

Faith Formation 2022-2023

One-In-Faith 4: St. Andrew's, St. John's, St. Mary's, St. Michael's

Dear Confirmation students and families,

Thank you for choosing to participate in faith formation this year – we are blessed to have you with us!

As we begin, we would like to tell you about something new we will have this year at our Confirmation evenings. **Classes will be from 7:00-8:30, as usual. However, students and adults may come early (anytime between 5:30-7:00) if they would like, to eat supper (Rita will be cooking!) and/or play bean bags, cards, do homework, etc.** Offering hospitality to people was a priority for Jesus; we would like to get better at doing the same! So, if students would like to come straight to church after their extra-curricular activities, they could get supper here and hang out until class begins. We realize that many of you parents, as well as sponsors and mentors, may also be coming straight from a busy day at work or home and may not have had time to eat; you, too, are invited to come early if you would like, and take the opportunity to eat, visit, or play a quick game with other adults or with your student.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming year, please feel free to ask:

Chris and Terri Ellering, teachers tcring99@gmail.com (320) 293-6240

Sheila Hellermann, teacher Shellermann1972@gmail.com (320) 333-5465

Juliann Heller, interim Director of Faith Formation faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com or message through the Remind App

Rita Meyer, part-time Faith Formation admin. assistant faithformation@stmarysofmelrose.com (320) 290-5687

Blanca Barragan, part-time Faith Formation Asst. & Hispanic Ministry stmarys@stmarysofmelrose.com (320) 256-4207

Information about the Faith Formation Confirmation program is also posted on the One in Faith parishes website (www.oneinfaith.org).

Thank you for being a part of our community – we look forward to getting to know your student a little bit better this year!

Blessings,

Juliann Heller, Rita Meyer, and Blanca Barragan

Chris and Terri Ellering and Sheila Hellermann

Basic Elements of the Confirmation Program in the Diocese of St. Cloud (see <https://stcdio.org/cem/cem-resources/>)

Below you will find a brief summary of the Diocesan guidelines for preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, as well as a few notes about how we incorporate those Diocesan elements in our Confirmation program here in the One in Faith 4 cluster of parishes.

1) Reflective Dialogue

The goal here is to invite students to reflect on where they are in their journey, in their relationship with God and with the church community. The Diocese asks that in addition to giving students time to reflect on their own, we also give students some opportunities to talk with important adults in their lives – parents/guardians, and mentors/sponsors. In our program in the One in Faith 4 cluster of parishes (St. Andrew's, St. John's, St. Mary's, St. Michael's), these opportunities will be spread throughout the Confirmation year, at various classes.

2) Learning Centers

These are hands-on activities for students and parents/guardians and sponsors/mentors designed to teach some of our basic Catholic Christian beliefs about the Holy Spirit, the Sacrament of Confirmation, Eucharist, etc. In the past, here at our One in Faith 4 parishes, we had all of these learning centers on one evening, but now we spread these lessons throughout the year.

3) Sponsors

Again, the goal is to invite students into conversation with an adult in their life who is in relationship with God and with their church community. In our One in Faith 4 program, sponsors/mentors attend class with Confirmation students and do 1-2 activities outside of class together.

4) Retreat

The Diocese asks that students have a retreat experience sometime before they celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Students have the option of going to the NET retreat in their 10th grade year, or in 11th grade, or they can find another Diocesan retreat to attend (Castaway, TEC, etc.).

5) Liturgical Celebrations

Students will participate in our All Souls liturgy in November, the Advent Reconciliation parish liturgies in December, the Rite of Calling in January, and in the Confirmation liturgy itself in March or April.

*In addition to the above elements, the Diocese also asks that students write a letter to their pastor, in which they formally request to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and say a bit about why they would like to celebrate that Sacrament. We will help students write that letter during our classes in January and February.

** In addition to the above Diocesan elements, in our One in Faith 4 Confirmation program, we also add a few service projects to the Confirmation year (as we are trying to do at all levels of the Faith Formation program!).