

# GSCC CONFIRMATION OVERVIEW PACKET



**GSCC  
STUDENTS**



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## INTRODUCTION

Over 2,000 years ago, the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room to pray.

During their prayer, the Holy Spirit descended upon the earth, and filled each of them. They left and began speaking in other tongues and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to all the world! This was the first "Confirmation Class," and our model for all things "Confirmation" here at Good Shepherd!

We are so excited that your students are joining us on this journey towards their complete initiation into the Catholic faith. The goal of this packet is to explain our structure for Confirmation preparation, and answer any questions you might have. We're here to support you--if at any point you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us!



# GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

There are certain requirements that are set in place by the Diocese of Fort Worth, that we must follow here at Good Shepherd.

-Students should be 15 years of age by the time of the actual Confirmation Mass (April/May 2020) ; however, there is flexibility if their birthday is shortly after that. Please contact us directly if your student has a birthday later than May 2020, and wants to be Confirmed this year.

-Students need to have the necessary time to devote to the preparation. If this school year will be the busiest year ever for your student, it would probably benefit them to wait one more year for them to get Confirmed.

-Students should freely desire the Sacrament. While you are welcomed and encouraged to "force" them to complete the preparation for Confirmation, ultimately, it needs to be a free decision on their part.

Please contact us if you have any questions about any of these requirements.



# TIMELINE

## August

- (Parents) Attend Orientation
- (Parents) Register students for HS & Confirmation

## September

- RENOVATE Kick-Off
- Upper Room Lock-In

## October

## November

- Confirmation Class #1
- Initial Interview
- (PARENTS) Baptismal Certificate Due
- "Choosing Your Sponsor" Form Due

## December

- Confirmation Class #2

## January

- Confirmation Class #3

## February

- Confirmation Class #4
- REVITALIZE RETREAT

## March

- Confirmation Class #5
- Complete "Confirmation Name" form by 5:00pm on Sunday, March 1st, 2020

## April

- Submit Photo of Confirmation Mass outfit by Wednesday, April 1st, 2020, at 10:00 PM.

## May

- Renovate ends
- Confirmation Masses (TBD)





# UPPER ROOM LOCK IN

Each year, we like to kick-off our year with an overnight lock-in for our High School Students. For many students, this community (GSCC Students) is brand new--it's incredibly important to us to give them ample opportunity to grow in fellowship with their peers. We've found, one of the best ways to do this, is through the lock-in. It is an experience that many of us on staff benefited from during our years in this program, and something we feel passionately about passing on to our current students!

We want to encourage every single High School student at Good Shepherd to attend the lock in each year; however, it is especially pivotal for Confirmation Students.

For any questions on the lock in, please don't hesitate to contact Katie Downey at [kdowney@gsc.net](mailto:kdowney@gsc.net).



# CONFIRMATION CLASS

We will be offering five Confirmation Classes for the 2019-2020 school year. The classes will take place on Sunday evenings from 5:30pm-7:00pm. This time is especially critical for students preparing for Confirmation. These sessions will be strictly focused on material relating specifically to Confirmation. They will contain powerful teachings, dynamic group discussion, dinner/fellowship, and more!

Should students be absent for any reason, the class will need to be made up by watching the video from the class, and answering the make-up questions and essay prompt that will be sent to those who miss the class. Additionally, if students miss class, they should absolutely not hesitate to contact their small group leader if they have any questions about the material.

Times/dates for the classes, as well as any other additional information may be found at [gscc.net/confirmation](http://gscc.net/confirmation).



# INTERVIEWS

One new exciting addition to our Confirmation program for 2019-2020 year, is the addition of the interview process.

Each student will meet for an initial interview, and a final interview throughout their time of preparation. The initial interview will mainly focus on goal setting, and providing a sense of accountability--while the final interview will look at making sure any questions that the students had got answered, and that they felt that the goals they set for themselves were met.

The student, and at least one parent must attend the initial interview, and the final interview. If able, sponsors are encouraged to attend as well.

The date for the initial interview is Sunday November 17th, from 5:00pm-7:30pm. You will be sent info containing a more specific time (30-minute window) the month prior to the interviews.

The final interviews will be scheduled and sent out in the beginning of 2020.





