

September 10, 2017

Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates:

Greetings to all of you. I hope you had a wonderful summer.

Classes begin October 4th. Parents are invited to attend a brief session at the beginning of the first class, to reconnect with each of you after a busy summer and to answer your questions for the coming year. All students, parents should attend this evening.

Classes are ninety minutes and are held at the Faith Formation Center on Wednesday evenings, weekly according to calendar. *Please note that this is a change from the family letter you receive earlier.* There will be a minimum of two youth / sponsor sessions or events held during the year.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the last of the three Sacraments of Initiation, (*Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation*) which your child will receive and requires the wholehearted participation of the receiver. As the young people prepare for Confirmation - it is their YES! - that we now expect to hear, although the guidance and prayers of parents and sponsors is paramount. Through Confirmation, the young person will be a fully initiated member of the Church and as such must participate completely in his or her preparation for the sacrament.

*Remember that Confirmation course work and Confirmation is not a lead up to and graduation from the Church, but an opportunity for you to go deeper in your faith, preparing you to commit yourself more deeply to Christ and take an ever-greater part in the life of the Church. So, come with questions, challenges, an open heart, and a desire to find how you can know God better and be a greater part of the Body of Christ. **If a young person is not ready to fully participate, Confirmation can be deferred until such time.***

Prior to registering in the Confirmation Program young people are expected

- to agree to fully participate in the parish program for Confirmation
 - this includes classes, retreats, and other activities,
- to be attending Sunday Mass regularly and continue to do so.

In addition, each young person needs to choose a Confirmation sponsor -

1. The Confirmation sponsor must be a confirmed Catholic at least 16 years of age, who regularly practices the faith.
2. The sponsor will go through confirmation preparation with the young person preparing for the sacrament. (*attending occasional evenings or weekend events with the student, sharing his or her faith, and helping the student embrace this faith, along with working on reflections and projects.*)
3. Sponsors should be chosen by the time classes commence in the fall.
4. **Parents are not to be sponsors** for their child's confirmation, but should be a major support in the learning process.

Each year the Confirmation class has minimum requirements for you to complete, as well as optional activities that you will be invited and encouraged to take part in. Listed below are the required course elements.

The Confirmation Program will be set up as follows:

- 90 minute Wednesday sessions
- Sunday Mass Attendance and Mass journals - Year 1 & Year 2
- 2 student/ sponsor session - dates to be determined - Year 2
- Projects will be part of the class requirements and must be completed prior to confirmation.
 1. A Social Justice Project of your choosing - with reflection and presentation board
- Retreats - Retreat fees **not** included in tuition (*scholarships available*)
Options:
 1. Mission Trip (Summer 2018)
 2. Steubenville Youth Conference
 3. Life in the Spirit Retreat (Required Year 2)
 4. NET Confirmation Retreat
 5. I will let you know of other opportunities
- Interview
- Rite of Sending (*Saturday, May 5, 2018 - 4:30 PM Mass at Parish Center*)
- *CONFIRMATION (Sunday, May 13, 2018 - 2:00 PM - Cathedral of St. Paul) - St. Paul MN*
- *Lifeline Masses at NET Center*

Confirmation Sessions - 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM – Wednesday evenings at the Faith Formation Center.

Please note the change from the family letter.

Youth are expected to interact within the community through involvement in the parish – participating in the prayer and liturgy of the community, attending and participating in parish activities, being of service in the community.

Parents and families need to be involved, witnessing and living the faith they profess to their child.

If you have any questions please call me. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,



Valerie Noll
Director of Faith Formation
vjnoll@stgens.org
(651) 235-8627