



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church | 1500 Brookdale Road | Naperville, IL 60563 | stapostle.org | 630.355.8980

Year 1 – High School Youth Ministry & Faith Formation 2026-2027

Greetings High School Parents and Teens of Year 1 Confirmation Preparation! **Registration & payment is now online.**

If you have not registered your teen as of yet, please do the following:

- Register online. The link can be found on the parish website.
- Submit full tuition payments. Payments can happen online or pay by check or cash. If paying by cash or check, tuition can be dropped off at the RE Office or in the outdoor drop box located outside the Gathering Area doors (Door A).
- Registration & Tuition deadline is July 1, 2026.

Elements of Year 1 Confirmation Preparation: Our two-year Journey Confirmation Program focuses on using a variety of methods to prepare high school teens to receive their Sacrament of Confirmation including:

1. **Large Group Catechesis** – These consist of our “Journey Nights”, which are large group, often high energy, keynote speaking events offered 2-3 times a year, to be attended by BOTH teens and *at least* one parent.
 - **Parent/Teen Meeting: Sunday, August 30 2026 at 04:30PM – 6:00PM**
 - **Journey Night dates** for 2026-2027 are TBD. You will be notified once we have the dates.
2. **Small Group Catechesis** – This helps teens build community and explore faith on their level. For Year 1 this means meeting at St. Thomas roughly twice a month in small faith sharing group 11 times (90 minutes each). Confirmation Small Group **Kick-off is on September 20, 2026 from 11:30-6:00pm at St Thomas.** Once we have leaders, we will send out dates for small groups starting mid-September.
3. **Prayer** – Teens are asked to participate in 2 Prayer Experiences their first year of preparation. These prayer experiences are ones that can be done on their own or may also be one that is offered at the parish. (Note that in Year 2 of preparation, teens are required to attend a 3-day LIFE Retreat experience held at St. Thomas).
4. **Service** – A crucial part of our faith is the calling to reach out as the hands and feet of Christ to help those most in need. Candidates for Confirmation are required to complete and document **20 hours of community service** for their first year in the program and 10 service hours for the 2nd year.
5. **Sponsor/Saint Name** – Confirmation candidates choose their sponsor and Saint name in Year 1.
6. **Class Liturgy** – This involves attending a “class Mass” for all teens and parents involved in the Confirmation preparation. The Mass date will be forthcoming.

*******SMALL GROUP LEADERS NEEDED*******

Once we have more leaders, we will send out instructions for small group sign-up. Registration will save the date and time for your teen unless we do not have enough leaders for that time. The earlier you sign up the better. For some sessions, we have more than one Year 1 small group at a time. Please consider co-leading a group. Training and support is provided. Contact Youth Ministry at ym@stapostle.org if you want more information or if you are interested in a homeschool option.