

CONFIRMATION DETAILS

Friday, May 3, 2024

5:00 pm

with Bishop Sullivan

Dear Parents of Confirmation Candidates,

As we eagerly anticipate the upcoming Confirmation ceremony scheduled for Friday, May 3, 2024, at 5:00 pm in the Church of St. Pius X, we extend a warm invitation to you and your child to actively partake in this sacred event. For this year, we will bring back again the procession of our Confirmation candidates accompanied by their sponsors at the beginning of the Confirmation liturgy. To ensure a seamless and meaningful experience for you and your child, please carefully review the following instructions and guidelines. Your preparedness is paramount as we come together to celebrate this significant milestone in their spiritual journey. Kindly be informed that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered within the context of a Liturgy of the Word celebration, rather than a Mass.

CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTIONS

I. BEFORE THE CEREMONY

Each Confirmation candidate (or confirmand) should arrive with his/her guardians and sponsor **no later than 4:30pm**. The candidates and their sponsors should proceed immediately to the assigned classroom to prepare them for the procession.

Upon entering the church building, one of our catechists will direct your group to designated pews to make sure that all the parents/guardians and other guests are seated accordingly and comfortably.

All Confirmation candidates will be provided with reserved seating at the front pews of the church. Candidates reading during the liturgy will be seated at reserved pews nearest to the altar. Additionally, sponsors will be seated strategically behind their respective candidates, alternating rows to maintain an organized arrangement.

Candidates may invite as many guests as they wish, but there will only be two (2) reserved seating per candidate assigned to their parent(s) and/or guardian(s). These reserved seats are positioned immediately following the last row of reserved seats for sponsors and are assigned in the same order that the candidates will be receiving the Sacrament, allowing the parents/guardians to conveniently accompany the candidate and sponsor to the altar for the candidate's anointing. Parents with additional young children attending the celebration should have them sit with other guests seated at the back. Only two seats will be reserved for the parents/guardians.

PLEASE NOTE: Confirmation Candidates are strictly not allowed to have cellphones with them during the ceremony. All other phones and devices should be powered off and put away during the Liturgy.

II. DURING THE CEREMONY

For the Presentation of the Candidates:

Father Sebastian will call each confirmand by name. When your child's name is called, they should **STAND UP AND REMAIN STANDING UNTIL INSTRUCTED BY THE BISHOP TO BE SEATED.**

Lining up for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

To ensure that all guests in the church have an unobstructed view of the ceremony, the candidates, sponsors, and parents/guardians will

receive precise guidance from the R.E. teachers and staff on approaching the Bishop at the altar.

The candidates in the front row by Mary's statue will be the first to be guided by a teacher to stand and form a line along the side aisle. Similarly, the sponsors behind them, as well as the parents/guardians, will be prompted to stand and join their respective candidate in line. This will be done row by row to maintain orderliness. Once all the candidates seated near Mary's statue have received the sacrament, the same procedure will be followed for those seated near St. Joseph's statue.

WHEN YOU GET TO THE ALTAR:

The **Sponsor** should give the card to Father and then stand on the left side of the candidate with his/her right hand on the candidate's shoulder.

The **Parents/Guardians** should stand on the right side of the candidate.

When the Bishop anoints the **candidate** with oil, he will say, "Be sealed with the Holy Spirit."

The **candidate will say, "Amen."**

The Bishop will then say, "Peace be with you"

The **candidate will reply, "And with your spirit."**

YOUR GROUP SHOULD RETURN TO YOUR PEW VIA THE CENTER AISLE.

Please note that the Bishop's office may require individuals approaching him to wear face masks covering their nose and mouth. Face masks are currently optional unless otherwise communicated as mandatory.

III. PHOTOGRAPHY

To preserve the solemnity of the sacrament, we kindly request that you **silence your phones and refrain from capturing photos or videos during the ceremony**. An official photographer will be present, discreetly capturing moments throughout, especially during the Anointing, so you will be able to secure photos of your child receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

After the celebration, the Bishop will be available for pictures at the church altar. The procedure will be the same as with receiving the sacrament of confirmation but starting with those seated by St. Joseph's statue. Only the parents/guardians and sponsors may join the candidate for pictures. Please exit via the center aisle after.

Feel free to take as many as you wish **after** the liturgy.

*If you have any questions or concerns,
please do not hesitate to contact the Religious Education Office at
(914) 472-5594 or send an email to spxreled@spxny.org.*