



St. John Francis Regis Parish

43950 St John's Road
Hollywood, MD 20636
301-373-2281

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to an exciting year for you as you help prepare your children for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We look forward to working with you as your child begins this wonderful journey to unite her/him more firmly with Christ.

Enclosed in this packet are many forms to be completed and returned to your child's catechist in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **We ask that you return all of the forms, completed, at one time to your child's catechist not later than December 10, 2023. Incomplete packets will not be accepted. Do NOT submit packets to the rectory.**

As in past years, our Confirmation retreat will be an overnight retreat at the Loyola Retreat House (<http://www.loyolaonthepotomac.com>) in Faulkner, MD. The dates for the retreat will be announced as soon as we have them, with the girls attending after school Monday-Tuesday and the boys attending after school Tuesday-Wednesday. There will be bus transportation to/from St. John's. The enclosed parental consent form, must be completed and **returned to your child's catechist** by December 8, 2022. Public school children will be excused on the day of their retreat with a legal absence, but SMCPS now requires parents to request the excused absence. Please remember that this is a **mandatory** event for all Confirmation candidates. If it is absolutely not possible for your child to attend the retreat, please research other retreat options and call Rich Olon to discuss ideas for a substitute retreat for your child. For those parents who have been fingerprinted as a volunteer under the ADW's child protection policy and attended the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children workshop, if you would like to chaperone, please let me know as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 301-373-2281 or rolon@sjhollywood.org.

Sincerely In Christ,

Mr. Rich Olon
Director, St John's Religious Education Program





St. John Francis Regis Parish

CONFIRMATION CALENDAR 2023/24

- October 2, 2023 (Mon)** Parent/Candidate Mandatory Meeting in St John's Church 7:00pm
- October 29, 2023 (Sun)** "Presentation of Candidates" at 11:30 Sunday Mass (Mandatory)
Parents and Sponsors are asked to attend with Candidates, if possible.
- December 10, 2023 (Tues)** Last date to submit completed forms to Catechist. Forms include:
- Family/Candidate Commitment Pledge
 - Confirmation Registration Form
 - Copy of Baptismal Certificate (if not baptized at St John's)
 - Sponsor Selection Form
 - Report on Confirmation Saint
 - Signed Sponsor Certification Form
 - Letter to Fr. Ray including:
 - a) Student asking to be confirmed
 - b) Saint's name chosen
 - c) Why he/she wishes to emulate particular Saint
 - d) Why he/she wants to be confirmed
 - Parental Consent and Liability Waiver Form
for overnight retreat at Loyola
- April 22-23, 2024 (M-T)** Girls' Confirmation Retreat, Loyola Retreat House
- April 23-24, 2024 (T-W)** Boys' Confirmation Retreat, Loyola Retreat House
- May 7, 2024 (Tues)** Confirmation Confession and Practice - St. John's Church (6:00-8:00pm)
- May 8, 2024 (Wed)** Confirmation Mass at St John's Church (7:00pm)

Proper attire for Confirmation Mass:

Ladies should wear a dress or dressy pantsuit. Please dress conservatively: cover your shoulders (no spaghetti straps) and wear a skirt or dress of appropriate length (at least knee-length).
Gentlemen should wear a sport jacket or suit jacket, dress slacks, dress shirt, and tie.
Dress shoes, please: no tennis shoes.





St. John Francis Regis Parish

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Responsibility of Parent

The decree of the sacrament of Confirmation demands personal initiative by the candidate. It is most important that the parents know and understand this in order to encourage their children in a supportive way. No teachers, school, or textbooks can match the formative influence parents have on their own child, especially in the area of religious belief; therefore, we ask your cooperation with the following items in **bold print**:

Family/Candidate Pledge

Family involvement is very important in preparing your child for the reception of the Sacrament. This pledge of commitment to be faithful to your promises made at Baptism, which include attending and participating at Mass on Sunday and Holy Days and to share the Good News with others, should be discussed as a family so as to understand the mutual responsibility each person has before signing this pledge of commitment.

Baptismal Certificate and completed Registration Form

If you have not previously presented your baptismal certificate to St. John's School Office or to the Religious Education Office, please do so as soon as possible. A certificate is not required for those baptized at St. John's Parish.

Sponsor Forms

The Sponsor must be at least 16 years of age and must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic.

The Sponsor should be someone whom the student chooses to help guide and teach him/her as he/she becomes an adult and grows in the Catholic faith. This Sponsor will be a mentor. Parents may not serve as sponsors for their children.

Research Paper – Confirmation Saint

A report on the life of the saint whose name the candidate has chosen for Confirmation is required. Baptismal names may be, and are encouraged to be, used since Confirmation completes what has begun in Baptism. Include the history of the Saint, as well as the reason this Saint was chosen. Please type or print the report.

