

## Confirmation Program 2025-2026



*The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops describes Confirmation as follows: “The prophets of the Old Testament foretold that God's Spirit would rest upon the Messiah to sustain his mission. Their prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus the Messiah was conceived by the Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus on the occasion of his baptism by John. Jesus' entire mission occurred in communion with the Spirit. Before he died, Jesus promised that the Spirit would be given to the Apostles and to the entire Church. After his death, he was raised by the Father in the power of the Spirit. Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society, and the world. . . . We receive the message of faith in a deeper and more intensive manner with great emphasis given to the person of Jesus Christ, who asked the Father to give the Holy Spirit to the Church for building up the community in loving service.” (usccb.org)*

### REQUIREMENTS

Requirements to enroll in the Confirmation Prep Program:

- ❖ Has received the Sacraments of Baptism and First Communion
- ❖ Submit Baptism and First Communion Certificate to Stephen Lee
- ❖ Registered using our form [here](#)

Requirements to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Saint Simon Catholic Parish in addition to the above:

- ❖ Attend in person 10/12 Classes (at minimum) with makeup sessions available
- ❖ Mandatory Retreat (1 full day on Saturday, 11/8 ; 1 overnight in Spring, 3/27-29 ))
- ❖ Volunteer at 1 of 2 YM Events
- ❖ Serve in 1 liturgical role in mass after our class
- ❖ Confirmation Date: May 9th

### CONTACT INFORMATION

- ❖ [kmoreira@stsimon.org](mailto:kmoreira@stsimon.org)
- ❖ Call or Text (650) 880-1405
- ❖ Please allow 24-48 hours for a reply

### COST/REGISTRATION

The program itself is free of charge, we can always use snack donations (nut free) for classes but it is not required!

Our retreat cost is \$300. If you need assistance, scholarships are available. Please reach out to Kalena ([kmoreira@stsimon.org](mailto:kmoreira@stsimon.org)).

**SESSIONS / CALENDAR**

## SUNDAY CLASS

All classes are the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, with the exceptions of Holidays and other conflicts. They will be from 3:30-5pm with the expectation that we attend the 5pm mass together. Please see the schedule below for the class dates.

<b>October</b> 10/5: Class 10/19: Class	<b>November</b> 11/2: Class 11/8: Retreat Day (10am-3pm) 11/16: Class	<b>December</b> 12/7: Parent + Candidate Workshop 12/21: NO Class
<b>January</b> 1/4: NO Class 1/18: Class	<b>February</b> 2/1: Class 2/22: Sponsor + Candidate Workshop	<b>March</b> 3/1: Class 3/15: Class 3/27-29: Retreat
<b>April</b> 4/5: NO Class 4/19: Class	<b>May</b> 5/3: Last Class :(!	<b>Confirmation Date</b> May 9th, 2026

## LITURGICAL ROLES

This year after each class we will join in mass together and serve in the Mass itself. I am asking for each Candidate to serve at least once in the 5pm mass after class but you are welcome to serve more! You can pick from the following roles:

- Lector (we will go through lector training in class)
- Bringing up the gifts
- Tech booth (slides only)
- Altar Server (only if you are previously trained)

## VOLUNTEERING

- ❖ As a Confirmation Candidate we are asking you to volunteer at one of the two events down below.
  - Special Olympics Dance on October 18th
  - Youth Living Way - Reenactment of Stations of the Cross in Lent
    - The Living Way also requires rehearsal. If you attend all rehearsals and the reenactment it can count as both of your volunteer events!

## ABSENCES

- ❖ You must attend 10/12 classes in person (at minimum!), both Parent+Sponsor Workshop, and both retreats to be Confirmed
- ❖ Advice!! Use your two absences wisely. Save them for times you may get sick or have family emergencies.
- ❖ When absent come to the next class 30 minutes early to make up the material that you missed. Example: If you are absent on 10/5 come to class at 3pm on 10/19
  - If this does not work for you, contact Kalena.

## RETREATS

There will be a separate Retreat Packet and Parent+Candidate Information Meeting when our retreat comes closer but here is some starter information:

We will have one all day retreat on November 8th 10am-3pm.  
This will be located at Saint Simon.

Our overnight retreat will be in the Spring.

*Location:* Camp Via, located only 15 minutes from Saint Simon.

*Schedule:* Drop off at Camp Via between 5-7pm on Friday

Pick up at Camp Via around 12-1pm on Sunday

*Adult Volunteers:* We will need a couple adult volunteers. If you are willing and able please email Kalena to make sure you fall under our [Volunteer requirements](#).

Our overnight retreat will take place in the Spring (March or April)

## VIRTUS LESSON - November 2nd

Virtus is our Catholic Safe Environment Program that the Diocese of San Jose and Saint Simon follow very closely. This program is intended to educate and protect Children and Young People. It goes over safety rules, respecting yourself and others, interpersonal safety, physical boundaries, safe touch/unsafe touch, and maintaining personal safety while participating in activities, online games/apps, and communication through Social media. All Virtus information and access can be seen on the DSJ website [here \(https://www.dsj.org/protecting-gods-children/\)](https://www.dsj.org/protecting-gods-children/).

- ❖ If you do not want your child to complete the Virtus training please turn in the “Parent Opt-Out Form” that will be kept on parish site for audit purposes. Your child will then not come to class that day and will complete a makeup assignment.
- ❖ We will complete this lesson on November 2nd. Please complete an opt out form if you do not wish for your child to be safe environment trained.

