St. Ignatius Loyola Parish
5222 North Bend Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247 • 513.661.6565

October 8, 2026

Dear Parents,

This is an exciting time as your family prepares for your child to receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as given to the apostles at Pentecost. Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation will complete your child's initiation into the Catholic Church. You began this journey with them when you asked to have your child baptized. Feeding your child's faith, you prepared him/her to receive Christ Himself in the gift of the Eucharist at their First Holy Communion and through on-going Mass attendance. You are now asking that your child receive the gift of this third sacrament of Christian initiation, Confirmation.

Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism through the special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which seal our union with Christ. By the sacrament of Confirmation, we are more perfectly bound to the Church and receive a special strength of the Holy Spirit. As true witnesses of Christ, we are more obliged to spread the faith in both word and deed.

Even though Confirmation completes the sacraments of Christian initiation into the Church, it is really a beginning for your child. Your child is now at an age where they can more deeply enter into a relationship with God and use their talents and gifts to serve others. The service component of our program focuses on performing Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. The students are asked to complete an act of service related to each work of Mercy. Some will be simple and others will take some time. We encourage you to do Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy together as a family, as well as individually, entrusting that this will be a meaningful experience.

The following are expectations of your child in preparing for Confirmation:
Be attentive, actively participate, and complete assignments in religion class where sacrament catechesis will take place

- Attend Mass every Sunday
- Select a Confirmation Sponsor who is a practicing Catholic and role model
- Attend Confirmation Commissioning with their Sponsor – **October 27, 2026**
- Select a Confirmation saint name and complete a report about this saint
- Complete one work of service for each of the Works of Mercy for a total of 15 acts
- Complete service reflection pages by due dates provided by your child's teacher
- Attend a Confirmation Retreat on either **Friday, March 5 or Sunday, March 7**
- Receive the Sacrament of Penance prior to Confirmation
- Write a "Letter of Intent" to the Pastor and participate in a short interview
- Attend a Confirmation Liturgy on **Wednesday, April 14 at 5 pm or 7:30 pm**

Please mark all these important dates on your calendar now. Details on all of these expectations can be found in the Confirmation packet provided to your child and sent electronically to your email. A signup genius link can be found on our website and will be emailed to you to select dates for the retreat and Confirmation Mass.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, your child's religion teacher, or our priests. We are here to guide you and assist you as we too continue to grow in our faith and respond to God's call to be effective Christian witnesses to the world. Your family is in our prayers.

May God shower you with blessings,
Grace Martinez
Coordinator of Sacraments for Youth | gmartinez@sainti.org

Ways to Grow in Faith at Home

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH WITH THESE WONDERFUL FREE STREAMING RESOURCES

Movies, Podcasts, ebooks, Childrens Videos, Bible Studies

FORMED Sign Up From your browser:

1. Go to formed.org
2. Select "Formed for Parishes"
3. Select "Find Your Parish Subscription"
4. Enter our parish zip code 45247, select St. Ignatius
5. Enter your name and email and begin watching.

After you've Signed Up, download the free FORMED App for your phone/tablet/Roku - just search FORMED.org in the App store. Contact ParishCare for technical support: https://help.formed.org/









Wonderful resources on the Holy Spirit



Holy Family School of Faith Rosary Podcasts https://schooloffaith.com/daily-rosary-meditations
From the earliest days of the Church, the faithful had the habit of praying a series of Our Fathers and Hail Marys. But under the inspiration of Our Lady, St. Dominic was unique in the way he used the Rosary as a powerful tool of evangelization in the 12th century. He would gather people, provide a short instruction on the faith and then they would recite ten Hail Marys. This podcast is done in the spirit of St. Dominic, sharing a short teaching from the Word of God, the teaching of Jesus, and then praying a decade of the Rosary. This is done five times.

