

Sacrament of Confirmation at IHM

In the Diocese of Cleveland, the sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated as the third sacrament of Initiation. The Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. Confirmation is not the final sacrament that most people receive because many people receive the sacrament of Matrimony, or Holy Orders or Anointing of the Sick. Throughout life, a Catholic is called to partake in the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, especially the Eucharist.

Preparation for receiving the sacraments is the duty of the parish church and parents (CCC 2223), not PSR or the parish school (IHM school). PSR and IHM school help students understand their faith, the teachings of Jesus and the role of His Church. PSR and Religious Ed (in IHM school) strengthen the understanding between living a life as a disciple of Jesus and the role sacraments play in our life with Him. PSR and Religious Education do not exist without the sacraments, nor do the sacraments bear fruit without religious education.

PSR and Religious Ed in IHM School cannot exist without the family playing a primary role in faith formation.

IHM parish will be in full partnership with parents in teaching sacramental preparation.

What does this mean to you as a parent? Your role in the education of your child for the sacrament of Confirmation will be recognized and fostered by our parish. In conjunction with the entire parish, our priest, the Director of Faith Formation, teachers, and catechists, you will journey with your child while you and he/she receive formation for this sacrament.

Are you expected to teach your child Confirmation prep? No, but you are expected to watch *Chosen* along with your child, attend 4 group sessions over the course of 18 months (7th grade), eagerly participate in group sessions, and the sacramental maturation process of your child.

What is a module and give an example? Confirmation prep is now using the multi-media curriculum *Chosen* (No it's not the T.V. show) It is a widely used preparation process geared for teens and young adults before receiving Confirmation. It is very engaging and fun. **There are 8 sessions (modules) in total.** Each module will include 90 minutes of material. Each 90 minutes is broken into short lessons. Each lesson has an engaging video using world renowned, vibrant Catholic speakers. The series comes with an easy-to-use **workbook**, divided into 24 lessons. Lessons take 10-15 minutes so you could easily do multiple lessons in one sitting. The workbook has thought provoking, relevant questions geared for today's young Catholics.

How much time is this going to take? Confirmation prep is now an 18-month process starting in the 7th grade! It is unrealistic to expect families and the church to cram sacramental prep into a school calendar year. It just doesn't work! Confirmation prep now starts in 7th grade. Eight sessions over 18 months is MUCH easier to digest and fit into everyone's busy schedule. Also, teens need time to develop their faith. This allows the Holy Spirit time to guide your child into a deeper understanding of God's plan for him or her.

What will the group sessions look like? All 7th and 8th grade students and parents from PSR and IHM school will attend the group sessions together (there is a modified schedule for the 8th grade this year) Group sessions are where the Church will put it all together for you in the context of the Paschal Mystery, the Bible, our Catholic faith and the sacramental life we are all called to live. Group sessions are for you and your child to be taught the Truth and the Deposit of the Catholic Faith. Also, group sessions will include service hours. We serve God by serving HIS people together.

Does my public-school child still attend PSR? Absolutely! The value of PSR does not diminish because of the new Confirmation prep. PSR will still be using the Bible (Fireside Catholic series), Decision Point and Blessed Are We to teach your child the beauty of the Word, Church history and faith-based decisions. The PSR curriculum received in 7th and 8th grade flow beautifully with the Confirmation prep series *Chosen*.

Does the Sponsor attend any of the group sessions? Most Confirmation candidates are unsure who to ask to be a sponsor early in the formation process. That's why parents and students need to come to all group sessions. The Sponsor is invited to come to any group session but is not required to attend.

Only one parent is Catholic, does this preparation only fall on him/her? Not at all. The Catholic Church teaches that all people are called to be disciples and to prepare their children in faith. It is the responsibility of every parent to instruct their child in the faith they chose for them at Baptism. If the non-Catholic parent feels overwhelmed, please call (330) 929-8361 x19 or aaloisi@ihmcfo.org to get the basics of the Catholic faith. No strings attached!

Is there still a Confirmation retreat? Yes! There are 8 modules plus a Confirmation retreat, just like we have always done.

What about 8th graders for next year? Will they have all 8 modules in one year? Yes, they will be given *Chosen* by the end of this school year. All modules for both grades are completed at home.

The modules:

Module #1 Lessons 1, 2, 3

Module #5 Lessons 13, 14, 15

Module #2 Lessons 4, 5, 6

Module #6 Lessons 16, 17, 18

Module #3 Lessons 7, 8, 9

Module #7 Lessons 19, 20, 21

Module #4 Lessons 10, 11, 12

Module #8 Lessons 22, 23, 24

8th graders schedule 2022-2023 only!

All Modules are completed at home by Feb 18th 2023

1st group session Sunday August 21st 2022 11:15-1:15 (after 10:00 Mass)

2nd group session Sunday October 16th 2022 11:15-1:15 (after 10:00 Mass)

Confirmation retreat on Saturday Feb 18th 2023 followed by 4:30 Mass

Confirmation Sunday March 12th, 2023 at 4:30 Mass

7th graders 18-month schedule

All modules are completed at home over 18 months

1st group session Sunday August 21st 2022 11:15-1:15 (after 10:00 Mass)

2nd group session Sunday Jan. 15, 2023 11:15-1:15 (after 10:00 Mass)

3rd group session August 20th 2023 11:15-1:15 (after 10:00 Mass)

This now includes 7th graders in 2023-2024 school year

4th group session Sunday January 14th 2024 (after 10:00 Mass)

Confirmation retreat date for 2024 TBD