



Confirmation: Encountering Christ

Important Confirmation Info

Dear parents and students,

We are in the last few weeks of our Confirmation program with our celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation just a few weeks away. Below you will find important information for these next few weeks.

Next Confirmation Session: Our next Confirmation session will be held on **Sunday, April 8th**, sign-in for Mass at 10:45am, Mass at 11am. During the Mass we will be celebrating the "Formal Call to the Sacrament of Confirmation" where the students will be officially recognized for their desire to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church. We encourage the families and sponsors (if in the area) to attend this Mass and to be there as a support for their student as they make this final profession of commitment before receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

After Mass, students will head downstairs for their session. At this session, Fr. Steve will go over and explain the rite for the sacrament of Confirmation. We will also be serving pizza at this session.

Confirmation Rehearsal:

A **mandatory** rehearsal for candidates (students) and sponsors will be held on **Wednesday, April 25th, at 6:30pm** at **St. Elizabeth Church, North Falmouth**. This rehearsal is very important so that both candidates and sponsors will know where they will be seated and what will be expected of them at the Confirmation Mass. **All students and sponsors are expected to be there.** If a sponsor is out of town and cannot make the rehearsal, an adult *must* be present and stand in for them (this could be a parent). All will meet in the church to begin promptly at 6:30pm. The rehearsal should last approximately one hour. At the conclusion of the rehearsal, Confirmation robes will be given out. It is the responsibility of the candidate to care for the robe and to bring it with them on the day of Confirmation.

Confirmation Ceremony and Mass: As a reminder, the sacrament of Confirmation will be held on **Saturday, April 28th, at 11am** at **St. Elizabeth Seton Church, North Falmouth**. We will be joined by the Confirmation

classes from St. Patrick, St. Elizabeth Seton, and the Good Shepherd Parishes of Martha's Vineyard for the celebration. We are honored to have the bishop of the Fall River Diocese, Bishop Edgar da Cunha, as celebrant. Candidates (students) and their sponsors **are to report to the church no later than 10:15am** that morning. Candidates (students) will report to the hall in the basement of the church and sponsors to their assigned seat in the church.

Appropriate dress:

- For the young men: collared shirt and tie, dress pants and dress shoes. No t-shirts, jeans, shorts or sneakers!
- For the young ladies: dress, skirt or dress slacks with appropriate blouse. Dress shoes can either have heels or no heels, but if you are not accustomed to using heels, I would caution using them for Confirmation. Again no t-shirts, jeans or sneakers!

The candidates (students) will be wearing red robes on top of their dress clothes (to be handed out at the rehearsal). Robes do not totally cover the clothing so it is therefore important that the candidate wears something nice underneath. Sponsors should also be appropriately dressed in keeping with the sanctity of the ceremony.

Photography: Pictures may be taken the day of Confirmation **but only from your seat**. In keeping with the sanctity of the ceremony, no one will be allowed into the aisles during the Confirmation Mass in order to take pictures.

Following the Confirmation Mass, you may take pictures with the newly confirmed at the altar or outside. Fr. Steve will also be honored to take a picture with the family. Based on his availability, Bishop da Cunha will also be honored to take pictures.

Seating: Seats will be reserved for the candidates and their sponsors only. No other seats will be reserved. Seating is on a first come first served basis. There will be approximately 75 candidates being confirmed and there should be ample seating for all. To ensure that you and your family have a seat for the ceremony, please plan on arriving early that day.

After the ceremony is over, the newly confirmed are required to return their robes downstairs in the church hall in addition to receiving their Confirmation certificate.

The names of those confirmed will be recorded in the register at St. Anthony's.

It has been a real pleasure to have been a part of this year's Confirmation program and to get to know your sons and daughters. We pray that the most important thing they have learned this year is that Confirmation is not an end of something, but rather a beginning of living fully initiated life in the Church. We need your sons and daughters to enrich the Church with their talents, gifts and youthful spirit. Please help us to keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts.

