

CONFIRMATION / EUCHARIST (Re-stored order)

Throughout the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois, these two Sacraments, beginning 2019-2020, are to be celebrated during the same Eucharistic celebration with the Bishop. The typical age will be 8, or 3rd grade. The order of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion had been in place for almost 1900 of the church's 2000 year history, so this is a restoration of what is actually the norm in all the official liturgical books. It is necessary for a candidate to be baptized before receiving the Sacraments Confirmation/Eucharist, thus completing Sacraments of Initiation.

To become candidates for the sacraments of Confirmation/First Eucharist, the following criteria must be met:

1. Regular participation in weekend Mass.
2. Participating in the parish stewardship process (time, talent and treasure) according to age and ability.
3. Successful completion of an entire year of a parish faith formation program (PFF, Parochial School, or HFF) and be currently enrolled and participating in one of them.

Preparation requirements will include:

1. Preparation sessions for parents, particularly the Catholic parent(s).
2. Periodic liturgical ritual celebrations within the weekend Mass.
3. Timely completion of the parish preparation materials and any other necessary assignments.
4. Preparation Day for children and parent(s).

Children's preparation for Confirmation/First Eucharist begins in the home. The family has an important role in communicating the Christian and human values that form the foundation for a child's understanding of these sacraments. We emphasize the need for parents to be actively involved in the preparation process, as they are the first teachers of their children. Parents teach informally yet powerfully by example and instruction. Because of the communal nature of the sacraments, parents alone cannot fulfill the responsibility of journeying with their children in the faith. We recognize this and incorporate not only parents but also the parish staff, prayer partners, catechists, liturgical ministers, and the entire worshipping community. The preparation process at St. Jerome and St. James recognizes the diverse but complementary roles which must be fulfilled if children are to grow in faith.

Parents and the catechist, together with the pastor, are responsible for determining when children have attained the age of reason and are ready to receive Confirmation/First Communion.

Note to St. John Neumann parents:

The religious curriculum of St. John Neumann will supplement this family catechesis, but will not be a substitute for it. The actual celebration of the sacraments of First Penance, and Confirmation/First Eucharist, are to take place in the SJN student's home parish.