

# CONFIRMATION

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL | 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR | KELLY@SAINTVINCENTS.ORG**

September 26<sup>th</sup> | 6:45-7:45 | School Auditorium | Parent Only Class | Optional | For questions, registering, etc.  
October 10<sup>th</sup> | 6:45-7:45 | School Main Entrance  
November 14<sup>th</sup> | 6:45-7:45 | School Main Entrance  
December 9<sup>th</sup> | Details to Come | Optional Service Project  
December 12<sup>th</sup> | 6:45-7:45 | School Main Entrance  
January 9<sup>th</sup> | 6:45-7:45 | School Main Entrance | One parent required to attend with child  
February 13<sup>th</sup> | 6:45-7:45 | School Main Entrance  
March 13<sup>th</sup> | 6:45-7:45 | School Main Entrance  
March 24<sup>th</sup> | 8:00am-11:45 | Retreat Option 1 | Meet in the Church | One parent required to attend with child  
April 10<sup>th</sup> | 6:45-7:45 | School Main Entrance  
April 13<sup>th</sup> | 5:30pm-8:45 | Retreat Option 2 | Meet in the Cafeteria | One parent required to attend with child  
April 14<sup>th</sup> | Details to Come | Optional Service Project  
May 8<sup>th</sup> | 6:45-8:00 | School Main Entrance | Parents go to classes for saint presentations. Desserts after!  
June 16<sup>th</sup> | Details to Come | Optional Service Project

*Confirmation date will be given to us by the Diocese in Nov. We will then also schedule a rehearsal for the day before*



## **At What Age Should My Child be Confirmed?**

Due to the implementation of Restored Order in our Diocese (see back for details) this year we are Confirming **3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders**. Anyone older who has not been Confirmed is also welcome! Come to an optional informational session for parents September 26<sup>th</sup> to find out more about Restored Order.

## **What Can I Expect From the Classes?**

The classes above are required for all children who will be Confirmed at St. Vincent's this year. This includes our public, Catholic, or homeschool children. Objectives of Confirmation preparation classes are...

- Understand that we receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism and are strengthened through Confirmation
- List the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit and explain how they are and will continue to be a part of our Christian life
- Gain a deeper sense of prayer and a need for God while growing a desire to build a relationship with Jesus
- Experience Lectio Divina
- Explain the signs, words, and rituals of Confirmation

## **Are There Classes for Parents Too?**

Yes! Every night on the schedule there are purposeful classes for Confirmation parents held at the same time! Most are optional. There are a few indicated above that are required, to provide you with necessary information. There will be an optional adult class studying what your child is learning that evening in class for all weeks not listed as required. There will also be an "At Home" sheet for parents that will go home with your child after each class to tell you about the lesson that evening and providing ideas of what to talk about or do at home.

## **How Do I Sign My Child Up?**

Please register by going to [saintvincents.org](http://saintvincents.org) → "Sacraments" → Confirmation → Register. Please register by Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> or come to the meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> to register in person. Please contact Kelly with any questions at [kelly@saintvincents.org](mailto:kelly@saintvincents.org) or 303.744.6119 x207. We look forward to meeting you soon!

# CONFIRMATION FAQ



## **Why is the Bishop changing the order and the age?**

The natural sequence of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation through the history of the Church has been Baptism, Confirmation and then reception of 1st Eucharist. This is seen at the Easter Vigil when the elect enter the full communion of the Church. They are first Baptized, then Confirmed, and finally receive the Eucharist all at the Easter Vigil. During the first five hundred years or so of the history of the Roman Catholic Church (and still today in the Christian churches of the East), it was always the case that the sacraments of Christian initiation were celebrated as Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist in that order. And it was almost always the case that all three sacraments were celebrated together at the same time, even with infants.

Later the Roman Catholic Church adopted the practice of waiting until the age of reason for the reception of Confirmation and 1st Eucharist, but they were still received in that order. However, the “age of reason” was not clearly defined and different bishops and priests interpreted it in different ways. Typically the Sacraments were received together when a child was in their early adolescence. In the early 1900’s Pope St. Pius X defined the age of reason to be 7 years old. The assumption was that as 1st Eucharist was moved earlier, Confirmation would follow as well. However, most dioceses moved the age of 1st Eucharist younger and left Confirmation in early adolescence, which is what we have known for most of the last century, but is not the order that the majority of the history of the Church has known. Since Vatican Council II, there have been many documents and decrees from Rome that support and encourage restoring the order of the Sacraments of Initiation.

## **Is every Catholic Church doing this, or just St. Vincent’s?**

Every Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Denver is implementing the Restored Order of Sacraments. There is a window for implementation, with the goal of having all parishes implemented throughout the Archdiocese by 2020.

## **I still don’t understand. Where can I go to learn more?**

[Saintsdenvver.com/about/](http://Saintsdenvver.com/about/) has a lot of information! There is a 29 minute video about the change on that website. We will watch this video and discuss at the Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> Parent Meeting.

## **If my child goes to a Catholic School, why extra classes?**

These classes will cover Confirmation exclusively, and also will give them a deeper sense of the importance and special nature of being Confirmed since it’s outside of the normal classroom hours. We know they’re getting a great Catholic education already so there are less classes than would normally be required. Believe it or not, when I (Kelly) was Confirmed, I went to a Catholic school but also had to do WEEKLY classes for 2 YEARS. Yes, you read that correctly 😊 If you would like additional religious education beyond these classes, please e-mail me about our Families of Faith program!

Hopefully your child will really enjoy classes and gain something unique about their faith and friendship in faith out of them! If you have any ideas to share to make it even more amazing, please don’t hesitate to let me know!!