



Church of St. Joseph

Office of Faith Formation

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www.stjparish.com

Dear Parents of our 8th Grade Students,

Aug 21, 2018

As we begin the year anew, I want to welcome you into this first year of Confirmation preparation for your child. I would like to thank you for all that you have done for your child's preparation, and to let you know that your family is especially in my prayers during these upcoming two years. This letter is to give you an idea as to what to expect in the next two years.

Objectives and Mass Obligation

The objective of our Confirmation Program at St. Joseph's Parish is to prepare the candidate to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation, by imparting knowledge and supporting the formation of Catholic attitudes so that the student will live as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and His Church by the power of the Holy Spirit throughout his or her whole life.

This program is not designed to stand alone. All candidates are expected to attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation. This tremendous privilege and obligation flows from baptism and is the primary way in which one lives out their baptismal promises. If one is not living out baptism, one is not ready to live out Confirmation. Candidates should *express explicit desire* to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sponsor's Role

Sponsors are those who will help the Confirmation candidate live his or her baptismal promises. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to:

- help the candidate understand and appreciate the Sacrament of Confirmation and have the right intentions for receiving it.
- help the candidate prepare for Confirmation by encouraging him or her to pray, to participate in the sacraments—especially the Eucharist—and to become actively involved in the life of their parish community.
- present the candidate for Confirmation and continue to assist the confirmed person in living a Christian life.

Each candidate will choose a sponsor before the end of the school year and turn in a signed sponsor form into the Parish Office.

Stewardship Commitment

Confirmation calls the individual to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, manifested through membership in the Catholic Church. As a disciple—a follower of Christ—one is called to put all of one's gifts and talents at the service of Christ in order to build the Kingdom of God within the parish, the local community and the world at large. As Confirmation completes the Sacraments of Initiation, we see that stewardship is the very meaning of initiation—it is not passive reception of information but the active living our life in Christ! Confirmation candidates will be sent forth from Confirmation to go and share all that God has given them. It will not be enough to say, "Yes, Lord, I want to follow You." Confirmed Catholics are called to put these words into action.

PRAYER: Without prayer as the foundation of our faith, our work cannot bear the fruit it is capable of. Each student is encouraged to pray on a daily basis; as part of Confirmation preparation, all candidates are required to

attend five hours of Eucharistic Adoration in the fall and in the spring (for a total of 10 hours). A recommended way of doing this will be to spend a half hour with Jesus 2-3 times a month, or one hour with Jesus 1-2 times a month. Completion of this requirement will be on the honor system; parents and/or sponsors are encouraged to tend these holy half/hours with their candidate. The hours of Eucharistic Adoration are as follows:

Monday : 3:00 –10:00 pm

Tuesday and Wednesday : 12:00 - 10:00 pm

Thursday : 12:00 - 9:00 pm

Friday 12:00 - 4:00 pm

“Your life must be woven around the Eucharist. Direct your eyes to Him, who is the Light; bring your hearts very close to His Divine Heart; ask Him for the grace to know Him, for the charity to love Him, for the courage to serve Him. Seek Him longingly.” –Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Confirmation Saint Name

In the rich history of the Church, there are countless saints to whom we pray for intercession or look up to for the example of faith in the lives they lived. Candidates will choose the name of a saint for their Confirmation name: these saints are chosen as a person that the candidate wants to be like, and from whom we can ask their intercession and prayers. Each candidate will decide a Confirmation Saint before the end of the year.

If you have any questions on the Confirmation program, please feel free to call or email me. **Keep in mind that we will have a Parent Meeting later on in the year with Fr. Kovash, Wednesday the 14th of November, 2018 at 7:15 in the evening in O’Neill Hall.**

-Classes begin September 12th.

-8th Grade girls will meet in the old 3rd Grade classroom which is now 2nd Grade classroom.

-8th Grade boys will meet in the Parish Life Center downstairs at 7:15 PM.

Please register your child for Faith Formation online at stjparish.com and click on Faith Formation or turn in the enclosed form. Thank you!

In Christ,



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