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FAITH FORMATION CENTER (651) 426-1818

September 10, 2017

Dear Parents and Students:

Greetings to all of you. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer. However, fall has arrived and so I ask you to move your thoughts toward the beginnings of formal faith formation classes.

The Confirmation program uses a two year format, with ninth grade students in the first year of confirmation preparation. Student need to be enrolled for both years to be confirmed the Spring of the second year. **Classes are ninety minutes and are held weekly (according to calendar), at the Faith Formation Center on Wednesday evenings, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM, beginning October 4.**

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.*

Please come with your child to the first class for a brief informational session. We are happy to connect with each of you after a busy summer and look forward to answering your questions and laying out the program and activities for the coming year.

The ninth grade students use two curriculums during the year, both with a video component. They will begin with *YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body* which introduces teens to the truth that life is not, in fact, all about them; it is about going out of themselves to be a sincere gift for others. It presents young people with the extraordinary story of their creation as unrepeatable individuals.

*The Chosen Curriculum* is begun during the second half of Year 1 of the Confirmation program and completed during Year 2. Students will be expected during this year to attend at least two NET Masses or one retreat.

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Young people seeking Confirmation are expected to be involved in the community and social life of the parish and community and will be asked to keep a journal of service activities in which they are involved. Young people will also be encouraged and challenged to join and participate in various youth activities sponsored by the parish.

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 with reflection journals - Year 1 & Year 2
- Sunday Mass Attendance and Mass journals - Year 1 & Year 2
- 2 student/ sponsor session - dates to be determined - Year 2
- Retreats (attend at least 1 each year/ Retreat fees are **not** included in tuition (*scholarships may be available*))

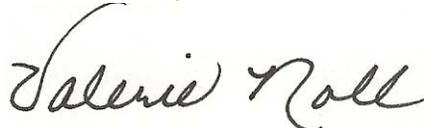
Options:

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
- Projects will be part of the class requirements and must be completed prior to confirmation.
    1. A Social Justice Project of your choosing -Choose a project and begin work in Year 1 finish in Year 2 with reflection and presentation board (Year 2)
  - Interview (Year 2)
  - Rite of Sending (*Saturday, May 5, 2018 - 4:30 PM Mass at Parish Center*)
  - Other faith growth opportunities - *Lifeline Masses at NET Center*

In the spring, we will continue with the tradition of ninth grade students preparing and serving the dinner and reception for the Rite of Sending. This is a "*pay it forward*" type of event, as next year's class will prepare a reception for you. You will learn more about this event in the spring and the expectations for you.

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

Yours in Christ,



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