



# ST. BERNARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear Parishioners:

As you may have heard, Bishop Deshotel has announced that the common practice for administering the sacrament of Confirmation will now be in the 8th-grade year. This change is largely due to the spiritual effects and benefits the sacrament offers in our spiritual lives.

You may recall that the Sacrament of Confirmation is very closely connected with the grace we receive in the Sacrament of Baptism. Confirmation strengthens Baptismal grace. It more closely unites us to the Holy Trinity and to the Church. It also strengthens us to spread and defend the Catholic faith. As you can imagine, young people need these graces, especially navigating the challenges of high school.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is often associated with a personal decision to remain in the Catholic faith. Christianity, however, requires a daily commitment to living the faith. Confirmation assists the Christian in taking their baptismal promises seriously. Statistically, though, young people make a decision to remain in the faith (or eventually leave the faith) by the time they are about 12 years old.

Each parish has been given the freedom to implement this change according to its needs. At St. Bernard, the transition to 8th grade confirmation will take place over a three-year period using the following schedule:

- 2023-2024 School Year: 11th grade will confirm in the Fall and 10th grade will confirm in the Spring
- 2024-2025 School Year: 10th grade will confirm in the Fall and 9th grade will confirm in the Spring
- 2025-2026 School Year: 9th Grade will confirm in the Fall and 8th Grade will confirm in the Spring
- 2026-2027 and following: The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in 8th Grade

**Registration** for Confirmation class, and all other PSR classes, will open on **July 3rd**. At that time, more information regarding the Confirmation program will be provided to parents of those students. Please see the website for more information on the Sacrament of Confirmation and this significant change happening in the Diocese of Lafayette.

For any serious Christian, the Sacrament of Confirmation does not mark the end of one's faith formation. The vast richness and beauty of the Catholic faith deserves to be explored throughout the entirety of one's life. Many opportunities are and will be provided to all parishioners to continue their faith formation at St. Bernard Church. Please continue to keep all those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in your prayers and encourage our young parishioners in the practice of their faith.

Sincerely,