



Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church
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From the Office of Youth Ministry

Holy Name of Jesus' Confirmation Program
2011 – 2012
(rev 9/14/2011)

The following is a description of the Holy Name of Jesus' Confirmation program. This is intended to help you, the Confirmation candidate, make decisions which prepare you for the spiritual formation that lies ahead.

1. Confirmation Sessions

- In the Diocese of Palm Beach, the Confirmation program is a two-year program. Our Confirmation program typically begins as a candidate enters the 8th grade, once they have been receiving regular religious catholic education instruction. If you do not meet these criteria, please feel free to discuss this with the Director of Religious Education or with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry.
- Every month, during the school year, we will gather as a large group. We start each session with a short ritual or prayer. Immediately following, we present the Teaching for each night on various topics as approved by the Diocese of Palm Beach. After the teaching, Confirmation Candidates will break into Small Groups for discussions and activities only to re-gather in prayer to close the night and make final announcements.
- Each night will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. Please arrive by 6:50 pm for Check-In and Registration. The program will end by 9:00 pm.
- On various nights we may specifically ask for either the Confirmation Sponsor or a Parent to attend with their Candidate but parents and sponsors are invited and welcome to attend every class.
- Since we will gather only once a month, Candidates are expected to attend and participate in each and every session.
- **Absences-** Candidates are expected to attend ALL Confirmation Sessions. However, we understand unexpected situations do arise. Simply notify me ahead of time if you cannot attend class. I can be reached at **561-683-4603** or by e-mail at **gdyer@sbsnjc.net**. Excessive unexcused absences (2 or more unexcused absences are considered excessive) will be reason for a candidate to meet with the Pastor to discuss your readiness for the Sacrament.
- In order to limit distractions, we ask that candidates leave all electronics at homes and turn all cell phones **OFF** prior to the beginning of class.

2. Mass Participation

- Candidates, you will be asked to ensure your own attendance at Sunday Mass to continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a required component of our Confirmation Program. Candidates will be asked to keep a record of their weekly attendance at Mass and turn the record in at class. This system will be based on the honor system. Samples are provided in this packet – See Mass Attendance Record attached.
- As we all know, parents are the primary Catechists for their children’s faith formation. With this in mind, we ask parents to help ensure you are attending Mass on a weekly basis by attending Mass as a family.

3. Service and Outreach

- Jesus challenged His friends to bring love and service to all people everywhere. (John 13:5-14). Each Candidate is required to participate in one “full-year” service commitment at Holy Name of Jesus Church. Five other “one-time” service commitments (activities) may be performed at the church or in the local community. Each candidate will be given a service journal detailing how the service portion of the program works.
- The program requirements are the same for Year I and Year II.
- We recommend parents and sponsors work with their candidate to complete these service commitments.
- In order to help candidates complete the service part of the Confirmation program, we offer a Service Fair. The Service Fair is an afternoon where different ministries in the church come together and provide opportunities for the candidates to sign up for volunteer hours throughout the upcoming year. There may also be some non-profit organizations from the community represented as well. Candidates are often able to secure all their service opportunities at the Service Fair. This year’s Service Fair is scheduled for Saturday **October 1, 2011 from 1:30 to 3:30pm**. In addition to helping the candidates fulfill their requirements, the community is greatly served with these candidates’ volunteer hours.

4. Other Activities

- In addition to Confirmation Sessions, we feel additional activities offered here at the church and throughout the Diocese provide excellent opportunities for social and spiritual growth. Some of these activities we have deemed attendance as “required” and others we have labeled as “Strongly Recommended”. It is our hope to encourage you as the candidate to participate in as many of these activities as possible. Please see the most updated calendar in this packet for exact dates, locations and times.

5. Retreat

- Retreats are such an important part of the Confirmation process; they are even important in life. They give people the chance to “get away” from things that prevent them from focusing on our Lord. Retreats allow candidates to recharge their spiritual battery.
- The following retreats have been scheduled:

Year II	10/22/2011	Trinity Center	8:00am – 5:00pm
	03/31/2012	Trinity Center	8:00am – 5:00pm

- RETREATS are REQUIRED by the Diocese of Palm Beach for Candidates choosing to be confirmed. If you are unable to attend these retreats it will be your responsibility to locate a parish that will take you on their retreat and receive a written letter signed by their Confirmation Coordinator that you attended their retreat. That being said, I hope all will attend the retreat we have planned for you to share in one experience together. Please see me with any questions.