Interview

Each candidate will have a short, personal interview with Fr. Ray or Mr. Rich Olon. The purpose of this interview is to determine the candidate's religious education preparation and intent regarding the reception of the sacrament. Parents are to attend as well.

Sacramental Catechesis

To be properly prepared for Confirmation, each candidate must have a thorough understanding of the BASIC TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH included in this folder. In addition to this material, a Bible has been provided for each candidate's preparation.

Please call the Religious Education Coordinator at 301-373-2281 with questions or concerns.



St. John's Parish
Confirmation – Basic Teachings

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD ARE:

1. I am the Lord your God; you shall not have other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not lie.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

FORM AND MATTER OF THE SACRAMENTS - We hold that a sacrament has two parts: the form, or prayer part of the sacrament; and the matter, the physical and action part of the sacrament.

BAPTISM - The form is: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The matter is pouring water over the head of the person or immersing the person in water three times.

CONFIRMATION – The form is: "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." The matter is anointing with Holy Chrism on the forehead, which is done by the laying on of hands.

EUCCHARIST - The form is "This is My Body; this is My Blood." The matter is wheaten bread and grape wine.

RECONCILIATION/PENANCE – The form is "I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The matter is the confession of sin, contrition, amending one's life and making reparation.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK – The form is the prayer pronounced for the pardon of sins. The matter is the anointing of the forehead and hands with oil of the sick.

HOLY ORDERS - The form is the ordination prayer which invokes the Holy Spirit. The matter is the imposition of the hands of the Bishop.

MATRIMONY – The form entails the exchange of vows by one man and one woman, who are free to marry, in the presence of a priest or deacon (or duly delegated representative) and two witnesses. The matter of the sacrament is the consent expressed by the exchange of vows. In marriage, the couple is the minister of the sacrament; the priest is the official witness of the Church, who also imparts God's blessing.

THE BEATITUDES ARE:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. (Matthew 5:3-12)

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION IN THE UNITED STATES

1) **Solemnity of Mary (January 1st)** - On this day, we honor Mary, Mother of God. We are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth at Christmas, celebrated just a week before, was made possible by Mary's fiat: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word."

2) **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15th)** - The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a very old feast of the Church, celebrated universally by the sixth century. It commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven before her body could begin to decay—a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time.

3) **All Saints' Day (November 1st)** – We honor all the saints in heaven. This is a surprisingly old feast. It arose out of the Christian tradition of celebrating the martyrdom of saints on the anniversary of their martyrdom. When martyrdoms increased during the persecutions of the late Roman Empire, local dioceses instituted a common feast day in order to ensure that all martyrs, known and unknown, were properly honored. The practice eventually spread to the universal Church.

4) **The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th)** This feast celebrates, not the conception of Christ (a common misconception), but the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of Saint Anne; nine months later, on September 8, we celebrate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates the saving work of God in preserving the Blessed Virgin Mary from the stain of original sin. Because of His foreknowledge that Mary would consent to bear Christ, God kept Mary free from original sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne.

5) **Christmas (December 25th)** - We celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give drink to the thirsty
3. Clothe the naked
4. Visit the imprisoned
5. Shelter the homeless
6. Visit the sick
7. Bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Admonish the sinner
2. Instruct the ignorant
3. Counsel the doubtful
4. Comfort the sorrowful
5. Bear wrongs patiently
6. Forgive all injuries
7. Pray for the living and the dead

Precepts of the Church

- 1) The Sunday Obligation - You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
- 2) Confession - You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
- 3) The Easter Duty - You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
- 4) Fasting and Abstinence - You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. (*Fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and abstain from meat on the Fridays during Lent. On all other Fridays of the year, we may perform some other penance in place of abstinence.*)
- 5) Supporting the Church - You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.



St. John Francis Regis Parish

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill out one form for each child being confirmed.

Your child's Baptismal Certificate, if it is not on file in the St. John's School Office or the Parish Religious Education Office, must be submitted with this form by **December 10, 2023**.

Candidate's Full Name: _____

(As it will appear on the certificate)

Father's Full Name (including middle) : _____

Mother's First & Middle Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Residence: _____

City/ State

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

(City/State)

Date of Baptism: _____ Church of Baptism: _____

Address of Church (Baptism): _____

I hereby signify that I desire to become a candidate for the sacrament of Confirmation and wish to participate in the period of preparation.

Candidate's Signature: _____

Parent's Signature: _____





St. John Francis Regis Parish

FAMILY/CANDIDATE PLEDGE

Please fill out one form for each child being confirmed.

