



Bishop's visitation and Confirmation

Dear friends,

The diocese contacted us at the end of last week to set a date for our bishop's visitation: Sunday, February 19, Last Epiphany.

Beginning Wednesday, January 4, and continuing every Wednesday until the visitation, I will offer classes to anyone aged 16 or older who wishes to be confirmed, reaffirmed, or received in the Episcopal Church. Classes will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. and last one hour.

What is confirmation? Confirmation is the mature affirmation of the Christian faith. For us, it means you've found your spiritual home in the Episcopal Church and are ready to declare yourself an Episcopalian.

What will I learn in the classes? The classes will cover the basics of what it means to be Episcopalian: our history, our beliefs and values, our governance, and more.

Does anything change for me by being confirmed? Not particularly. You're considered a full member by your regular attendance and faithful giving to the church; the only things you can't do without being confirmed are serve as Eucharistic Ministers or on the Vestry. Confirmation is primarily a spiritual undertaking, a deepening of your faith and ties to a particular community.

What if I can't make all the classes? You will need to make up any missed classes with me before being confirmed. If you miss more than two, I'll suggest that you look towards Confirmation another year.

What if I have been confirmed in another tradition? Anyone who has been confirmed in the Catholic Church or a mainline Protestant denomination would be received rather than confirmed.

I was confirmed as a child and remember nothing about it. Can I come? Yes, and you'll have the option of reaffirming with the bishop.

I don't know if I want to be confirmed. Can I come? Yes. Attending the classes does not oblige you to receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

I was confirmed fairly recently and don't want to reaffirm, but the

class sounds fun. Can I come? Please do! It'll be a refresher course with some new material, hopefully, since not every priest goes about this in the same way. Additionally, you'll be able to meet and converse with some of our newer folks.

Let me know if you have other questions and/or if you plan on attending this 7-week class.

faithfully,
Amber

Christ Church, Warwick | 50 South Street, Warwick, NY 10990

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