## SAINT PROJECT

This project is a requirement for every Candidate to complete. If the guidelines are not met then you will be asked to re correct your project until they are. *This project will be reviewed as part of a class teaching and will be **due February 1st, 2026** Please turn in a digital copy of your essay and a physical copy of your “Saint Profile”.*

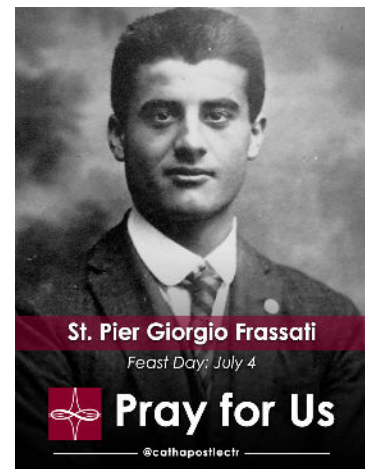
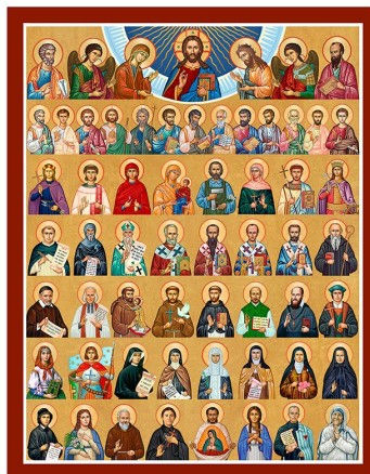
### Guidelines

**Step One:** Pick a Saint. Research some, find one that you connect to through some lens. It could be that you share a name with them or you share a belief, a hobby, a liking, etc. Reminder: We no longer Confirm under Saint Names so this Saint does not have to be a name you want to be Confirmed as. We will defer to your own name for Confirmation but if you wish to be Confirmed under a Saint you are more than welcome to.

**Step Two:** Fill out “The Saint Profile”. Please make this as nice as possible. We will be displaying them for all your friends and family on your Confirmation Day. You do not have to draw their profile picture but if you print please do your best to cut it nicely:)

**Step Three:** Write a two page paper on the following:

- 1-2 paragraphs on background
  - Name of Saint, Birthplace, Parents, Family
  - Time they lived - anything important going on in that area or time period
- 1 paragraph : What is the Saint known for? What are they the patron Saint of? When were they canonized? What miracles did they perform?
- 1-2 paragraphs on why you chose the Saint and how they are a model for you. How do they inspire you to be Confirmed
- 1 paragraph on the Feast Day for your chosen Saint and how people celebrate. Is there a prayer or Novena for this Saint?
- 1 paragraph on what gifts of the Holy Spirit you see in your Saint



## SPONSORS

### *What is a sponsor?*

A loving person, who journeys with you through life, guiding, sharing, and supporting you especially in your growth as an active disciple of Christ.

### *Who qualifies to be a sponsor?*

A sponsor must be a Catholic who is at least 16 years of age; actively living their faith; have received all three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation); and is not the parent of the candidate. In short, a sponsor should be a fully initiated Catholic who is faithful to Christ and the Church. Please *consider* picking someone that is local first. If the person you feel connected to most is not local it is not a huge deal.

### *What is the job of a sponsor?*

As a sponsor, you have three main roles, to accompany your candidate; pray for your candidate regularly; and encourage and challenge your candidate. Your job is to help your candidate live as an authentic disciple of Jesus Christ.

### *How do I choose my sponsor?*

Consider the mentors in your life. What qualities do you admire in them? Are they thoughtful, considerate of your thoughts and feelings? Do you enjoy spending time with them, talking, and sharing with them? Do you trust them? Start here and then consider all those in your life that are practicing Catholics. Where does that list overlap? Perhaps it is an aunt or uncle, or the parent of a close family friend, a teacher or coach, an older sibling.

Then, invite them over to talk in person and ask them! Or, if they are not local get on the phone:)

### *I have chosen my Sponsor, now what?*

Please fill out [this Google Form](#) with you and your Sponsor's information.



## BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Please review expectations between Parent and Child and sign the agreement.

If these expectations are not upheld and/or an instance occurs, a meeting between the Youth Minister (Kalena Moreira), the parents, and the child will be held. On a case by case basis the Pastor (Father Brendan McGuire) could also be included. We will talk and evaluate whether or not the candidate is ready to be Confirmed or if they need to be removed from our program.

### EXPECTATIONS:

- *Kindness towards adults, volunteers, Staff members,, and each other*
  - Bullying of any kind (in person or online) is not acceptable
  - Disrespect towards anyone involved in the program including classmates and yourself is not allowed
- *Safe Environment and Cleanliness*
  - Hands and bodies to yourselves at all times
  - You are expected to keep our classroom environments clean when using
    - No trash left, pick up any food dropped or spills that accidentally happen
  - Phones turned in at the beginning of class; no airpods in ears during class
  - No use of swear words or inappropriate language, current terms, or slang
  - THINK BEFORE YOU DO!!
    - Extreme Example! If you have a rock in your hand and you are next to a glass window, will you throw it and break the window or put the rock down? Stop, think about your action, and decide to put the rock down because breaking the window is dangerous to yourself, others, and will result in not so fun consequences.
- *Be Present, Serve, and Have Fun!*
  - Mass attendance is expected of you. Attending Mass is important as a Catholic but also while you are on your journey to Confirmation and after!
  - Youth Ministry events and program attendance is highly encouraged and expected along your journey. Building community and more importantly having fun time for yourself will only be beneficial to you in the future. Take a chance and join even if you are nervous for the first time.
  - Serving our community is expected of you. Living out your Catholic faith includes living a life Jesus set an example of. Volunteer and serve others out of the goodness of your heart.
  - Living your faith by action is highly expected of you! Be an example of Jesus through your words, actions, and daily life. Always remember...WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?)