Sign and return to your Catechist by: December 10, 2023

We recognize that the involvement of the family is important in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Therefore,

✝ *We promise to attend and participate at Mass on Sunday as well as on Holy Days of Obligation.*

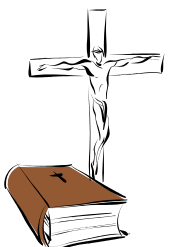
✝ *We promise to work together as parent and child in the studying and memorizing of required materials.*

✝ *We promise to fulfill our obligation to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*

✝ *We promise to support and encourage our child to be committed to service by continuing or initiating involvement in parish and/or community programs.*

Candidate's Signature _____

Parent Signature _____





St. John Francis Regis Parish

REQUEST TO BE A SPONSOR

Confirmation Candidate's Name: _____

Candidate's Mailing Address: _____

Sponsor Name & Relationship to Confirmand: _____

Sponsor's Pledge: I understand that as a sponsor I am to live a life in harmony with the nature of this responsibility: meaning, for example, that I regularly attend Mass; I receive the Eucharist regularly; I make use of the sacrament of Reconciliation; I am not in an irregular marriage; I am not an active homosexual; and I seek to the best of my understanding of my Catholic faith to be faithful to the teachings of the Church. I attest that I have received the sacrament of Confirmation and that I am at least 16 years old. I also understand that being a sponsor is a commitment of time. I will attend the celebrations of liturgical rites and other initiation-related events to the best of my ability. I further understand that being chosen as a sponsor is a lifetime commitment to be, as I am able, a faithful witness of the Catholic way of life to the individual I am called to serve. If I am not a member of the same parish as the person who I am serving, then I will obtain a Letter Of Good Standing from my own parish, attesting to the fact that I attend Mass regularly on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, follow the precepts of the Church, and possess no impediments to serving as a sponsor. _____ *Please initial after reading the above paragraph.*

Sponsor's Contact Information

Sponsor's Address: _____

Phone (home): _____ Phone (cell) _____ Phone (work) _____

Email: _____

Sponsor's Sacramental History

Place Where You Were Baptized: _____

(include church name and complete address)

Parish Where You Are Currently Registered: _____

*(If parish is St. John's, Hollywood, please attach a **photo** of the sponsor to help the pastor identify him/her, unless the sponsor obtains pastor's signature in person.)*

Sponsor's Pastor Certification - DO NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM WITHOUT SPONSOR'S PASTOR'S SIGNATURE, EVEN IF A ST. JOHN'S PARISHIONER.

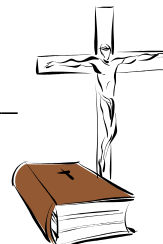
I certify that this person is a member of the Roman Catholic Church in good standing and is eligible to be a Sponsor for Confirmation.

Pastor's Signature

Church Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City / State: _____ Zip code _____



Please return this form to the Confirmandi to submit with his/her packet. Do not mail or deliver to St. John's.



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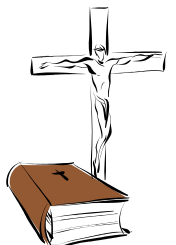
Dear Parents/Guardians,

This will be our 13th year holding our overnight Confirmation retreat at Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, MD. The response from past attendees has been overwhelmingly positive, and we have consistently witnessed fruitful experiences that do not result from a day retreat. Fr. Ray and I run the retreat, usually with the help of the school and parish catechists and religious sisters and seminarians. Please know that the children are properly chaperoned and have the ability to contact you, or you them, at any time. If you are in any way uncomfortable with the idea of an overnight retreat, we ask that your first step be to schedule a meeting with Fr. Ray to discuss your concerns. If, after that meeting, you are still reluctant to send your child on an overnight retreat, please consider the following alternatives and contact me directly:

1. Attend a Confirmation retreat at another parish with prior understanding of pastors/catechetical leaders of both parishes. Students/parents complete all paperwork/retreat expectations of the host parish selected.
2. In conversation with pastor/catechetical leader, parents plan for student attendance in the day and early portions of an overnight retreat. This could include pick up before overnight portion of retreat begins, and return to retreat for the next day's activities.
3. Parents volunteer as chaperones for the overnight retreat. VIRTUS clearance and fingerprinting with a complete current background check for parent chaperones as required. The Child Protection Coordinator verifies and confirms volunteer compliance in advance of a Confirmation retreat.

Sincerely In Christ,

Mr. Rich Olon
Director, St John's Religious Education Program





St. John Francis Regis Parish

PARENTAL CONSENT AND LIABILITY WAIVER FORM

Please fill out one form for each child attending the retreat.

Date: _____ **Student Name:** _____ **Grade: 8**

Dear Parent or Legal Guardian:

An important part of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year will be an overnight retreat. This retreat will take place under the guidance and supervision of St. John's parish employees. A brief description of the retreat follows:

Name of event/Educational objective: RE Confirmation Retreat experience for 8th grade RE students – The parish will coordinate with the public school system to provide an excused absence, as they have in the past for this trip.

