

St. Victoria Confirmation Preparation -Year 1 Commitment

2024-25

Confirmation Candidate Ownership

Congratulations on answering the invitation and deciding to pursue Confirmation! What is Confirmation? *Confirmation is a sacramental outpouring of the Holy Spirit that leaves a permanent imprint on the soul, completes Christian initiation, and empower us to be witnesses to Christ (CCC1302-1305).* Mass attendance, service, retreats, prayer, and building community are opportunities to encounter Jesus and essential practices for an active Catholic witness to Christ! These practices will help you continue on your faith journey for years to come.

Encounter Jesus in Weekly Mass and Complete Ten Mass Reflections

Attending weekly Mass offers a chance to physically connect with Christ through the Eucharist and to encounter Him in the scriptures, in each other, and through the priest. Mass has the power to transform us, bringing peace, healing, and joy. Teens are to journal about "What they noticed" at each Mass in their Confirmation notebooks. These notebooks are to be submitted into the "Confirmation bucket" located in the library. While taking weekly notes is expected, Confirmation journals must be submitted at **least ten times** before April 2025.

Commit to Daily Prayer

Prayer enables us to get to know, trust, and recognize God. Setting aside time to connect with God enables us to live with peace, joy, love, and self-control. Encounter God's guidance when praying with scripture or journaling. Help others by praying for their needs.

Actively Explore Jesus in Weekly Small Group Confirmation Gatherings and Retreats

Active engagement and dedication to your Confirmation journey are crucial. Think of Confirmation sessions as irreplaceable meetings with a friend. We encourage you to be open to Jesus and ready to share your experiences with your small group. Your contribution is vital to your group.

➤ **Attend Weekly Confirmation Sessions with a seeking heart and willingness to share**

Block your calendar for Wednesday at 7:30 – 9:10pm as a date with God (and your small group). Pre-plan homework and talk to coaches about leaving early or missing practice(s). *If you'll miss more than 3 sessions, consider waiting a year, or give Ann a call to discuss.*

➤ **NET Retreat: Jan 18, (10am-6pm Saturday)**

St. Victoria is hosting the NET retreat led by college missionaries this year! It promises to be AMAZING. Don't miss it! *If impossible, you can attend 2026 Year 1 retreat.*

Serving at St. Victoria

Service is important element of following Christ, and helps you belong to the community! Each Confirmation candidate will be part of a ministry. Do you want to be a Middle School Small group leader? How about choir, lector, or altar server? If you aren't part of these ministries, sign up to be a greeter/usher at least three times at regular or Face and Hands Masses.

Identify a Confirmation Sponsor AND meet at least monthly with your Sponsor Nov 1

Having mentors and role models in our faith journey is essential! We need others to attend Mass with us, pray with us, share faith experiences, and help answer our questions. Select one Catholic Confirmation Sponsor (see requirements on the website). If you need help identifying a sponsor, contact Ann. Sponsors must be selected and logged into the Confirmation profile no later than Nov 1, 2024. *See StVictoria.net/high school for profile.*

Find God's Voice in a Bible verse and inspiration selecting a Confirmation Saint Dec 1

Scripture and Saints are great Catholic blessings. Scripture is God's voice telling us about His wisdom and love. Saints are awesome role models. Finding a verse and Saint that speak to our experience and struggles is inspiring and comforting. Enter your Saint and Bible verse in your Confirmation profile by Dec 1. There are suggestions on the Confirmation website. You can change these at any time before Confirmation.

Parent Leadership

Parents play a unique role as the primary catechists of their children. While the staff and small group leaders at St. Victoria provide support, it is the parents who have an unmatched capacity to manifest God's love. To bring faith to life, it is crucial for teens to have their parents join them for weekly Mass and to engage in weekly faith discussions. Additionally, parents can assist by communicating with coaches and managing homework conflicts that may interfere with Confirmation commitments.

Initiate Weekly Discussions with your son/daughter – See weekly email from Ann with topics and prompts.

Clear Calendar and Sign up for Year 2 Retreat on Nov 16-17 and Confirmation Group Retreat on Jan 18.

Attend Monthly Face and Hands Youth Masses/Events with your teen. (Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8, Jan 12, April 13.) Ensure Mass Reflections turned in for these dates.

CANDIDATE SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

Questions? Contact Ann Esping (aesping@stvictoria.org) 952-443-2661.

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We have read and understand St. Victoria's Confirmation Preparation expectations and are excited about this journey. We commit to attending Mass weekly, engaging in service activities, participating in retreats, and incorporating prayer into our daily lives. Our goal is to deepen our connection with Christ so we can live life with joy!

I, _____(Confirmation candidate), acknowledge my crucial role in my St. Victoria Confirmation small group. I understand the importance of my presence at each session. I will arrive prepared every week to explore my relationship with Christ, learn more about the Catholic Church, and share my experiences. I am committed to supporting and serving my small group peers and am eager to extend my service to the wider community.

We, both the Confirmation candidate and parent(s), are _____(excited/anxious/indifferent/etc.) about embarking on this Confirmation journey. We are ready to fully engage and prioritize this experience, knowing that only by fully participating can we discover how great it can be.

STUDENT NAME: _____ **PARENT NAME:** _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____ **PARENT SIGNATURE:** _____

DATE: _____