Additional suggestions of ways to grow in your own faith include:

- Attending Parish Missions
- Joining a Bible Study
- Listening to the Bible in a Year Podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz
- Increasing your daily prayer time by five minutes
- Pray the rosary
- Going to the Sacrament of Confession more often
  - Offered after the 7 am Daily Mass, Thursdays 5 pm-6:50 pm, Saturdays 3-4 pm
- Attending Mass an additional day each week
- Listening to contemporary Christian music
- Spending quiet time in Adoration with God
  - Offered on Thursdays from 10 am-7 pm and Saturdays 7am-9am

2026-2027 CONFIRMATION CALENDAR

Event	Who	Time	Date	Location
Parent Night	Parents	7 pm	Thursday, October 8, 2026	Loyola Hall
Confirmation Commissioning	Confirmandi & Sponsor	7-8:30 pm	Tuesday, October 27, 2026	St. Ignatius Church
Confirmation Retreat	Confirmandi	Sign Up	• Friday, March 5, 2027 4pm-9pm **OR** • Sunday, March 7, 2027 2pm-7pm	St. Ignatius School & Church
Confirmation Liturgy	Family	Sign Up	**Wednesday, April 14, 2027** • 5pm (arrive by 4:30 pm) **OR** • 7:30 pm (arrive by 7 pm)	**Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains**

SignUps for the retreat and liturgy will be available on our parish website in October 2026.

Activity/Document	Due Date
Sponsor Information Sheet complete by student	Oct. 8, 2026
Sponsor Form completed by Sponsor's Pastor	Oct. 15, 2026
1st Service Reflection sheet – 4 Acts of Mercy complete	Nov. 5, 2026
Confirmation Saint Report	Dec. 10, 2026
2nd Service Reflection sheet – 4 more Acts of Mercy complete	Jan. 7, 2027
3rd Service Reflection sheet – 4 more Acts of Mercy complete	Feb. 4, 2027
Final Service Reflection sheet – 3 more Acts of Mercy and Works of Mercy checklist completed	March 4, 2027
Letter of Intent to Pastor – begun in class and completed at home	March 19, 2027
Confirmation Interviews	Week of April 5th

CONFIRMATION LITURGY INFORMATION
Wednesday, April 14, 2027
Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains
325 W 8th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

PARKING: Give yourself plenty of time for traffic and parking. You do not have to pay for parking in the cathedral lot. Additional parking available on the street and nearby parking garages.

ARRIVAL: Students show you sponsor and your family to your assigned pew then gather down in the cathedral undercroft 20 minutes prior to Mass to line up. The doors leading to the undercroft are located on 8th street. Candidates will process into church for the liturgy to begin promptly. If you and/or your sponsor happen to be late, you will have to find your place in church after everyone has processed in. MAKE SURE YOU TAKE ALL YOUR BELONGINGS WITH YOU because the undercroft will be LOCKED when the service begins.

SEATING: Each family will have a reserved pew of the cathedral for the candidate, sponsor, parents and family members. This pew will hold approximately 9 people. Families with step parents will be seated in larger pews holding about 12 people. Additional seating will be available in the back of church and the balcony above the main entrance to the cathedral should you need more space for your guests. No other balconies will be open for the ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHY – PLEASE NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY. We have hired professional photographers to get beautiful pictures of the ceremony so that you can focus on the Mass and respect the sacredness of the celebration. These photos will be available for you to download free of charge. AFTER the Mass is over those students seated on the chapel side of the church will immediately go up to the steps for a group picture. Then those seated on the baptistry side will have their group picture taken. After the photographer has taken photos of the groups, you may take pictures. If you attend the first Mass of the evening, please be mindful of those coming in for the second Mass and take additional photos before Mass or outside after Mass, weather permitting.