# RENOVATE

As formerly mentioned, community is a vital part of a students' preparation for Confirmation. Because of this, it is critical that students have the opportunity to experience consistent community with their peers who are also preparing for Confirmation.

Renovate is our weekly High School Student Ministry event. It is for all 9th-12th graders regardless of whether or not they are preparing for Confirmation. Renovate contains powerful praise & worship, dynamic messages, engaging group discussions, a meal, fellowship, and more!

While the material covered is not specific to Confirmation, it is always beneficial to the faith journey that a Confirmation candidate is on.

All 2019-2020 Renovate dates may be seen on the master calendar for the year.





# SPONSORS

Choosing a sponsor is a really exciting part of a students' Confirmation journey. Students will have the opportunity to select a sponsor to help them throughout their preparation, and most importantly, invite them into a prayerful relationship, through which their sponsor can be constantly interceding on their behalf throughout their time preparing for Confirmation.

The sponsor is a huge part of this process--they should be someone that beautifully represents the Catholic faith to you, and someone that you would like to model your faith life after.

Requirements for a sponsor:

- Must be at least 16 years of age
- Must be a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Catholic Church (received all Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist).
- Parents may not be sponsors; however, they may stand in for a sponsor during the Confirmation Mass in their absence.
- God parents may absolutely be sponsors!
- If your sponsor does not attend GSCC, they will need to download and complete the "Sponsor Certificate" form prior to the student completing the "Choosing Your Sponsor" form.

A black and white photograph of a crowd at night, with a hand raised in the air, possibly in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background is dark with some light bokeh.

# REVITALIZE RETREAT

The weekend retreat is often what students list as the most transformative part of their preparation. This year, we'll have the opportunity to go to The Pines Catholic Camp as an entire family of GSCC Students, and spend a weekend diving into our theme, Revitalize.

Many Saints and Doctors of the Church list a retreat prior to their Confirmation as a necessary part of their preparation. Many argue that the Apostles in the Upper Room, we're likely on "retreat." As formerly mentioned, we try to model everything we do here at GSCC, after the model set forth by the Apostles, and Saints.

A retreat is a vital part to a students' preparation--therefore we take that opportunity very seriously. We want all students to attend a retreat--preferably, the Revitalize Retreat with us. If your student is unable to attend our retreat (February 21st-23rd, 2020), we will happily connect you with a neighboring parish, and the necessary information about their retreat.



# CONFIRMATION NAME

What an incredible part of Church history—changing your name to show the world your conversion of heart. We see it all throughout scripture:

ABRAM ABRAHAM

“No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.” -Genesis 17:5

JACOB ISRAEL

“Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans have overcome.” -Genesis 32:28

SIMON PETER

“And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas (which is translated to Peter)” –John 1:42

“Changing” your name shows a conversion of heart, and radiates God’s goodness to the entire world. Throughout scripture, when someone was assigned a new name, it signaled a growth in Christian maturity to the world—choose a name of a Saint that has helped you grow in that Christian Maturity.

Students should complete the "Confirmation Name" form on the website, by Sunday March 1st, 2020 at 5:00pm.



# CONFIRMATION MASS DRESS CODE

The Confirmation Mass is by far the most important step in your Confirmation journey. It is the completion of your initiation into the Catholic Church! Because of the importance of this day, it's important that we mirror it's significance through what we are wearing.

Each student is expected to be dressed in full "Sunday best." The dress code will be covered in more specifics at the Confirmation Classes in the Spring, as well as emailed out to all the parents. Students must submit a photo of themselves wearing their Confirmation outfit by 10:00 PM, on Wednesday April 1st.

Girls, email your photo to Kayla Gollihar at [kgollihar@gsc.net](mailto:kgollihar@gsc.net).  
Boys, email your photo to Johnny Philp at [jphilp@gsc.net](mailto:jphilp@gsc.net).





# CONCLUSION

We are so excited that your students are seeking the Sacrament of Confirmation, here at Good Shepherd!

We never want this to be a stressful process, for you, for us, or most importantly, for your students.

If you at any point have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Katie Downey, at [kdowney@gsccl.net](mailto:kdowney@gsccl.net).

Thank you so much for your prayers for us, and for your students! Trust we are praying for you and your families always!

God bless you!

-Johnny D. Philp, Kayla Gollihar, and Katie Downey  
The GSCC Students Team