# DETAILS AND REQUIREMENTS

**Please Note:** All links and online forms referenced in this document can be found on the ***Collaborative Confirmation Program*** page of the Collaborative website: www.sjspwellesley.org/confirmation

## All Confirmation Students

### Schedule and Calendar

Classes meet as scheduled (usually once or twice a month) from 6:00 - 7:00pm following the *Sunday 5pm Mass*. The calendar for the upcoming school year is emailed to all registered families and posted to the website in August each year, before the start of classes.

### Attendance

All Confirmation students must go to Mass regularly and attend Religious Education classes.

**When attending Mass at St. John or St. Paul**, students will "check in" using their smartphones to scan a QR code posted in the entryways of the churches.

**Attendance at an outside parish** must be reported by using the ***Mass Attendance Form*** (or by sending an email to massattendance@sjspwellesley.org).

### Proof of Baptism

A baptismal certificate for all candidates must be on file prior to the reception of the sacrament *(Canon 842, 912, 894)*. **Students who were not baptized at St. Paul or St. John must submit a copy of their Baptismal certificate.**

A copy of the certificate can be uploaded using the ***Baptismal Certificate Upload Form***, or sent to the Collaborative Religious Education Office. (St. John-St. Paul Collaborative Religious Education Office, 39 Washington Street Wellesley, MA 02481)

**Baptismal certificates should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than March 1 of the year of Confirmation.**

### Service

All Confirmation students should complete 25 hours of service over the course of the two year program. Students should keep a log detailing the service(s) completed and the number of hours associated with each type of service. Throughout the year we will communicate Community Service opportunities to Confirmation students and families. Students should contact the Collaborative Religious Ed office if they are having trouble finding Community Service opportunities.

**Service should be completed and the *Community Service Form* submitted by March 1 of the year of Confirmation.**

# Confirmation II Students Only

## Retreat

Our Confirmation II (Grade 10) retreat requirement will now consist of a technology-free overnight retreat. We want to provide our students with a fulfilling and impactful spiritual experience. We need them to step away from their daily routines so they can focus on rest, reflection, prayer, community and their faith. The retreat will include a wide-variety of activities addressing spiritual, social, emotional, and physical aspects of the students' well-being.

**2019 Retreat Details**

- **Dates: Friday, November 15 – Saturday, November 16**
- **Location: Camp Bournedale**, Plymouth MA (www.campbournedale.com)
- **Departure:** Buses leave St. John parking lot at 4:00pm on Friday, November 15.
- **Accommodations:** Cabins come equipped with bathrooms, showers, and heat.
- **Meals:** Meals will be provided by the Camp – dinner on Friday night, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday. ***Please let us know if your child has food sensitivities so we can plan accordingly.***
- **Snacks:** We will have snacks such as pretzels, granola bars, etc. but ask that the kids bring their own if they are picky eaters.
- **Return:** Buses leave Camp Bournedale at 6:00pm on Saturday, November 16 and arrive back to St. John at approximately 7:00pm

All students and parents need to complete the ***Retreat Registration and Permission Form*** by **November 1** in order for a student to attend the retreat.

## Sponsor

Students must choose a sponsor. Sponsors must be Confirmed, practicing Catholics at least 16 years of age and not the parent.

Students do not journey alone within the Christian community. Along the way, they make ties with certain members who demonstrate in their lives what it means to be a Catholic. During this year of maturing as a Catholic Christian, students should have a "friend for the journey", a person who knows them and is willing to listen to their concerns and questions about their faith or about the Church. At Confirmation, that friend, or sponsor, will stand up before the community, present them to the bishop by name, and witness the anointing with blessed oil. In the sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit completes the grace of Baptism, so one of the student's baptismal sponsors (godparents) might be a good choice for this role. **Please Note:** Students can only have **ONE sponsor** according to Canon Law as mandated by the Archdiocese of Boston

**A sponsor must be chosen and the *Sponsor Form* submitted by March 1.**

## Confirmation Name

At Confirmation, the student's sponsor will present them to the bishop by name. Students may use their Baptismal name or choose a new name for Confirmation. Today, the Church recommends using the name received at Baptism as an affirmation of the connection between Baptism and Confirmation. However, choosing a new Confirmation name is an opportunity to choose a name that has special meaning, a name that helps in the journey of faith. Choosing a saint's name is like asking him or her to pray for the student

in a special way, and having a special connection to someone in Heaven is a big deal! The most important part of choosing a Confirmation name is to pray, asking the Holy Spirit for guidance. In the end, it is a blessing to enjoy discovering the ways in which the chosen name helps to bring us closer to God.

**If a new Confirmation name is chosen, it must be recorded on the *Confirmation Name & Robe Height Form* and submitted by March 1.**

## Robes

Robes will be ordered for all Confirmation students. Robes will be distributed at Confirmation practice and must be returned after the ceremony.

**The student's height must be entered on the *Confirmation Name & Robe Height* Form and submitted by March 1.**

## Letter Requesting Confirmation

Students must write a letter to **Bishop Kennedy** requesting the sacrament of Confirmation**.** The purpose of the letter is two-fold. First, it encourages each student to reflect on his or her preparation for this final Sacrament of Initiation and to examine his or her maturing faith. Second, it gives Bishop Kennedy and Father Jim a glimpse into the faith life of each student prior to Confirmation. Following is a suggested approach to the student's letter:

Greeting: Begin as you normally would, "Dear Bishop Kennedy".

Body: The body of the letter should cover several specific points:

- Start by introducing yourself and providing some background information about you and your family.
- Describe how you have been preparing for Confirmation. You may want to talk about your prayer life, your celebration of other Sacraments (Eucharist, Reconciliation) and your involvement with the specific service projects you have chosen. How have these affected you? Have they impacted your faith?
- Provide several reasons why you would like to be confirmed. What does it mean to you?
- If you chose a Confirmation name, why did you choose that specific Confirmation name?
- What reasons persuaded you to select your Sponsor for your Confirmation?
- Discuss any future plans you may have that resulted from your preparation – your "journey" to Confirmation.

Conclusion: Conclude your letter by thanking Bishop Kennedy and close with your full baptismal name.

**The letter must be submitted using the *Letter to Bishop Kennedy Form* by March 1.**

## Confirmation Practice

**Confirmation practice will be held the evening before the Confirmation Service and is required of all Confirmandi.** Sponsors do NOT need to attend this practice.