates during our sessions and facilitating small group discussions when appropriate. The Confirmation retreat also requires "all hands on deck". Please prayerfully consider giving of your time to join us!

If interested, please let us know.

Staff

Deacon John LaDuca – Confirmation Program jladuca@saintelizabeths.org

Susan Jansson – Pastoral Coordinator susan@saintelizabeths.org

Fr. Jae Joo – Parochial Vicar / Youth Ministry frjae@saintelizabeths.org

Sammey Chisholm – Youth Minister lightyouthministry@saintelizabeths.org

Pat Khanjian – Registration patk@saintelizabeths.org

Parish center – (201) 891-1122 / website - www.saintelizabeths.org

Mass Times

Saturday: 5:00pm (vigil)

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm, 6:15pm

Confirmation Preparation

Preparation for Confirmation is a two-year process which involves service to the Church and community, attendance at weekly Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, youth ministry events, and religious education sessions. The following guide details the requirements for those youth enrolled in Confirmation preparation as well as the expectations for parents and sponsors. This is a commitment that involves the whole family, and we ask that you carefully read through the program components. All due dates are listed in the checklist on page 8.

1. Complete the *Empowering God's Children* training

To solidify our commitment to the safety of our children, the Archdiocese has implemented mandatory training for the children on how to keep themselves safe from sexual abuse and exploitation. Beginning in September, and in accordance with *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, all Candidates must complete the *Empowering God's Children* training program. This training session can be completed either at home with a parent or by attending the session at the parish. A certificate of completion must be submitted to the Religious Education Office. Details will be shared prior to the first session.

2. Attend weekly Sunday Mass and submit Mass reflections

The Confirmation Candidate, and hopefully the rest of the family, must have a sincere intention of participating in Mass **every Sunday**. Participation in the Eucharistic life of the community is both a privilege and an obligation for baptized Catholics. This is also the most important way that parents, the primary Catechists, demonstrate to their children the priority that the faith has in their lives. If your family has not been attending regularly, this is a great opportunity to reconnect with our parish community and re-energize your faith.

All Candidates are to submit a total of 10 (ten) Mass reflections using the reflection form provided. Each reflection must be from a Sunday Mass only. 5 (five) will be due before Christmas break and another 5 (five) in March.

3. Attend 2 (two) LIGHT Youth Ministry events

LIGHT Youth Ministry desires the teenagers of Saint Elizabeth's to deepen their relationship with Christ and the Church. Thus we strive for our teens to become model Catholics for all, by encouraging all to live out the Sacramental life of the Church, by exposing the teens to various forms of service in Christ, and by providing a safe place for the teens to enjoy each other's presence.

As a group, we meet most Sunday evenings, following the 6:15 Mass. All high schoolers are invited to attend these LIGHT NIGHTs, which normally last from 7-8:30 PM. Our middle school events happen once a month, often on a Friday evening. All 6-8th graders are invited to join us for these events. For a detailed schedule of events, please visit the parish website:

<https://saintelizabeths.org/youth-ministry>

Father Jae, Parochial Vicar & Sammey Chisholm, Youth Minister

Call or text us at 201-677-3033!

Email us at LIGHTyouthministry@saintelizabeths.org

Instagram: @lightyouthministry

4. Attend all Confirmation sessions

Attendance at all monthly Confirmation sessions is an extremely important component in preparing Candidates for reception of the sacrament. We expect that families will make these gatherings a priority and therefore adjust other obligations, such as sports and other activities, accordingly.

All monthly Sunday sessions begin with attending the 6:15pm Mass unless otherwise noted on the calendar. Attendance will be taken prior to Mass in the narthex. Parents are always encouraged to join us, and we can always use volunteers!

++ St. Elizabeth School students to attend those dates noted on the calendar.

5. Complete a Works of Mercy project

As baptized Christians, we are each called to serve one another as Christ commanded us and showed us by His example. The Works of Mercy service project is an integral part of our program. Not only does it help us put our faith into action, but it allows us to encounter Jesus Christ through our brothers and sisters in need.

