

METHUEN CATHOLIC

PARISHES OF ST. LUCY AND ST. MONICA

June 26, 2024

Dear Families,

As you may know, Cardinal Séan O'Malley has **lowered the age of reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation to Eighth Grade** in the Archdiocese of Boston. This decision is based on recommendations from members of local Churches, and the desire to strengthen the relationship of our young people with Christ and his Church, opening to them the grace of the sacrament. For more information about these changes, please visit <https://www.evangelizeboston.com/confirmation/>

The Archdiocese has permitted each parish community to determine how to implement this change. After learning what other parishes are doing and much internal discussion, ***the Parishes of St. Lucy and St. Monica will make this transition to an Eighth-Grade Preparation over the next three years, while simultaneously strengthening our current high school youth ministry programs.***

What does this mean for my own eighth, ninth, or tenth grade students or other high school aged students who are interested in preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

- (1) Our Confirmation Preparation Program will become a 1-year program starting this year;
- (2) This coming September, 2024 we will prepare *both 9th and 10th Grade* students for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation;
- (3) Next September, 2025 we will prepare *both 8th and 9th Grade* students for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation;

I will provide more details in the coming weeks as we move forward together in this transition toward an Eighth-Grade Confirmation Program. In the meanwhile, I ask you to spread the word about this change to as many families inside and outside our parish communities as you can. Feel free to share it on social media and direct people to our website for more information and to register.

Youth Ministry

At the same time, we are excited to strengthen the Youth Ministry in our parishes. Youth Ministry at St. Lucy and St. Monica's will empower our youth to minister to their peers, their Church, and the community by providing regular service opportunities, social events, and worship events. In addition, we are looking into ways we can partner with area high schools and other Church organizations. I look forward to engaging with you about this program and welcome input as we shape this ministry. Feel free to call me at the office and stay tuned for more information on both our Confirmation and Youth Ministry Programs..

Sincerely,

Karl Jackson

Director of Parish Life
Methuen Collaborative

The Parishes of St. Lucy and St. Monica

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PARISHES OF ST. LUCY AND ST. MONICA

FAQ FOR ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Who should register for Confirmation Preparation this year 2024-2025?

All 9th and 10th graders should register for our 1-year Confirmation Preparation Program.

When and where do you meet?

Here's this year's program schedule.

How long will the program last?

1 year, beginning in September, 2024 and concluding in March/April, 2025.

When will reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation take place?

Spring, 2025. We are waiting to learn the exact date from our regional bishop.

What if my child is enrolled in a Catholic High School for the Academic Year 2024-2025?

Your child still needs to register for and participate in our Parishes' Confirmation Preparation Program starting in September, 2024 if they are registered in a Catholic High School. .

What if my child has already participated in a year of Confirmation Preparation?

Your child still needs to register for and participate in this year's program.

What if I miss this year?

That's fine you are welcome to join us next year (2025-2026).

My child is in eighth grade this year and attends a Catholic School. Will they prepare my child for Confirmation this year?

You will have to check with your child's school to see if they will be preparing their eighth grade students for reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. This permission is given by the pastor.

My child is in eighth grade in a public school or a Catholic School that will not be preparing my child for Confirmation. What should I do?

Sit tight and wait to register him or her next summer for the Fall of 2025 when he or she is in ninth grade.