6. Sponsors

Sponsors are people who you can rely on during your faith journey. They should be people with a deep commitment to the Catholic faith and who are active, confirmed members of their parish. They should be willing to listen to you, help you answer questions, and be willing to share their faith and example with you. Sponsors are expected to maintain REGULAR contact with their candidate, to not only pray, but to socialize and develop a stronger relationship.

- Confirmation Sponsors will be required to attend various Confirmation Sessions and other activities with their Candidate. These activities will give you a chance to connect spiritually along with personal time you schedule together.
- Please take time to discern your Sponsor and have them complete the Confirmation Sponsor Form in this Registration Packet. All Sponsors must have their Confirmation Sponsor Form signed and sealed by their parish.
- Sponsors are required by the second class in Year I of the program. We will review this in detail. If for any reason you join Holy Name of Jesus Church's Confirmation program later than the normal start date of the regular program, Sponsor forms are due within two classes. Please speak with the Coordinator of Youth Ministry should you have any questions.

7. LIFETEEN

- We feel your journey in faith during the high school years will not be easy and LIFETEEN will help give you a more complete experience. Confirmation sessions focus primarily on faith and religious formation. LIFETEEN is designed to create a place where teens can support each other and grow in faith and friendship while learning how to apply your Catholic values and beliefs into your daily life. LIFETEEN also sponsors many social activities so you can start to meet others whose faith is important to them. Our program information is as follows and updated information on current events is available on Facebook at Holy Name of Jesus LIFETEEN as well as on-line at <http://www.holynameofjesuschurch.net/parish-life/lifeteen/>

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Holy Name of Jesus LIFETEEN
“Leading Teens Closer to Christ”

Activities: Sunday Nights 7:00pm – 9:00pm

- For those in middle school, we offer a more social program. Our program information is also updated and on FACEBOOK Holy Name of Jesus R.O.C.K. Middle School Youth Group as well as on-line at <http://www.holynameofjesuschurch.net/parish-life/rock/>

8. Year I – Simultaneous Education Program

- We are pleased to offer parents, grandparents and guardians/caretakers in the Year I Confirmation Program a simultaneous Education Program. Classes run at the same time the Confirmation Year I classes are offered, making attendance at these classes convenient. Topics will include information we hope will interest you - parenting, marriage, drug abuse in teens etc.

9. Parent Involvement

- This program relies totally on the volunteers to make it possible. With that in mind, we ask that you consider where your talents and time can be used to make Holy Name of Jesus' Confirmation Program the best!
1. We are always looking for parents to help facilitate the Small Groups that take place at the Confirmation Sessions. The commitment will involve meeting with the Confirmation Coordinator, Small Group Facilitation at the Confirmation Sessions, and continual outreach to increase relational ministry to the teens. Training, Safe Environment Training and Fingerprinting are mandatory for this ministry.
 2. Every time we gather we will need parents to coordinate the Check-In process and nametag distributions. We are also looking for help to set up supplies and put them away after the Small Groups have returned to large group and we conclude for the night. This will require you to arrive 30 minutes prior to the Confirmation Sessions to gather all the supplies for the room and require you to stay about 15 minutes after to clean up.
 3. We are looking for parents who are willing to coordinate the snacks for the Confirmation Sessions as well as our Retreats. This could be as little as a once a year commitment if we get enough parents to help.

10. Confirmation Fees

- The Confirmation Fees are as follows:

Year I	\$75.00	Year II	\$100.00
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- Checks can be made payable to Holy Name of Jesus Church.
- These funds are used to pay for materials, books, supplies, additional snacks and food (if not donated) and supplemental retreat fees etc.

11. Required Forms

- A copy of the Candidate's Baptismal Certificate is always required at the beginning of the program. This must be submitted at the beginning of Year I, prior to or by the first class. If the candidate was baptized at Holy Name of Jesus Church, there will be no need to provide this form.

12. Confirmation Liturgy

- This year **(2011-2012)** Confirmation for Year II candidates will take place on **Friday April 20, 2012 at 6:30pm**. Year I candidates are expected to set up the pavilion, attend the ceremony, coordinate the robe check-in, hand out the certificates and host the Reception following the ceremony. Someone will contact you to coordinate the activities. Please see the most updated calendar in this packet for exact dates, locations and times.
- Dress Code: Modest.
Young Women – Modest dress or skirt and blouse – no loud flowers or prints because they show through the white robe. Dresses should not be strapless. Dress shoes are required.
Young Men – Plain dress shirt. Ties are optional. Dress slacks, no jeans. No sneakers or sandals. Socks are required.

We are excited to be a part of your faith journey. Should you have any questions on any of the above, please feel free to contact me.