

Saint Aloysius Religious Education

253 Bloomfield Avenue, Caldwell NJ 07006 (973) 226-0209x29 ekarpinski@stalscaldwell.org

SAINT ALOYSIUS 2018 CONFIRMATION PROCESS CATECHETICAL GUIDELINES

Saint Aloysius Sacramental and Catechetical guidelines require that:

1. Families are registered members of Saint Aloysius Parish. A copy of the candidate's baptismal certificate must be on file with us in Religious Education (unless they were baptized at St. Al's.)
2. Children are enrolled in a Religious Education program from the reception of their First Communion through Grade 8 or Catholic School. Make-up courses may be required.
3. For those who are older or who have not completed their religious education, individual programs may be provided so that they may be eligible to join the Confirmation process.
4. Confirmation sponsors must be at least 16 years of age, a practicing Catholic, have been Confirmed already, and not the Candidate's parents. Godparents are a good option.

Guidelines for families with children in the Religious Education program and Catholic Schools:

- Consistent attendance at and satisfactory completion of Religious Education classes; or Consistent attendance during the school year and passing grade of Religion subject.
- Consistent attendance at Sunday Mass (every weekend), Holy Days and Confirmation Ritual Masses.
- Attendance at ALL Sacramental Preparation sessions as scheduled in the Confirmation Preparation calendar.
- Participation in parish ministries and events, offering back God's gifts to us of our Time, Talents and Treasures.

Summary of Program Requirements:

- Attendance and full participation at Confirmation retreat.
- One page paper on a Catholic Saint, **which will be the Candidate's Confirmation name.** Other options – create an original poem, slideshow presentation, artwork or song on the Saint.
- Completion of Service Projects and brief written reflections on each. Reflection options – same as above.
- Attendance at four Monday evening Confirmation Formation Sessions during the spring.
- Pass a written review on basic knowledge of our Catholic Faith, our Parish and the Sacrament of Confirmation. A Study Guide will be completed containing required material.
- Attendance and participation at two weekday Confirmation practices for candidates, AND one rehearsal for sponsors and candidates the night before Confirmation.
- Confirmation activity fee payment of \$100. Includes instructors, speakers, food and materials for Retreats, Formation Sessions, Confirmation Gown rental, Certificate, Light Reception, etc. Please contact Mr. Karpinski if you have financial hardships.
- Submission of **all** Information Sheets including Confirmation candidate and sponsor information.

It is expected that all requirements will be completed by the assigned dates. **If a Confirmation candidate does not attend required sessions or parent does not call regarding his/her absence, it may be necessary to ask that candidate to delay his/her Confirmation until the following year.** We will address such issues on a one-to-one basis. An excused absence would be illness, family emergencies or unexpected events that require the presence of the candidate and his/her family. This excludes sports, scouts, school activities and recreational family activities/functions.

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Outline of 2018 Confirmation Process (Dates subject to change)

I. Invitation Stage

1. December 11, 2017 – 8:00pm in St. Al's Church
Initial Information and Orientation Meeting for Parents and Candidates; On-line 2018 Confirmation Registration form at Parish Web site.
2. March 10, 2018 – 9:00am in St. Al's Gym
Retreat for Parents, Sponsors and Candidates; candidates receive Confirmation Prep Binders which include details on each stage of process; March 10th/11th – Mass: Saturday 5:30pm, or Sunday Noon, or 7:00pm
Entrance Ritual Blessing at Mass for Candidates, Parents and Sponsor, if Sponsors are available. (Need only attend one Mass).

II. Formation Stage

1. Four Confirmation Formation Sessions (April 30th, May 7th, 14th, and 21st)
2. One page paper on your selected Confirmation Saint Name (May 14th)
3. Confirmation Binder Study Guides completed, studied and turned in after assessment. Assessment taken with Confirmation Team Member (May 21st). Study Guides may be used.
4. Completion of Letter to Bishop; \$100 Confirmation Prep fee (May 21st)

III. Reflection Stage

1. Ritual Blessing at Mass (Sunday, May 20th at 7:00pm Mass) for Candidates and Parents; Sponsors, if available.
2. Reflection, prayer and service during this preparation stage

IV. Decision Stage

1. Candidate's final Service Project Sheets and all forms (July 10th)
2. Candidate Confirmation Mass Selection Form emailed out by August 30th to ONLY those candidates completing all requirements. Currently, 2018 Confirmation Masses are scheduled for: **Saturday, October 13, 2018** -- Morning Mass (11:30am) or Afternoon Mass (2:00pm).
3. Final Ritual Blessing at Mass (September 23rd)
4. Confirmation Practices
 - 2 practices for **Candidates only** (Oct. 9th and 10th; time depends on Mass selection);
 - 1 rehearsal for **Candidates and Sponsors** (7PM, October 12th)

* **Mission Period** – Through Entire Confirmation Process (and throughout life)

1. Each candidate is required to complete at least 3 Service Experiences and Service Project summaries in the following areas:
 - a. Parish (approximately 5 service hours)
 - b. Community (approximately 5 service hours)
 - c. Family (approximately 5 service hours)
2. Continue Service, Ministry and Active Parish Participation into the future.

(12/9/17 ed.)