



## The Church of the Ascension

Rockville Centre, New York

### **A message about Confirmation and Reception at The Church of The Ascension**

We are delighted that you are interested in being Confirmed or Received in the Church, or having your child brought before the bishop to be confirmed. So that everyone is aware of what is expected of confirmation and reception candidates, we ask that you please read over the following guidelines. Parents of candidates should discuss these policies with your child that is considering being confirmed.

- Confirmation is an adult affirmation of faith and commitment to living a Christian life. Candidates should be at least 15 years old at the time of confirmation. Children under 14 will not be considered for confirmation classes. Individuals who have previously been confirmed in another Christian tradition (e.g., Roman Catholic) are *Received* into the Episcopal Church and not reconfirmed.
- As this is a personal commitment being made by the candidate, we must emphasize that in the case of youth candidates, being confirmed must be *their* decision.
- Candidates should be mature enough, and have enough interest in confirmation, to contact the church *themselves*. While we appreciate that, in the case of youth, parents are often eager to have their kids confirmed, we also feel that confirmation represents the moment when a young person takes responsibility for their own faith formation, and as such it is very appropriate that they take an active role in arranging to be confirmed.
- Candidates are expected to be active worshipers in this parish. We completely understand that this is a busy time in a young person's life, but we are all called as Christians to make our life of faith a priority. We have multiple services here at Ascension every week and there are many ways for people to worship and be active in the life of this parish. Confirmation is not just a rite of passage, it is a commitment to living a Christian life and a vital part of every Christian life (the very heart of it actually) is regular worship. Attendance at mass once a month is the bare minimum to be considered an active worshiper.
- The Bishop of Long Island has stipulated that all candidates for confirmation must receive one academic year of preparation before confirmation. At The Church of The Ascension, we have decided to prepare children for First Communion and Confirmation on *alternate years* in the Spring. Therefore, Confirmations for youth will be held in the following years: 2025, 2027, 2029, etc. Adult Confirmations and Receptions are dealt with on an as-needed basis. If you are an adult wishing to be received or confirmed, simply speak with us and we will make arrangements as soon as possible.
- Candidates should notify us in the beginning of September of the year before the Spring in which they wish to be confirmed.

