

Confirmation Preparation

CRITICAL CHANGES:

Beginning in 2010, Saint Bartholomew's Confirmation Preparation Program will be a two-year program including eighth grade Middle School Faith Formation and one year of high school preparation, generally ninth grade, that culminates in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation at the end of that year.

Beginning with registration in May 2010, high school students who did not regularly attend eighth grade Faith Formation may register for the second year of Confirmation Preparation. However, to be eligible, candidates must complete and turn in a comprehensive self-study course, provided by Saint Bart's Faith Formation staff.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Crystal Frost in the parish office at extension 11 or crystal@barts.org



Policies Registration & Expectations

Candidates & their families should be regularly attending Mass with the St. Bart's community.

Open Registration ends July 30th.

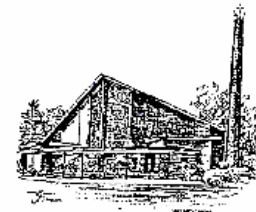
Registrations received after July 30th will be put on a waiting list in the order received. No registrations accepted after August 30th.

Attendance at every class is expected. Make up work for a missed class will include reading, reflection, & thoughtful written or typed responses to provided questions. It may take longer to complete make up work than attending the 2-hour class. More than one missed class or failure to complete make up work will be in question when looking at "readiness" for the Sacrament. Attendance at the 1/2 day and weekend retreats is mandatory. Alternative arrangements are possible if enough advance notice is given. These dates will be in your spring registration packet.

To be placed on the registration mailing list for Confirmation, please contact Crystal Frost in the Parish Office at x.11. The fee for Sacramental Preparation for Confirmation is \$200.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

FINAL YEAR of 1 Year Preparation for High School Students



**St. Bartholomew
600 Columbia Drive
San Mateo CA 94402**

**650-347-0701 ext. 11
Crystal Frost
Youth Minister
crystal@barts.org**

Discernment

A Candidate's Readiness

Candidates make the first decision to prepare for the Sacrament. Families & Sponsors help Candidates in their discernment process, but should not pressure or "require" the Sacrament. Each Candidate begins the process with a brief interview so that they can get to know about the process & ask questions. Catechists and the Initiation Coordinator also judge the readiness of Candidates based on class attendance, participation in retreats and parish life, attitude, and prayerful consideration of each Candidate as an individual.

How do I choose a sponsor?

Important qualities of a sponsor :

- Someone you trust
- Someone that you admire or see as a good Catholic example.
- Someone who will support you & be around when you need them.
- It helps if they live locally, but it is not required.

- Someone that YOU choose

Sponsors must be:

- At least 16 years old
- A baptized, confirmed, practicing Catholic
- Not your parents



Preparation

Classes & Retreats



Two Half Day Retreats are attended by Candidates & their Sponsors at the beginning & end of the preparation period. These retreats include large & small group discussions, speaker presentations, individual reflection time, & celebrations of preparation rites in the community.

Six Classes for Candidates take place from October through May. Classes are 2 hours long. Lessons are designed to educate the candidates in the teachings, history, and practices of the Catholic faith. This knowledge is invaluable as they discern their readiness to receive the Sacrament.

The **Weekend Retreat** is the highlight for many during preparation for the Sacrament. It is a chance to get away from the hectic parts of life & focus on being

with each other in prayer, fun, learning about the faith, and experiencing the Holy Spirit. **The Retreat is typically a weekend in January.**



Celebration

Liturgies & Gatherings

The **Rite of Blessing** takes place at the first 1/2 day retreat. At this time, Sponsors bless their Candidates as a sign of support & encouragement for the journey.

The **Rite of Commitment** takes place at the final 1/2 day retreat. At this time, Candidates make a statement of their readiness to be Confirmed. The community recognizes their readiness & promises to keep them in prayer.

The **Rite of Confirmation** is celebrated by the Bishop and will take place on a Saturday in May at the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Candidates renew their baptismal promises & are anointed with the Sacred Chrism. Following this rite, families are invited to continue the celebration at a reception.

