

Overview of Confirmation Program

Sponsor:

- At least 16 years old
- Active, participating member of their parish
- Able to guide the candidate on their faith journey
- Able to guide the candidate into active participation in the parish
- Strongly recommended member of St. Jude Parish
- Meet regularly with candidate to discuss preparation and answer questions

Letters to Fr. Charlie Burton:

- Each candidate is required to write a letter to Fr. Charlie Burton requesting to be enrolled in the preparation process for Confirmation.
- The candidate's sponsor is required to write a letter to Fr. Charlie Burton, informing Father of their relationship, commitment to help candidate prepare and commitment to daily prayer for the candidate.
- These letters are to be turned in ONLY to Kevin & Stephanie Gabor by Sunday, September 13th

Opening Retreat:

- *Attendance is required!*
- Time for candidates, small groups and team leaders to bond.
- Sunday, September 13th from 10:00am until 6:30pm in Parish Life Center

Entrance Ritual:

- Mass at 5:30pm Sunday, September 13th.
- Celebrates the candidate's decision to begin preparing for Confirmation.
- Sponsors attend this ritual.
- Letters written to Fr. Charlie Burton by both the sponsor and candidate will be presented during this Mass.
- Dress is nice church clothes, no jeans, shorts, spaghetti strap shirts or t-shirts.

Covenant Ritual:

- Mass 5:30pm on Sunday, January 10, 2010.
- Celebrates the candidate's decision to continue their journey of faith toward Confirmation by signing their names in the Book of Disciples.
- Sponsors attend this ritual.
- Dress is nice church clothes, no jeans, shorts, spaghetti strap shirts or t-shirts

Sessions & Texts:

- **Please refer to the schedule for exact dates and locations**
- Classes are held in the Harwood Room in the FLC and begin at 6:30pm and end at 8:45pm in the Church.
- Catholic Youth Bible and Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, both published by St. Mary's Press.
- Parents help with food for classes by either donating \$20 per student or providing drinks & dessert for classes.

Interviews:

- 1st interview prior to or at Opening Retreat, get to know you interview
- 2nd interview prior to Closing Retreat, discuss candidate's readiness for Confirmation

Confirmation Name Report:

- Candidate chooses a name to take at Confirmation
- Can be baptismal name or a patron saint
- Explain what name is chosen and why
- Due at class on Sunday, February 14th

Service Projects:

- Participation in a parish service project with class – opportunities to sign up for projects will be given in class
- Participation in a community service project with class – opportunities to sign up for projects will be given in class.
- 4 hours of family service, these are hours separate from any “chores” you do on a regular basis.
- This is to be separate from any service hours currently being done for school credit.
- Service forms are due at class on Sunday, April 11th or earlier.
- DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO THESE HOURS, YOU HAVE AMPLE TIME TO COMPLETE THEM. YOU MAY START ON THESE BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN, JUST BE SURE TO DOCUMENT THEM ON A FORM.

Letter to the Bishop:

- Each candidate is required to write a letter to our Bishop officially requesting to be confirmed.
- In this letter, the candidate can express any questions, thoughts or feelings about their preparation to the Bishop. It must also include a request to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Due at class on Sunday, February 14th.

Closing Retreat:

- *Attendance is required!*
- A Penance service and Mass will be on the weekend schedule.
- This is set for **Friday, February 26, 2009 until Sunday, February 28, 2010** at Johnston Woods Retreat Center in Cleveland, TN.
- Transportation to and from the retreat site will be provided.

Confirmation:

- Date to be determined – should be end of April, beginning of May
- Sponsors should attend.
- A reception will follow in the PLC.
- Dress for this occasion: Nice Dress clothes.

Contact information:

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