

Parent meeting

Confirmation - September 20 2017

- Thank you all for coming
- Special welcome to you who are new to the St. Augustine Religious Education program
- Introduction
- Introduce Katie
- Introduce yourself to those around you – spirit of community
- Opening Prayer from a Confirmation Interview form

I start each day with a prayer and end each night with a prayer asking God for guidance and never forgetting to thank him for all he does for me

I can honestly say that in the last two years I have not only found my relationship with God, but I have journeyed with him through the ups and downs and I hope with all my heart that I never lose him.

My faith has impacted on me by giving me something to believe in – it has taught me to be a better person.

God plays a very big role in my life and being confirmed is something that actually gets me excited since it will strengthen and mature my faith further more

I am on the football team and when we lose I am upset but then I think of my faith and remember that my faith is so much more important than a football game

- Registration
- We opened registration on May 12 – almost 5 months ago and I'm still chasing people to register.
- We have to date 125 students in Confirmation 2 (4 still to register)
- 116 in Confirmation 1.....
- Some circumstances impact on ability to register on time – primarily sports schedules - but registering late impacts on the program also. It impacts on catechist recruitment - just when I think I have enough teachers another 8/9 students register!!! It impacts on putting classes together – really do not want to be doing this a few hours before class begins!!!
- But I will take registrations tonight!!

- We will close to registration at Thanksgiving since by that time students have missed too much – unless you have just moved into the parish.
- Let's thank our catechists

Confirmation

- Confirmation is a sacrament of Christian initiation and must be seen in unity with Baptism and Eucharist. Reception of the sacrament is necessary for the completion and strengthening of baptismal grace. It brings an increase and deepening of this grace so uniting us more firmly to Christ, perfects the relationship with the church, grants special strength from the Holy Spirit as true witnesses of Christ.
- This year is our sixth year of a major revised program but we are constantly looking a ways to improve what we offer to your children
- Why did we feel the need to change?
- Always a challenge to make it both meaningful to this age group and yet still in compliance with Archdiocesan guidelines – yes we do have them so we don't make it up as we go along.
- (Ours is a two year program in Grades 9 & 10 with the sacrament taking place in the fall of junior year.)
- In addition we also wanted to develop a more active and structured youth ministry program
- How were we going to achieve this?
- First we back to basics and re evaluate
- Not a change for change sake – it had to be better than the program we offered
- We needed to ensure that our confirmation program would be centered on the meaning of the sacrament as it is expressed in the Rite of Confirmation and the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- We were trying to establish a program preparing our young people to receive Confirmation and we wanted something that could be viewed as an action of the entire Church community

Several main elements but must include

- A solid theology of the sacrament
- A sound catechetical presentation
- A comprehensive parish ministry to the young
- An adequate understanding of the development and life situation of the young

- So now we can see begin to see the integral role Youth Ministry has in a confirmation program but it must not be exclusive to the program otherwise it fails in its mission to the entire youth community and vice versa – Confirmation programs cannot and should not carry the entire role of YM.
- Confirmation preparation may be divided into some broad areas

Catechesis, spirituality & faith development & service

Catechesis (class time)

- Within a more structured class – once per month
- Some of the main topics
- We look at the Sunday Liturgy
- We review the Liturgical seasons
- We explore our spirituality
- We examine what it means to be a follower of Christ
- We learn how God is present and active in our lives
- We learn about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- We study the Corporal/Spiritual works of mercy
- We look at the challenges of Confirmation
- We are looking at Catholic Social Teaching and how it impacts on our lives and the lives of others

WE INFORM TO FORM TO TRANSFORM INTO DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

It's not just about what you know

We are getting our students to open up the gospels and live them

Distinction between Confirmation 1 & 2

- Go through days and times
- Confirmation 1 Tuesday 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Confirmation 2 Sunday following the Teen Mass 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
- Flexibility – built in make ups – if you cannot come to the Sunday Confirmation 2 class then come to Tuesday Confirmation 1 Class and we will teach a special Confirmation 2 class and vice versa. Probably the most flexible schedule around
- Let us know now if you have a problem with the days and times.

- If our schedule does not work for you - you might need to look at another program.
 - I don't want to get to January to find students have never been to class because of scheduling conflicts
 - We have students in our program who are coming here because their schedules do not allow them to meet the class requirements of their own parishes
 - In previous years I have taught make ups for the make ups – I even ran a makeup program in the summer – do not want to do this again!
 - Because of our flexibility we expect good attendance – there will be make up packets for both class and prayer nights if attendance is not considered acceptable
 - Confirmation 1 books distributed at the first class – bring to all classes. No books for Confirmation 2 but they will get handouts
 - Parents when bringing your children to class come with enthusiasm – students will reflect your feelings. If you're positive they will be positive but if you're negative and complaining, they will be also
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- Behavior – RESPECT rule
 - Respect your teacher
 - Respect your room
 - Respect your book
 - Respect the students in your class
 - Respect yourself
 - Students may request a teacher and/or a friend to be in their class
 - Acknowledge catechists in the audience – more on that later

Spirituality & Faith Development

- In class (details) and through prayer nights (about 1 per month or more if they want) and Teen Mass

Prayer Nights

- Schedule on the website – expect 5 throughout the year, 1 must be the Stations of the Cross
- Offer other prayerful activities as make ups
- Students must sign in to be counted as present, must come on time.
- Coming 25 minutes late to a 45 minute session will not count

- Volunteers needed to help Katie Leblanc

Teen Mass

- See schedule on website
- Hardcopy also available /also will give one to the students
- Like teens to be active – volunteer to read/be hospitality ministers
- Come as a family
- Contemporary ensemble “The restless hearts” – open invitation to musicians and singers

KATIE

Service

20 hours per year

- Servathons, Missions and through church.
- You may also find your own service opportunities
- Service needs to reflect the Corporal works of mercy
- Try and get information on the webpage with the sheet for hours available tonight
- Many have already completed hours – including VBS
- Opportunities within the church – through me
- Hospitality Ministry – families/students
- I keep records of the completed hours – parents and students need to keep track
- 76 students have completed 20 hours in Confirmation 1 last year so a lot of you will need to do 40 hours this year!!!!

Contact and Information

Webpage

Email

Walk this journey with your child – but you don't have to teach your own child!!

Spiritual awakening for you and your child

If you have been away from your faith for a time – perfect opportunity to come back

We celebrated the sacrament 2 weeks ago - it is always a wonderful spiritual experience – the presence of the Holy Spirit is always so alive in the church

General questions

Individual

Registrations

Closing Prayer/Reflection

Take Time

Take time to THINK

It is the source of power

Take time to PLAY

It is the secret of perpetual youth

Take time to READ

It is the fountain of wisdom

Take time to PRAY

It is the greatest power on earth

Take time to LOVE and BE LOVED

It is a God-given privilege

Take time to be FRIENDLY

It is the road to happiness

Take time to LAUGH

It is the music of the soul

Take time to GIVE

It is too short a day to be selfish

Take time to WORK

It is the price of success

Take time to do CHARITY

It is the key to heaven