



Dear Life Teen Parents,

September 19th is right around the corner and there is so much to do to get ready for our Life Teen Kickoff. **Please note that Confirmation students will also begin on 9/19.** The possibility a new year brings is exciting and the entire Core Team is gearing up to make this year special for every teen. We welcome the students entering the Life Teen program from 8th grade and we welcome back our sophomore and junior classes. Also, we welcome all parents to come, be active and help form your child's Catholic education. We will be modeling a hybrid learning model this year to accommodate for Covid-19 Restrictions.

How can a parent take part in the Life Teen program?

1. **Attend Life Nights** - this year we encourage all parents to listen in on the large group teaching, attend XLT, join our service projects, and come to our social nights.
2. **Prayer** - please keep our Life Teen Program in your prayers. We believe with our whole hearts that Life Teen is the most important ministry in our parish. The only way we will be fruitful is through the love and grace of God. Please pray for our program!
3. **College Connection Ministry** - we send packages to our students who have moved on to college to maintain connections to the Church and to let them know that their St. Joseph family keeps them in prayer.
4. **Meals** - each family will be contacted to take part in providing meals for our Life Teen Nights.
5. **Fundraising** - we sell flowers at Easter & wreaths at Christmas. We also sponsor a Golf Tournament; we raise funds to enhance the program and make trips more affordable for the families and teens.
6. Attend Mass with you teens. The Youth Mass is typically Sunday's at 5:00pm.

REGISTRATION & PARENT MEETING

Registration, release forms & pertinent information for Life Teen and Confirmation will be **available online.** <https://stjosephscharlton.com/lifeteen-program>. Release forms need to be printed out and passed in. **Due by the Lifeteen Kick-off, Sunday 9/19/2020**

Students do NOT need to attend the parent meetings, but are welcome to join us if they'd like to come.

God bless you all and please remember to keep the Life Teen program in your prayers,

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Life Teen is an international Catholic movement that serves the Church by providing resources and faith experiences that help lead high school teens closer to Christ. This is accomplished through a vibrant Eucharistic spirituality and by creating widespread opportunities for teens to grow their faith.

<p>2021-2022</p>	<p>Church & Pascal Mystery</p>	<p>-The gift of the Church is how we encounter Christ.</p> <p>-Study of Christ's redemptive work through his passion, death, resurrection, and glorious ascension.</p>
<p>2022-2023</p>	<p>Catholic Social Teaching & Sacraments</p>	<p>-The importance of dignity & integrity.</p> <p>-The deep and personal relevance of our sacraments in our faith walk and a profound education of Christ.</p>
<p>2023-2024</p>	<p>Person of Christ & Scripture</p>	<p>-Study of Christ's redemptive work through his passion, death, resurrection, and glorious ascension.</p> <p>-Where does scripture come from and how is it related to our faith.</p>

Confirmation Specific: Confirmation curriculum begins in September. All Catholic school students are required to participate in the full year of religious education during their confirmation year.

REQUIRED OVERNIGHT CONFIRMATION RETREAT December 3-5, 2021. (Students arrive Friday evening and go home Sunday afternoon).

****Subject to Covid Restrictions**



AREAS OF PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

St. Joseph's offers our students more options/exposure than most parishes. Why? Because we have youth with varying needs and desires as they develop an independent relationship with Christ and His Church. In addition, we have been "called" by Christ to share with our teens how dynamic their Catholic faith truly is. We realize that this is unlike what many of us as parents were offered, but St. Joe's figures if our Lord sacrificed His life for our sins through unrelenting ridicule, scourging, and crucifixion we should probably put some effort into deciphering this reality in relation to our lives. Of course, we can only offer, the rest is up to you (the main educators) and your children to participate in and be open to Jesus' invitation. The main components are:

- ❑ **MASS:** Matthew 26:40 "Could you not spend one hour with me?" That is what Jesus was asking his apostles in the garden on his last night. He asks us this same question every time we decide on something other than Him on Sundays. Jesus instructed all of us the night before his sacrificial death: "Do this in memory of me." If you are having a hard time getting to Mass, let us know how we can help. You can find Mass times online at www.masstimes.org if you have a busy weekend or are away and can't make it to St. Joseph's.
- ❑ **CATECHESIS:** The students should be attending regularly in 9-10th grade so that they have some idea what their faith is about before they get confirmed in it. This is approximately 40hrs per year. (Compare this to nine weeks of a sports season which is about 90 hrs.) We do offer some make-up opportunities if Sunday nights become a problem.
- ❑ **FAITH ENCOUNTERS:** The teens are frequently reminded that they should encounter their faith in a way other than Mass/class. According to studies, retreats are the second-best way to learn and experience your faith, second only to teaching it. Some of these experiences also let the kids participate in "the greater Church".