All Candidates must complete **at least 10 hours** through an approved ministry. We utilize the **mobileserve** for tracking and verifying hours. Get started on this right away!

6. Interview with a member of the staff (Year 2 only)

The interview gives us a chance to meet you face-to-face and to get to know a little about you. It is a very informal, relaxed conversation so don't be nervous! A Sign-Up Genius link will be shared and posted on the website to schedule your interview. Please bring or email us a photo of yourself to include in our Confirmation Candidate book! This book is for internal use only and will not be shared outside of the Religious Education Office.

7. Submit the Confirmation Name and Sponsor form (Year 2 only)

All Year 2 Candidates must submit the Confirmation Name and Sponsor form.

A Confirmation name marks a new beginning in your spiritual life, like Abram was changed to Abraham in the Old Testament and Saul to (Saint) Paul in the New Testament. Because of Confirmation's connection to Baptism, if your Baptismal name (usually your middle name) is that of a saint, you already have your Confirmation name. By choosing a saint's name, you're asking him or her to pray for you in a special way. Having a special connection to someone in Heaven is a big deal!

Being a sponsor is a lifelong commitment. He or she takes on the role of a spiritual parent who "brings the candidate to receive the sacrament, presents him to the minister for the anointing, and will later help him to fulfill his baptismal promises faithfully under the influence of the Holy Spirit" Because of the sacrament's connection to Baptism, it is strongly encouraged that a Godparent be chosen, if possible.

Criteria for selecting a qualified sponsor:

- A fully initiated Catholic (received Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation)
- A faithful, practicing Catholic who attends Mass regularly
- Is at least 16 years of age
- Cannot be a parent of the Candidate
- Can be either male or female
- If married, be in a valid Catholic marriage

8. Attend the Confirmation retreat (Year 2 only)

Attendance at the Confirmation retreat for Year 2 Candidates is mandatory. If there is an unavoidable conflict, illness, etc., the Candidate must attend another parish's Confirmation retreat prior to receiving the sacrament.

Program checklist and due dates:

Component	Details	Due
Attend Sunday Mass	Every week	weekly
Attend all Confirmation sessions	See calendar	monthly
Interview with staff	Year 2 only Sign-Up Genius link	Sept. 25
Submit Sunday Mass reflections (5)	Mass reflection form	Dec. 11
Select Confirmation name and sponsor (Year 2 only)	Use Name and Sponsor form	Dec. 11
Complete Empowering God's Children training	Submit form certifying completion	Dec. 11
Attend a LIGHT Youth Ministry event	See LIGHT calendar	Dec. 30
Attend Confirmation retreat for 8 th graders	Year 2 only	Jan. 28
Attend Confirmation retreat for 9 th graders	Year 2 only	Feb. 4
Submit Sunday Mass reflections (5)	Sunday Mass reflection form	Mar. 17
Attend a LIGHT Youth Ministry event	See LIGHT calendar	Mar. 17
Works of Mercy project due	Submitted via Mobile Serve	Mar. 17



CONFIRMATION at Saint Elizabeth Church

Works of Mercy Service Project

As baptized Christians, we are each called to serve one another as Christ commanded us and showed us by His example. The Works of Mercy service project is an integral part of our program. Not only does it help us put our faith into action, but it allows us to encounter Jesus Christ through our brothers and sisters in need. The Corporal Works of Mercy are: **Feed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Clothe the naked. Shelter the homeless. Visit the sick. Visit the imprisoned.** These corporal works should help you make a choice in the project you choose.

- Choose a project through an approved ministry (see list on next page). For any other service idea, it must first be approved by Deacon John.
- Complete **at least 10 hours** of service.
- Have the ministry supervisor verify the service hours using **mobileserve** (signature or email).
- Utilize the reflection box in the **mobileserve** entry to write a few lines about your experience using the below reflection questions as a guide.
- Feel free to team up with friends, siblings, or fellow candidates!