Destination: Loyola Retreat House, Faulkner, MD

Designated Supervisor(s) of Activity: Mr. Rich Olon, Rev. Raymond Schmidt, Mr. Jonathan DeMauro, and Mr. Jerry Swift.

Date: Girls' retreat – Mon., April 22-Tues., April 23 Boys' retreat – Tues., April 23 – Wed., April 24

Time of Departure: Depart from St John's at 3:30pm

Date and Anticipated Time of Return: Ready for pick up at St. John's at 5:45pm for girls and 4:00pm for boys.

Method of Transportation: Bus **Student Cost:** any donations are appreciated **Attire:** casual clothes

Please complete, sign, and return the following statement of consent and release of liability. As parent or legal guardian, you remain fully responsible for any legal complications that may result from any personal actions taken by the named student.

I hereby request that my child, _____, be allowed to participate in the event (print student's name) described above. I understand that this event will take place away from the church grounds and that my child will be under the supervision of the designated school employee on the stated date(s). I further consent to the conditions stated above on participation in this event, including the method of transportation.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date & Phone Number

** Please return the top part of this form by: **December 10, 2023**

(CUT OFF AND KEEP THIS BOTTOM PORTION)

Event: RE Confirmation Retreat **Destination:** : Loyola Retreat House (transportation by bus from St. John's)

Supervisor(s) of Activity: Mr. Rich Olon, Rev. Raymond Schmidt, Mr. Jonathan DeMauro and Mr. Jerry Swift

Date and Time Start: April 22, 2024, 3:30pm girls; April 23, 2024, 3:30pm boys

Return: Next day, 5:45pm girls, 4:00pm boys





St. John Francis Regis Parish

SAINT'S NAME PAPER

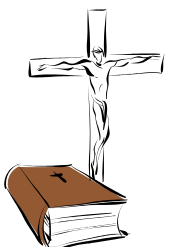
The following questions must be answered in your paper:

- ✚ What name do you wish to be called at your Confirmation?
(Remember you may choose to keep your baptismal name or select the name of another saint.)
- ✚ Why have you chosen that name?
- ✚ When and where did this person live?
- ✚ What memorable events occurred in his or her life?
- ✚ What is this Saint's meaning for today?
- ✚ What about your Saint would you want to emulate?
- ✚ What is his or her feast day?

This paper must be done in ink, neatly written, or typed (double-spaced) and must cover at least the front and ½ the back of one notebook-size paper. No tear-out papers please. You must cite at least two references including the title and author of the book or the Internet site.

NOTE: Plagiarized papers will be returned and a meeting called with parents and candidate. Do not “copy and paste” your paper. Think about what you are writing and use your own words.

This paper is due on **December 10, 2023.**





St. John Francis Regis Parish

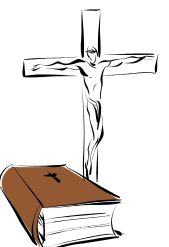
Confirmation Interview Months
2023-24

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

You must call the rectory no later than the last week of the month prior to your scheduled interview to make an appointment with Fr. Ray or Mr. Rich Olon. The rectory office phone number is 301-373-2281.





St. John Francis Regis Parish

Paperwork Checklist

**Paperwork is due on or prior to December 10, 2023.
Please submit it directly to your Catechist.**

Do NOT submit to the rectory.

- _____ - Family/Candidate Commitment Pledge
- _____ - Confirmation Registration Form
- _____ - Signed Sponsor Certification Form
- _____ - Retreat Permission Form
- _____ - Report on Confirmation Saint
- _____ - Letter to Fr. Ray
- _____ - Baptismal Certificate is (please check one):
 - enclosed _____
 - Confirmandi was baptized at St. John's _____

My packet is complete with the above forms/information included.

_____ Date: _____
Candidate's Signature



A LETTER TO FR. RAY

REQUESTING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

You are free to respond to God's call to live your faith more deeply – to worship, witness and serve as a confirmed Catholic Christian. If you wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, write a formal letter of request to Fr. Ray, stating your desire to be confirmed. Follow these guidelines:

GREETING

Begin your letter with the greeting: Dear Fr. Ray,

BODY OF THE LETTER

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself. Say something about your family or your background.

Paragraph 2: Request the sacrament. Give several reasons why you would like to be confirmed.

Paragraph 3: Explain how you have prepared for the sacrament. It is important that you tell about specific parts of your preparation: your prayer life, your celebration of the other sacraments, your service to others exercised at home, in the community and in the parish, etc.

Paragraph 4: Tell how you will continue to carry out your life of service to God and others through the power of the Holy Spirit. Tell how you plan to make your Confirmation in the Faith real and alive in your life.

CONCLUSION

Conclude the letter and write your complete signature.

Please be sure to check your spelling and grammar.