

## Confirmation Preparation - Frequently Asked Questions

John Domingo, DRE – [jdomingo@sjavb.org](mailto:jdomingo@sjavb.org)

Colleen Fickel, AA – [cfickel@sjavb.org](mailto:cfickel@sjavb.org)

***What is required for my student to begin Confirmation preparation at St. John's?*** The requirements (by the Diocese of Richmond) to begin Confirmation preparation are that students must be in the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade or at least 16 years of age as well as attending Mass and Reconciliation regularly. The family must be registered SJA parishioners.

***I have a student in high school (specifically 9<sup>th</sup> grade)...what do you offer for him/her?*** While we don't offer formal religious education classes for high school, there are several ministries that cater to this age group i.e. weekly youth group activities (SJAY), VERGE, Steubenville Youth conference and retreat trips.

***When are Confirmation sessions held?*** Preparation sessions will be held beginning in the Fall. Sessions will be held approximately twice per month on Sunday evenings in our Parish Activity rooms. In addition to the sessions, there is also a Parent/Student information meeting, a Confirmation retreat, a Confirmation rehearsal and the Confirmation Mass.

***What happens if the student misses one of the sessions or the retreat?*** We realize that there are extreme circumstances that would cause a student to miss a session or the retreat. If this is the case, then it will be necessary for the student to contact other local parishes to find a session or retreat to attend as a make-up. There might be an additional expense for a make-up retreat as well.

***Why hasn't a date for the Confirmation Mass been announced?*** The date for the Confirmation Mass is given to us by the Bishop's office. We announce the date as soon as we receive it.

***Where can I get a form to register for classes?*** You may (1) register online at [sjavb.org](http://sjavb.org), (2) download printable forms located under Education/Youth Ministry and turn in forms at the church office during office hours -- Monday-Thursday from 9-4pm (closed 12-1pm for lunch) and Fridays 9-12pm. Please note that this is a separate registration form and fee (from the Religious Education K-8<sup>th</sup> grade form).

***What forms do I need to turn in?*** The Student Information, the Consent form and Liability waiver and the fee. These forms are separate from the K-8 Religious Education form.

***Where can I turn in my completed forms and payment?*** You may (1) register online (2) Turn completed forms to the church office during office hours -- Monday-Thursday from 9-4pm (closed 12-1pm for lunch) and Fridays 9-12pm or (3) mail to SJA, 1968 Sandbridge Road, VB 23456 (clearly marked ATTN: Religious education). Payment online can be made with a Paypal account or credit card. Payment in our parish office is cash or check only.

***Do we have to be registered parishioners to participate in the Confirmation classes?*** YES. You must register your family with SJA *prior* to enrolling your child in Confirmation classes. Parish registration forms are on our website at [sjavb.org](http://sjavb.org).

***What is the fee?*** The fee is \$50 per student and can be paid online (credit cards only) or in our office (cash and check only). Check payable to: St. John the Apostle. Please note that this is a separate fee from the K-8 Religious Education program. Full payment is expected at the time of registration. No one is turned away for not being able to pay tuition fees. If this is a concern, please contact our office at 426-2180.

***Is a recently dated copy of the Baptismal record required?*** Yes, if the student has not received either Baptism or First Communion at SJA, then a Baptismal Record is required. If neither Sacrament has been received at SJA then please see "Obtaining a Baptismal Record" and "Why is a Baptismal Record necessary" on our website at [sjavb.org](http://sjavb.org) under Church/Youth Ministry and Formation.