

# *Saint Susanna Parish*

## *Confirmation Preparation*

### *2019-2020*

The Confirmation journey at St. Susanna Parish is a two-year program open to anyone of high school age or older. During this time our hope is to engage the candidate with the wider parish and community in the hope of providing an opportunity to experience our faith in a number of settings.

Experiencing prayer, worship, learning, community, and service opportunities with the community of believers will give the candidate the basis to decide whether or not they wish to become confirmed members of the Catholic faith.

Each candidate is expected to: (1) complete a registration form and a Confirmation Covenant. (2) Choose a mentor/sponsor whose responsibility will be to journey with the candidate through the two-year Confirmation process; and (3) participate in a number of Confirmation classes, adult faith formation sessions, service projects, and a retreat experience.

The mentor/sponsor must be a Confirmed Catholic who is at least 16 years old.

All of these will need to be completed before a candidate may ask to be confirmed.

A list of all required classes, service projects, adult faith formation evenings and retreat day can be found inside this flyer. The back page contains a Calendar for the 2019-2020 program.

It is important to note that the candidate will be able to choose from a list of opportunities regarding their adult faith formation sessions and their service projects from a list containing many possibilities. It is important to clear dates now, because many opportunities are limited in terms of the number of people that can be accommodated. If you fail to register in a timely manner, you may have to find acceptable alternatives, which can be very difficult.

We are asking that after a candidate participates in a class or service project that they write up a brief reflection paper sharing what they learned, what questions or challenges they might have experienced, and how they see faith differently because of the experience. These reflection papers need to be typed/printed and need to be at least one page in length.

**NOTE: Each paper is due no later than one week after the class or event. No exceptions!**

For those in their second year of preparation, this will complete your preparation.

For those beginning the process, this schedule is for year one only.

For those beginning their journey of discernment toward Confirmation – Please choose your mentor/sponsor wisely. Choose a person of the Catholic faith who is a model to you of what faith lived out looks like. Choose a person you have a good and healthy relationship with so that you can share in a life-giving way this two year journey you are about to begin.

*Your parish community is looking forward to sharing this special time with you!*

## Program Requirements

Each candidate must complete a registration form and **Confirmation Covenant** (enclosed).

Each candidate must participate in the **October 27 mass and class**, and **March 1<sup>st</sup> class**.

Each candidate must choose and participate in **three adult faith formation classes** from a list of possibilities. (Changes in schedule will always be in our bulletin so take note!)

\*Candidate must submit a one page typed reflection paper on each class attended.

These reflection papers are due within one week of class/session.

**Please Note:** The adult faith formation classes all begin at 7:00 and end at 9:00 PM.

Parents need to see to it that the candidate arrives on time and remains for the entire session.

Most evenings have an hour presentation followed by 15 minutes of refreshments.

The evening continues with dialogue and time for questions and input. It is important for the candidate to sit with the adult members, not at the surrounding tables, and have their cell phones turned off during the evening. (Students found using their phones during the evening will have their phones taken away and the evening will not count toward their required classes.) Please stress the importance of this with each candidate. Having their mentor/sponsor attend the sessions with them would be very beneficial and could help in facilitating a positive experience for all.

Choose topics that would be of interest to all involved. Most of our evenings are taught by college professors or people with expertise in their area of ministry, and they are very interesting and engaging.

Each candidate is required to participate in a **Service Project**.

Confirmation I students can participate in the St. Vincent de Paul Walk to raise funds for our neighbors in need. This year's walk is on Saturday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Students choosing this option can sign up with the forms at the back of the church. Students not able to participate will need to participate in another event.

For our Confirmation II students the following service days are offered. Each student must choose one.

Day trips to the **Catholic Worker House** in Worcester, The **House of Peace** in Ipswich, and the **Agape Community** in Ware. These days are all scheduled in the last week of June and are limited to 12 students each. Each day we leave at approx 10 AM and return by 4:00 PM.

Each community has a different focus on helping people in a variety of ways and candidates have a whole world of faith opened to them. Candidates also help a bit at each place either making bread, preparing the gardens for the summer, or assisting with light chores- as well as meeting the residents.

Options for both Confirmation I and II: Helping in our youth faith formation program as a **teachers' aide** for a class. In the past some of our confirmation candidates chose to help assist with one of the classes (grade 1-5) on Sunday morning following the 10:00 AM mass. They enjoyed the experience so much that they continued in that role for several years.

This opportunity is limited to two students per grade. Please contact the rectory if interested. Your help will be greatly appreciated by the teacher and students!

Helping at the **Riverside Community Care Center** in Norwood. On Thursday evenings during the summer candidates help to set up and run a cook out for the residents from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Each night is limited to three helpers and an adult must accompany each evening. (A mentor/sponsor would be the ideal choice here). Pre-registration is required by calling the Volunteer Coordinator at 781-762-7075 and speaking with Jean Bousquet.

Helping at the **Dedham Food Pantry** on a Saturday morning from 8:00-11:00AM.

Pre-registration is required as there are only so many openings each Saturday. To register please visit the Food Pantry website at [www.dedhamfoodpantry.org](http://www.dedhamfoodpantry.org).

Following any service project a candidate needs to write up a one page reflection in which they share their experience and what they learned by participating in it.