NO Chewing gum please

PLEASE DRESS APPROPRIATELY – Modest dress code is expected for all attendees

Girls: Dress slacks (no jeans), skirts, with a sleeved blouse, or dresses suitable for liturgical celebrations should be worn. The length of the skirt should be midway between fingertip and knee or longer. Shoulder straps should be 2” or more. Spaghetti straps, strapless, off the shoulder, only covering one shoulder, backless or dresses with low-cut fronts may not be worn. Shoes should be appropriate for long periods of standing and walking stairs. No stiletto heels or gym shoes, please.

Boys: Dress pants (no jeans), dress shoes, dress shirt with a tie, turtleneck shirt, or a banded collar shirt (no Polo shirts), sweaters, vests, and suit coat are optional.

If you have questions or concerns on this information or anything regarding Confirmation, please contact your child’s teacher.

CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED

What is Confirmation?
Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation which confirms the action of God in Baptism and strengthens individuals through the special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit sealing our union with Christ. It is the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit as given to the apostles at Pentecost. Reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation will complete your child's initiation into the Catholic Church. You began this journey when you asked to have your child baptized. Feeding your child's faith, you prepared him/her to receive Christ Himself in the gift of the Eucharist at their First Holy Communion and through on-going Mass attendance. You are now asking that your child receive the gift of this final sacrament of Christian initiation, Confirmation.

The sacrament of Confirmation impresses a character and by it the baptized, continuing on the path of Christian initiation, are enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and bound more perfectly to the church; it strengthens them and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. (Canon 879)

How do I know if my child is ready to celebrate the sacrament?
The sacrament is a gift given by God and is part of your child's initiation into the Church. A baptized child living in a home where the Catholic faith is practiced and encouraged through prayer, Sunday worship, and living out the Gospel values, will be more than ready.

Can I delay Confirmation for my son/daughter if I do not think he/she is ready or they are reluctant to participate in the preparation?
As the primary catechist of your child, this decision is yours to make. A decision to delay celebrating the sacrament should not be based on whether or not your son/daughter is a mature Christian. It is through this gift of Confirmation that your child will receive additional graces from the Holy Spirit to grow in faith and in Christian maturity. It is normal for teens to question their faith and beliefs. This time of Confirmation preparation can be instrumental in helping them learn more about the faith and find answers. Studying the lives of the saints together along with sharing stories of people in the parish community who witness the faith can lead to fruitful discussions. Also, sharing stories about your own faith journey, your relationship with God and why being a Catholic is important to you may inspire them. As they spend this time discovering the faith more deeply and growing closer to Jesus, perhaps they may become excited about belonging to the Church and being a disciple for Christ.

Does Confirmation mark the end of my child's growth in faith?
No, Confirmation is a celebration at a point in a person's life long journey of faith. The completion of a candidate's preparation for this sacrament does not complete the formation necessary for continued growth as a maturing Christian. It would be true to say that religious education during childhood is simply preparation for ongoing formation during adulthood. Lifelong growth in faith is needed to respond to God's call to live as effective Christian witnesses in the world.

Since Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation, it is the beginning and not the end of faith formation. It is crucial that those confirmed continue to be catechized and nurtured in the faith realizing how important their own commitments are to their faith and their parish.

Is my son's/daughter's formal religious education completed with Confirmation?
No, the sacrament of Confirmation is not static. With the sacrament, a person says "yes" to God; that should be followed by other "yeses" throughout one's lifetime. Being a believer is not primarily learning a set body of knowledge, but rather being in relationship with our God. Thus, religious education/formation is a lifelong process.

Who confirms?
The ordinary minister of Confirmation was and is the bishop, just as he was the ordinary minister of Baptism until the two sacraments were separated. The bishop kept the role as ordinary minister of Confirmation to emphasize unity with the Church beyond the parish. Today in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, it is impossible for the Archbishop to confirm everyone. Therefore, he delegates this responsibility to others such as the auxiliary bishop, local deans and priests, thus preserving the concept that Church is more than parish.

