

Good Shepherd Catholic Parish

Confirmation I

Program Syllabus

Fall 2023- Spring 2024

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| Office: | GSCP Religious Education Office 506 N. Garden St. Visalia CA 93291 |
| Office Hours: | 9am- 5pm MON- FRI |
| Email Address: | confirmation1.gscp@gmail.com |
| Main Office Phone Number: | (559) 734-9522 |
| Parish Webpage: | https://www.gscparish.com/ |
| Chosen Program Webpage: | https://ascensionpress.com/ |

A. About The Confirmation Program

We are so excited to accompany parish youth as they prepare to encounter Christ in the sacrament of Confirmation! Our team, here at the Good Shepherd Catholic Parish, are so proud of every candidate that takes this step to grow in relationship with Our Lord. Our team of volunteers are here to support our youth as they grow in spirituality and learn about the richness of our Church.

Confirmation I is part of the two-year confirmation program. Candidates are required to complete two years of Confirmation preparation before receiving the sacrament in **spring 2025**.

B. Class Session Information

Confirmation Class Days: Sunday (Classes meet weekly)

Time: 4pm-6pm

Location: St. Charles Hall

5049 W Caldwell Ave, Visalia, CA 93277

C. Program Topics

Our Confirmation program follows the **Chosen** program by **Ascension Press**.

Topics Covered in Confirmation I include:

1. Lesson 1- "Why am I here?" (An Introduction to Chosen)
2. Lesson 2- "What makes me happy?" (Discovering God as the Source)
3. Lesson 3- "What's your story God?" (A Look at Salvation History)
4. Lesson 4- "How do I know God is real?" (Understanding Divine Revelation)
5. Lesson 5- "Who is Jesus?" (The Person and Mission of Christ)
6. Lesson 6- "Why be Catholic?" (Discovering the Church Jesus Founded)
7. Lesson 7- "Where am I going?" (A Look at the Four Last Things)

8. Lesson 8- “How do I get there?” (The Power and Purpose of the Sacraments)
9. Lesson 9- “When did my journey begin? (Baptism, Your Initiation into God’s Family)
10. Lesson 10- “Why tell my sins to a priest?” (The Healing Power of Confession)
11. Lesson 11- “How does God help when it hurts?” (Anointing of the Sick and Redemptive Suffering)
12. Lesson 12- “Who is the Holy Spirit?” (Meeting the Third Person of the Trinity)

D. Text & Required Supplies

1. Required Text: *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation* published by Ascension Press
2. Students are provided with a backpack containing all supplies necessary for class. Students must bring their backpack to class each week.

E. Program Requirements

Major Requirements to successfully complete Confirmation I and move on to Confirmation II are as follows:

1. Attendance
2. Participation
3. Retreats
4. Community Service

Attendance:

Class begins at 4:00pm and ends at 6:00pm.

Students are allowed 2 absences per semester. Any additional absences will result in a meeting with Student, Parents, and Director as well as possible postponement of Sacrament. Candidates are responsible for retrieving any late work, makeup work, or important information from the catechist if absent.

Students will be marked as tardy if they arrive after 4:10pm or leave before 5:50pm. Two tardies will count as one absence.

Participation:

Students are expected to contribute to group discussion and share insights into the topics at hand.

Confirmation class is a n phone zone. Phones are to remain away for the duration of class unless needed in an emergency.

Students are expected to come to class with all necessary materials each week.

Mass is incorporated into the class time. Attending mass is required for students as part of the class regardless of whether or not students have previously attended mass that day. If students have already received their first communion, they need to go to confession regularly to be in a state of grace to receive communion each week.

Students will have some sort of reflection assignment at the completion of each chapter. Students are responsible for completing all assigned reflections & projects throughout the year.

Retreats:

Confirmation 1 Will have a Morning of Reflection at the end of the school year. Students are required to attend as part of their faith formation.

Community Service:

Each small group is responsible for organizing a community service project to participate in as a group with their catechist. All activities must be submitted to the Director for approval 1-2 weeks in advance.

F. Parent – Program Communications

Mandatory Parent Meetings:

August 26th

St. Charles Hall; 5049 W Caldwell Ave, Visalia, CA 93277

English: 11:30am -12:30pm

Spanish: 2:30 pm- 3:30 pm

January 6th

St. Charles Hall; 5049 W Caldwell Ave, Visalia, CA 93277

English: 11:30am -12:30pm

Spanish: 2:30 pm- 3:30 pm

In addition to the parent meetings, all announcements and information will be sent out via Flocknote, our parish's text and email platform. Please keep your current email and cell phone number on file with our office to receive our correspondences.

G. Behavioral Expectations

• **Code of Conduct**

- Students must politely obey the requests and directions of the adult leaders.
- Students must stay with their assigned group at all times.
- Students must participate in the approved activities at all times.
- Students must dress appropriately at all times.
- Students must be on time to activities and will observe all check-in rules.
- Students must come to class prepared.

- Students must treat others with respect and will not engage in behavior that reflects poorly on themselves or the group which includes, but not limited to stealing, swearing, fighting, being physically or verbally abusive, being dishonest, damaging property, threatening others, or engaging in disruptive behavior.
- Students must not participate in hazing, teasing, bullying, or similar activities.
- Students must not engage in any illegal activities including, but not limited to smoking, using drugs, gambling, possession of tobacco, drugs, or any weapons.

As candidates for confirmation, students must take responsibility for their actions. Students will be sent home if they do not comply with this Code of Conduct to the satisfaction of the adult leaders.

- **Dress code**

Although the Catholic Church has no official dress code for proper attire when attending Mass, there IS an unwritten dress code that demands we are properly dressed out of respect, honor, and reverence for the Real Presence of Our Lord.

When you dress for Mass, you are not dressing to impress others, you are dressing for God. There are TWO main reasons one should dress modestly and decently for Mass:

- Out of respect and reverence for God
- In order not to be a distraction or stumbling block to our fellow parishioners

Some insight Catechism of the Catholic Church in regard to dressing properly for Mass:

To prepare for worthy reception of this sacrament, the faithful should observe the fast required in their Church. Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest – CCC 1387

Generally, we should be guided by a combination of virtue, common sense and piety when deciding what to wear to Mass. Below are some guidelines to follow when deciding how to dress for Mass.

- Do Not Wear The Following:
 - Any dress or skirt that does not completely cover the knees when sitting or standing
 - shorts of any kind
 - Tank tops of any kind
 - Dresses and tops that are tight-fitting, provocative, low-cut, bare midriff or sleeveless.
 - Clothing that is excessively baggy
 - Dresses or tops with spaghetti straps, with plunging necklines, that expose the bare shoulders or bare-back, or that are see-through
 - Dresses or skirts with high slits
 - Jeans with rips or tears
 - Leggings
 - T-shirts

- Pajamas
- Sweatshirts or sweatpants
- Any outfits with large logos or distracting messages
- Flip flops, sneakers or beach sandals
- Do wear:
 - Modest tops, dresses or skirts.
 - Dress pants or Dark wash Jeans
 - Dress Shirts or Polos
 - Chapel veils (optional) – covering of the hair for women in the presence of the Eucharist is done out of respect for Our Lord.