



FAQs About Our New Confirmation Program

What is changing?

Beginning in Fall 2026, the age of Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Hartford will be transitioning to the spring of 8th grade or the early fall of 9th grade. In time, parishes in our Archdiocese will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our youth in the spring of 8th grade.

What is the vision behind these changes?

Archbishop Coyne's vision is to help young people form a strong, lasting connection to their faith, their parish, and the Church as a whole. This shift to lower the age of Confirmation reflects also a nationwide movement to confirm young people earlier, allowing them to receive the grace of this sacrament at a pivotal moment in their lives and faith journeys.

What does this mean for my child?

As a part of this transition, for the next few years, students will interact with our new program differently depending on their grade level for the upcoming school year:

- Students entering Grades 10 and 11 will participate in an abbreviated preparation program and receive Confirmation in the Spring of 2027.
- Students entering Grade 9 will also participate in an abbreviated preparation program and receive Confirmation in Spring 2027
- Catholic school Students entering Grade 8 will participate in a 1 ½-year preparation program and receive Confirmation in the fall of Grade 9 (Fall 2027).
- Public school Students entering Grade 8 will participate in a 1 ½-year preparation program, including twice a month Family Faith Formation sessions, and receive Confirmation in the fall of Grade 9 (Fall 2027).
- Public school Students entering Grade 7 will participate in a 2-year preparation program, including twice a month Family Faith Formation sessions, and receive Confirmation in the Spring of Grade 8 (Spring 2028).

My children are close together in age. Can they receive Confirmation together?

The only exception that we can make at this time is if a family has an incoming 8th grader and 9th grader *this year* (2026-2027) to prepare and receive Confirmation together in Fall 2027. Otherwise, the reception of Confirmation cannot be delayed or sped up.

When and where will Confirmation classes take place?

Right now, pending registrations and the availability of catechists and volunteers, we hope to be able to offer two opportunities for Confirmation classes during the 4th week of each month, both at the Church of the Resurrection; Sunday mornings from 9am-10:15am (before the 10:30am Mass), and Thursday evenings from 6pm-7:15pm.

What else will the program consist of?

As in previous years, in addition to the monthly class sessions, students will participate in a retreat, service opportunities, and other parish events. They will also select a sponsor and a Confirmation saint, as well as celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation before they receive Confirmation.

How will busy families be accommodated?

We recognize that life is busy and that many families are juggling multiple commitments each day. We are committed to working with our students and families to help them complete the program. A “make up” class will be available towards the end of the program should a student have to miss one of the regularly-scheduled classes.

What about Catholic school students?

In this new model, *beginning in the Grade 8*, preparation for Confirmation for middle school students—including those who attend Holy Trinity School or other area Catholic schools—will take place within our Parish’s Faith Formation Program, in keeping with the Church’s long-standing practice of parish-based Confirmation preparation.

When does registration open?

Registration will open in early August. Please keep an eye on parish communications throughout the summer for more information. *When registrations open, we encourage you to sign up early to secure your student’s spot in their desired class slot.* Spots are first come, first serve and class sizes are limited based on the capacity of the instructional space. Once a particular class day/time is full, additional students who register will need to be placed in the class day/time that has open spots remaining.

How can I help?

We are always looking for volunteers to share their faith, time, and talents with our young people by serving as catechists and aides! If you are interested, please contact us at faithformation@wallingfordctcatholic.org to learn more. Above all, please pray for the success of our new Confirmation Program, as well as for open hearts, minds, and spirits for all who facilitate it and participate in it.