Candidates can sign up for parish based service projects at their classes or by calling the rectory. All projects are limited in the number that can participate so choose wisely and early a project you will like!

Confirmation II students also need to participate in the Confirmation retreat scheduled in May. Those unable to attend this retreat need to make arrangements on their own to locate another retreat they can attend. A one page reflection paper is due one week following the retreat.

## Parish Life and Participation

This program attempts to expose the candidates to a variety of offerings within our parish and surrounding community to open for them the possibilities of what faith looks like when it is lived out in the world.

No program is complete. We recognize this reality. We are open to exploring other options that our candidates might express interest in exploring. Should candidates desire to explore or create other service project opportunities we are open to being part of that with them.

If candidates find that opportunities for more social engagement or outings would be helpful, we will work with them in bringing them about.

Our hope is to help bring about a community where all are welcome and valued and where the candidates can explore their growing and evolving faith in life-giving and positive ways.

To this end, the role of their parents and their mentor/sponsor can add a tremendous value. The more involved and engaged these people are the more rewarding the experience of the two-year journey will be for each student.

Please consider spending time with your children as they make these important decisions early on. Your encouragement, support, and participation will be a gift you share with them that lasts a lifetime.

We welcome and encourage parents to participate with their children at Sunday Mass. That way the student is introduced a bit more to our community and the meaning of celebrating the shared meal that Jesus left to us – and invites our participation as a family and a community. There is no substitute for the presence of a parent to help a child understand the gift of faith and why the Eucharist is so central to our lives. Please consider sharing these special times with your family.

We also welcome and encourage parents and families to attend the special liturgies of Holy Week before Easter, especially Holy Thursday Mass (the washing of the feet) on April 9, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 11.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance in helping those choosing to enter this period of preparation. With your support and participation they will have a wonderful foundation to explore more of what our faith offers and calls us to become.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location/Parish Hall</b>
<b>September 28</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Walk for Hunger (Confirmation I)</b>
<b>October 27</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>Opening Mass followed by a brief Meeting</b>
<b>October 27</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5:00-7:00 PM</b>	<b>“Creating Climate Champions in an Endangered World”</b>
<b>November 4</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>“Faith and Literature”</b>
<b>November 18</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>“Immigration and our Border with Mexico, Defining Us in a Time of Crisis”</b>
<b>December 2</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00–9:00 PM</b>	<b>“Come, Lord Jesus, Come: Nurturing our Relationship with Jesus”</b>
<b>January 27</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00–9:00 PM</b>	<b>“Loving a Catholic Institution That Doesn’t Love You”</b>
<b>February 10</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00–9:00 PM</b>	<b>“Becoming ‘Artisans of Peace’ in Parish Communities”</b>
<b>February 24</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>“Loving Life on the Margins”</b>
<b>March 1</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7:00-8:00 PM</b>	<b>“Check-in” meeting for all students</b>
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>“Aging with Confidence”</b>
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>“Options for Caregiving”</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	<b>“Nuns and Nones, Two Communities, One Shared Calling”</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2:00 - 6:00 PM</b>	<b>Confirmation Retreat (Confirmation II candidates)</b>
<b>May 11</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7:00-8:00 PM</b>	<b>Class (Confirmation I candidates)</b>
<b>June 22-26</b>			<b>Service options to various sites For Confirmation II students</b>

**This schedule can also be found on our parish website at: [www.saintsusanna.org](http://www.saintsusanna.org)  
Please note: Schedule may change due to weather etc. Changes will always be posted in our Parish bulletin. Always check bulletin for any unexpected changes!**

## Confirmation Registration Form 2019-2020

*Please fill out ONE registration form per FAMILY*  
*\* Please fill out both sides \**

**Registration Fee: \$100.00 per student (covers two years)**

Parent / Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Last)

Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Last)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Home E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name / telephone # of emergency contact:

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Cell #	Father's Cell #
Mother's Work #	Father's Work #
Mother's E-Mail:	Father's E-Mail:

Parent/volunteers are needed and *welcome!!* If you can help in any of these areas, please check below:

\_\_\_\_\_ teacher      \_\_\_\_\_ service project chaperone  
\_\_\_\_\_ chaperone      \_\_\_\_\_ hospitality      \_\_\_\_\_ driver

Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CORI & Code of Conduct form required for all teachers & volunteers!!**

**Please complete both sides of this form and return with registration fee, and Baptism Certificate (unless already on file.)**

Candid photos of students are sometimes used for parish publications and website.  
By completing this form parents acknowledge their permission for photos to be used in this way.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Last)

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Check one Conf. 1 \_\_\_ Conf. 2 \_\_\_

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(If not baptized at St. Susanna, Baptism certificate required.)**

Does the student have any learning disabilities, allergies or health issues? (If yes, please list)

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's present High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

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Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Last)

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Check one Conf. 1 \_\_\_ Conf. 2 \_\_\_

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(If not baptized at St. Susanna, Baptism certificate required.)**

Does the student have any learning disabilities, allergies or health issues? (If yes, please list)

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's present High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

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Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Last)

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Check one Conf. 1 \_\_\_ Conf. 2 \_\_\_

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(If not baptized at St. Susanna, Baptism certificate required.)**

Does the student have any learning disabilities, allergies or health issues? (If yes, please list)

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's present High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_