Is it necessary to choose another name for Confirmation?
No. When Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist were celebrated as one rite of initiation, the candidate chose a new name to indicate that this person was no longer the same person he/she was as a pagan, but had assumed a Christian lifestyle. Today, in order to show the unity between Baptism and Confirmation, the baptismal name ought to be used at Confirmation. However, if another name is chosen, it should be the name of a saint or a name not foreign to Christian mentality. (Canon 855 and CCC #2156.)

What is anointing all about?
Christ is king, priest and prophet and anointing is a sign of our initiation into these roles as well. As followers of Christ we become united with him in these roles when we are anointed with the Holy Chrism on the forehead. Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam blessed by the bishop during Holy Week.

What does my child have to do to be Confirmed?
It is important to understand that Confirmation is not earned. It is a gift freely given by God through the sacrament. Studying about the sacrament and doing acts of Mercy for others are important aspects of preparing for Confirmation. (See Confirmation packet for more details). These things help the student discover their talents, experience the joy of being a disciple of Christ and deepen their relationship with God. The hope is that these things along with your example of living the faith will help your child open the gift freely given by God to all who desire to receive it and to help your child live his/her faith throughout a lifetime.

Interested in volunteering for a liturgical role at our parish's Masses?

Become a lector or Eucharistic Minister!

What is a lector?

The Ministry of Lector is an important liturgical ministry in the Catholic Church dating back to its earliest days. Lectors are baptized, practicing Catholics entrusted with proclaiming the Word of God during Mass and other liturgical celebrations. In Catholic worship, Scripture is not simply read aloud, but proclaimed as the living Word of God. Through prayerful preparation and respectful delivery, lectors help bring Sacred Scripture to life and share God's message clearly with the assembled community.

Lector training: Contact Len Johansing at 470-8886.

What is a Eucharistic Minister?

A Eucharistic Minister is a parishioner who serves, distributes, and administers the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during Mass.

"In this ministry, you must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct; you must strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love. Remember that, though many, we are one body because we share the one bread and one cup."

- An excerpt from the "Rite of Commissioning Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion"

Eucharistic Minister training:

Contact Rick and Kim Thomas at rickthomas8166@gmail.com.

Learn more here!

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish Presents

Adult Faith Formation

Fall 2026 Series



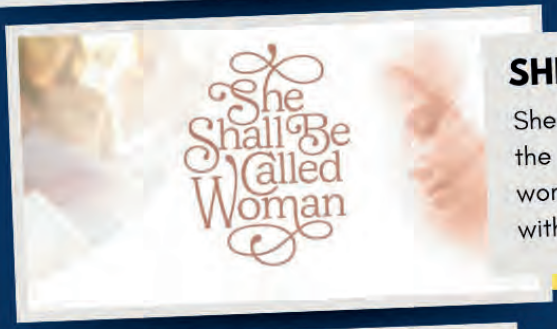
OCIA • Tuesdays 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Interested in becoming Catholic? Come find out what God has to say to you, and the beautiful life He wants for you. Our Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) classes have already started, but there's still time to join!



That Man is You • Saturdays 7 - 8:30 a.m.

Join us for an interactive men's program focused on the development of male leadership in the modern world, combining the best research from science with the teachings of the Catholic faith.



SHE • Mondays 6:30 - 8 p.m.

She Shall Be Called Woman (SHE) is a program that engages the deepest longings of the feminine heart. It's a place for women who want to be truly known and loved on their journey with the Lord.



F.A.T.H.E.R.S. • Fridays 6 - 7 a.m.

Come all men who are trying to be better fathers! It doesn't matter if you are newly married and are expecting to be a father or if you're a grandparent, we all need each other and the graces that come from meeting together as Christian men!



Why We're Catholic • Wednesdays 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Grow in your faith and become more able to articulate the Faith in conversations with others. Everyone gets a free copy of an easy-to-read book called *Why We're Catholic*, which serves as the basis for questions and answers through open discussion.

St. Ignatius Loyola Parish

Youth Faith Formation

Join Us for Youth Group!

