

Parent meeting

Confirmation

October 2022

- **Thank you all for registering you children for Confirmation**
- **Special welcome to you who are new to the St. Augustine Religious Education program**

Opening prayer

- **One of the best aspects of Confirmation is that we prepare as a community so we have students coming to us who have been in parochial school - welcome. We have families who have been away from Religious Education and maybe even the church - welcome back. We have families who have been with us for many years - welcome to the next part of your child's spiritual journey.**

Tonight I will tell you how the program works but I will also be using the words of our wonderful students to inform you of the impact it has had on them

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.

- We had a major revision due to the impact of Covid 19 - some changes we will continue with**
- It's a challenge to make the preparation for the sacrament both meaningful to this age group and yet still be in compliance with Archdiocesan guidelines**
Every year I try and add something that enhances how we approach preparation for the sacrament. Most of my planning happens in the summer but catechists know I am forever thinking of something new to add or try at all times
- Ours is a two year program in Grades 9 & 10 with the sacrament taking place in the fall of junior year.**
- Unfortunately we put our youth ministry program on hold 2 years ago but I hope to offer service activities for the students and establish a streamlined youth ministry program – volunteers?**

- I have to ensure that our confirmation program is centered on the meaning of the sacrament as it is expressed in the Rite of Confirmation and the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- The program prepares our young people to receive Confirmation and reflects 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
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- Confirmation preparation may be divided into some broad areas

Catechesis, spirituality & faith development & service

Students must take part in Classes, Teen Masses, Prayer Reflections and Service

But what do our students say

During my preparation I grew closer to God

The most important part of Confirmation prep was finding my faith and who I am in the process of these 2 years. Connecting with God has been very special to me

For the first time I learned what it means to be Catholic – going beyond just believing but really understanding our faith and following it through my lifetime

It guided to me to see and think of myself and God in a new and inspiring way. It led me on a journey to find myself and who I am and what I am truly meant to be

Catechesis (class time)

- **Within structured in person class – once per month**

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 (Confirmation 1)

WE INFORM TO FORM TO TRANSFORM INTO DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

It's not just about what you know but how you put this into action - our students will open up the gospels and live them

Living your Faith not just knowing about it

Distinction between Confirmation 1 & 2

- Confirmation 1 Tuesday 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Make up class available on Sundays after Teen Mass at 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. but very limited numbers. This is for students who can never come on Sunday afternoons – or occasionally cannot make their class (must email for permission to attend)

- **Confirmation 2 Sunday following the Teen Mass 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.**
- **Make up class may be available on Tuesday 6 30 – 8:00 pm (same date as Confirmation 1 again you must email me for permission to attend)**
- **This is probably one of the most flexible programs you will find**
- **We build in make ups!!**
- **Because of our flexibility we expect good attendance –**
- **Confirmation 1 attendance and completion of service hours not as good as I would have liked**
- **Confirmation 2 spreadsheet - a record of all attendances and service hours**
- **If a student has failed to keep up with a regular attendance or completion of work the sacrament could be delayed and Confirmation 3 classes will be “offered”**
- **Confirmation 1 books distributed at the second class since our first class will be a “kick off” concert with Daniel Obereutter – come along – bring books to all classes.**
- **No books for Confirmation 2 but they will get handouts & folders it would be great if we saw them again after the first class**
- **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

- **Behavior in class– RESPECT rule**
- **Respect your teacher**
- **Respect your room**
- **Respect your book**
- **Respect the students in your class**
- **Respect yourself**
- **Confirmation 1 students may request a teacher and/or a friend to be in their class -see my earlier email) but no later than **October 11****
- **Confirmation 2 classes will be rolled over from last year whenever possible**
- **Too many friends in 1 class doesn't always work unless you have a very strong and disciplined catechist who knows the students**
- **(I have to say that over the years the students in the program have rarely shown anything other than the greatest respect)**

Spirituality & Faith Development

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

Prayer Reflections - introduced during Covid

- Video reflections will be emailed
- Students will be asked to email a reflection on the video—this is how we will monitor attendance
- They can watch at whatever time they want
- Warning do not leave until the last minute
- The students will be asked to complete 5 of these
- I will also offer other prayerful in person activities as well

I did the prayer reflections on my own - it made me think about my relationship with God... I came to the conclusion that Confirmation is a necessary step in my life

They taught me a lot about my relationship with God and about how to pray in many ways – I now go for “praying walks”

Teen Mass

- 1:30 - all dates are on the class schedules
- Come along with your children!

- I will be emailing details of makeup Masses the students may attend if they miss a Teen Mass
- Attendance is through a QR code so the students must bring their phone for this
- Opportunities to be lectors, singers, musicians and greeters, screens – service hours are given

I felt closest to God at the Teen Masses - I felt I was doing a really great job practicing my faith

Being in church made me feel closer to God. It made me feel like I belonged to the Church

Going to Mass before class gets us into a good connection with God especially when we receive his body in the Eucharist

I loved going to Mass with my peers

Service

20 hours per year

- Service needs to reflect the Corporal works of mercy

- This year should be less challenging but I will be emailing details of service opportunities on a regular basis (you may of course find your own service hours)
- Some will require no in person contact
- Sometimes parents refer projects to me – if you know of any pass them on
- If you are uncertain of whether a particular activity will count – ask me
- Parents and students need to keep track of the hours and then send the details of the completed 20 hours to me

Service hours helped me realize how such seemingly small actions have such a large impact to those in need

Working with underprivileged kids made me realize how lucky I am and how much God has truly blessed me

Other ways for parents to help

- **Consider being a Teen Mass monitor**
- **Youth Ministry/service projects**

Contact and Information

Webpage – always check for information

Emails - we will also be emailing those students who have given us their email information

If we do not have your child's email address please send to us if you wish them to receive emails as well

If we do not have your child's email then you will have to keep them up to date about what is happening and what they are supposed to do

Facebook

Instagram

I would like to suggest that you walk this journey with your child

I have been so impressed with the numbers of parents who help their child navigate this time of their life

This could be a spiritual awakening for you and your child

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

My faith with God is very special because God helps me to be the best person I can be. Jesus wants us to spread his love to others, so I do my best to be helpful and kind.

My faith has helped to guide me through a lot of hard times and helped me to be more appreciative of the good times. I have faced many challenges in the past 2 years but being guided by God reminds me that he has a plan for me and this has made me stronger

Closing prayer/poem

Life is short

Melanie Svoboda SND

Life is short

Smile

Life is short

Play

Life is short

Savor

Life is short

Pray

Life is short

Relax

Life is short

Bend

Life is short

Wonder

Life is short

Befriend

Life is short

Apologize

Life is short

Dance

Life is short

Learn

Life is short

Give thanks

Life is short

Let go

Life is short

Forgive

Life is short

Love

Life is short

Live

**If you have any questions or concerns please
contact me**

God bless you all

Bridget Rao DRE