Reflection questions:

- Who did this service help? What was involved?
- Why did you choose this? Which Work of Mercy does it connect to?
- What did you enjoy most about it? Did anything surprise you?
- Would you serve in this ministry again? Why or why not?
- Was the project challenging for you? Did you find it fulfilling? Did it push you out of your comfort zone?
- How did you encounter Jesus in your ministry? Please explain.
- How did this experience connect to your life as a Christian?

Approved Works of Mercy ministries

- **Service projects with LIGHT Youth Ministry**
 - Summer Mission Trips, Bridges outings, Boxes of Hope, Soup Kitchens
 - Parish Picnic, Advent Giving Tree, Lenten Fish Fry and more
- **Camp Acorn, Allendale**
 - www.campacorn.org
- **Camps Sunshine & Snowflake, Ridgewood**
 - www.sunshine-snowflake.org
- **Catechist Classroom Aide for CCD grades 1-6**
 - Ms. Pat Khanjian, Patk@saintelizabeths.org
- **Center for Food Action, Mahwah**
 - www.cfanj.org
- **Eastern Christian Children's Retreat, Wyckoff**
 - www.eccretreat.org
- **Eva's Village, Paterson**
 - www.evasvillage.org
- **Families for Families, Wyckoff**
 - www.families4families.com
- **Habitat for Humanity, Paterson**
 - www.patersonhabitat.org
- **Night to Shine, Tim Tebow Foundation (February 10, 2023)**
 - Contact: Mrs. Blaire Ransom, blair@jerseyleader.com
- **Oasis, Paterson**
 - www.oasisnj.org
- **Several Sources Shelter, Ramsey**
 - www.severalsources.org
- **St. Joseph's Home for the Elderly, Totowa**
 - www.littlesistersofthepoortotowa.org
- **St. Martin Soup Kitchen, Jersey City**
 - Contact: Mr. Peter Ingrassi, Pingrasci@optonline.net
- **Young Life Capernaum, Bergen County**
 - www.bergencounty.younglife.org

If you'd like to perform service not listed here, please get approval from Deacon John before starting!

Acceptable Use Policy for Technology

Saint Elizabeth Church holds specific expectations for students at each grade level regarding their use of technology. The following rules of Conduct apply:

For Students:

- Must cite properly all information that is acquired from electronic sources and used in their assignments.
- May not ever instant message or text message in Religious Education.
- May not post private or personal information about or photographs of another student, Catechist, or staff member on the internet, including without limitation, all social media networking sites (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, etc.) or via cell phone.
- May not post any picture or image of or about St. Elizabeth Religious Education on the internet or via cell phone.
- Cell phones – Student cell phone use is prohibited. Cell phones, iPods, cameras, or other telecommunication devices may not be used during Religious Education classes. Cell phones and other devices must be turned off while classes are in session, unless directed otherwise by teacher or administration. Student use of a cell phone (and other devices) on school premises is prohibited unless expressly permitted by the administration. If a student is found using a cell phone, iPod, camera, or other telecommunication device during Religious Education, the device will be confiscated and the device will be returned to the student's parent at pickup. If a student is found taking pictures or recording videos of students and/or teachers, with the intent of posting them on social media, the device may be confiscated and turned over to the Wyckoff Police Department for investigation if deemed necessary.

For Parents/Guardians:

Parents and/or guardians of students at St. Elizabeth Religious Education are expected to support their child's adherence to the above-stated guidelines.

In addition, parents are expected to respect the privacy of the St. Elizabeth community and to help foster a safe and loving environment for all students. Therefore, parents may not share photos or videos of any student, other than their own child, on any social media networking site (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, etc.) if the photos/videos are taken at any St. Elizabeth's event including but not limited to in-person presentations, class parties, field trips, sporting events, Masses, and prayer services. Parents have sole control over pictures of their own children and may post those pictures if no other students appear in the picture. Because photos that are posted on any social media become public property and may be used by anyone for any purpose, Saint Elizabeth strongly discourages parents from posting any pictures of their children on social media.

In rare instances, special permission may be granted to share or publish a photo upon express authorization of the St. Elizabeth Church Administration and permission from all parties involved.