Join an amazing community of peers for fun, faith, fellowship, and food!

High School: *Every Wednesday 7-9 p.m.*

Jr. High (6-8th Grades):

2nd and 5th Thursdays 6:15-8:00 p.m.

Scan the QR Code to access our schedule and register through our permission form!







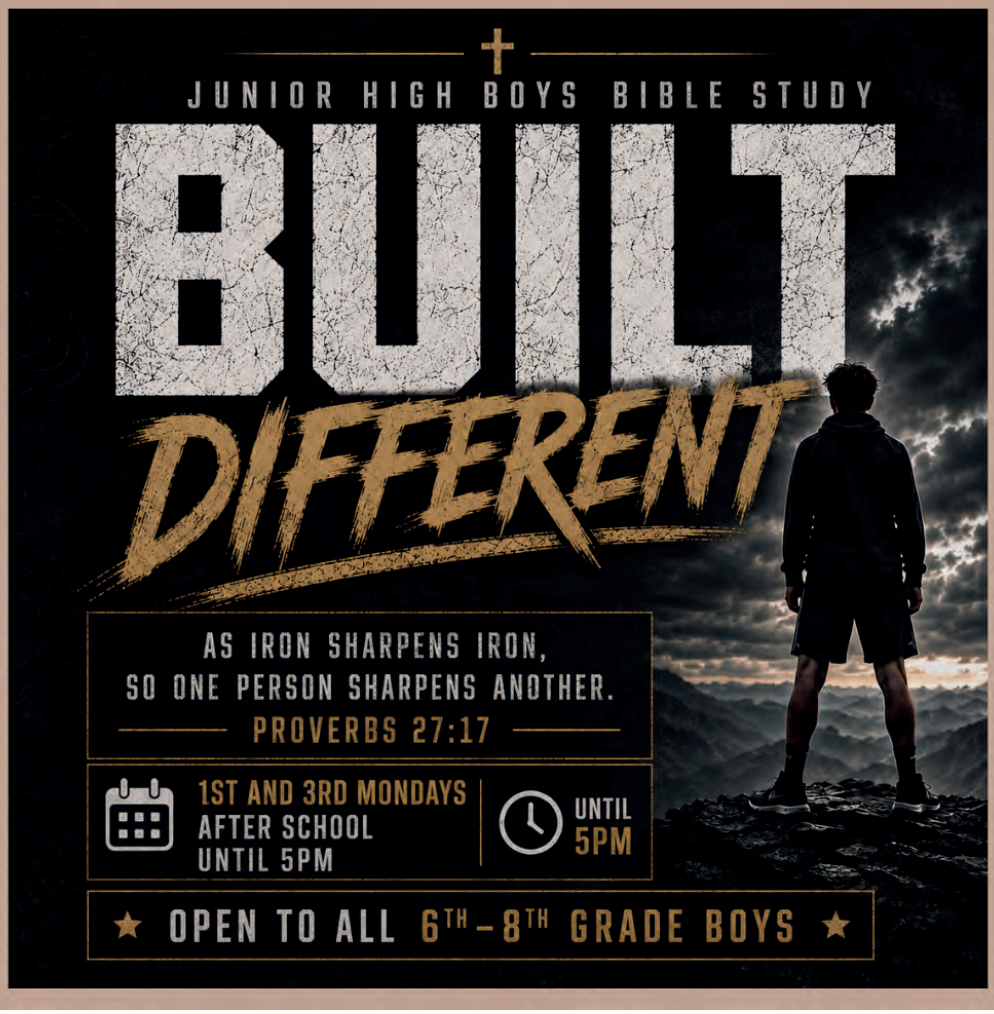


6TH - 8TH GRADE AFTER SCHOOL BIBLE STUDIES

SEE THE FLYERS FOR DETAILS

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SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!

CONTACT NATALIE CONNER AT NCONNER@SAINTI.ORG WITH QUESTIONS