ONE "Real World" experience is required for Confirmation. Examples include:

- ❑ Steubenville East Youth Conference - held at UMASS Lowell
- ❑ Mission Trip, Camp Sunshine, Haiti, Cardboard City, March for Life
- ❑ Co-Teach 1st Lights or Edge for 6 classes OR be a Crew Chief at Vacation Bible School (VBS) which is offered during the summer. (See Sr. Agnes for details)
- ❑ Diocesan or other retreats that might become available
- ❑ Attending all nights + discussions of Parish Mission **if deemed appropriate**
- ❑ Anyone who is currently serving in a ministry such as altar servers, choir, ect
- ❑ Anyone who has achieved the Catholic awards for Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts
- ❑ If you are a Catholic school student, let's talk about what you might have already done.
- ❑ *As always, we are very flexible and open to suggestions. **Note that the "Overnight Confirmation Retreat" does NOT fall under the "Real World" section.***
- ❑ **OVERNIGHT CONFIRMATION RETREAT WEEKEND (REQUIRED)** - DECEMBER 3-5, 2021. Students arrive Friday evening and go home Sunday afternoon.
- ❑ **PRAYER:** We will be providing many opportunities within the body of the program to learn about the many ways to pray. We hope that you will be praying on your own, with your sponsor and family through this journey. It is our hope that you will come to know your basic prayers...**The Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Apostle's Creed, and Act of Contrition** as well as become comfortable with **personal prayer** and the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**.



- ❑ **STEWARDSHIP PROJECT:** Since we are called to serve one another, we ask the teens to share some of their God-given time, talent, and treasure. We will require each confirmation small group to collectively design/implement a way to serve people in need. This can include food drives, soup kitchens, visiting the elderly, drives for the homeless, and more!
- ❑ **CHOOSING A SAINT NAME:** A Confirmation name is that of a saint whose life symbolizes for you what it means to live as a Christian. In October, during one of our regularly scheduled classes, we will discuss how to choose a patron saint for confirmation. Those who want to begin thinking about the process now can look up saints by topic on the following websites: <http://www.catholic.org/saints/patron.php>, www.catholic-forum.com, and www.catholicity.com.
- ❑ **CHOOSING YOUR SPONSOR:** A sponsor is a confirmed and practicing Catholic **other than a parent.** The sponsor is a representative of the whole Church and its philosophy that our faith is interactive and dependent on God and one another. The sponsor is the candidate's "spiritual faith partner" for this journey and therefore agrees to share, pray, support, and present their candidate for the sacrament. We ask the sponsor to come to a few gatherings such as the Enrollment Ceremony and communicate with you one on one. We understand that they might not be able to attend everything, so please feel free to have your parent proxy. ****Please note that your sponsor will need a sponsor certificate from the parish where they are currently an active member.** Please have the sponsor put their candidate's name in the upper right corner of the certificate.
- ❑ **PRAY & CONSIDER A SPONSOR:** Think about who you might like to mentor you along this journey. And then use the basic minimum guidelines for being a practicing Catholic below. If they cannot check off all of these, then ask your potential sponsor if they are willing to start fresh. Otherwise, you might want to pray about finding another sponsor. Any of the CORE are willing to help you too! We strongly urge you to choose your godparent if they are still practicing their Catholic faith, to signify the unity of the two sacraments of initiation.

Guiding Questions:

- ___ Are they 16 or older, not a parent, and already confirmed?
- ___ Do they try and follow the commandments that God gave to Moses?
- ___ Do they go to Mass on Sundays, not just major holidays?
- ___ Do they believe that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Christ?
- ___ Do they use the gift of Reconciliation (Confession) at least once a year or more?
- ___ Do they observe Lent and its days of fasting and abstinence?
- ___ Are they using their God-given gifts to help the needs of others or the church?



2020-2021 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

St. Joseph's Parish, 10 H. Putnam Ext, Charlton, MA 01507

Must be completed online - Use this sheet to collect information needed
(Please check website or email for link)

Candidate Name First/Last: _____

Confirmation Saint Name: _____

Father's Name First/Last: _____

Mother's First Name AND Maiden Name: _____

****SPONSORS MUST NOT BE A PARENT****

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Email: _____ **Sponsor Phone:** _____

Sponsor's Parish City, State: _____

****Please provide a baptismal certificate for your teen if they were NOT baptized at St. Joseph Church. You can call the church where they were baptized to obtain this record. Please ask them to mail a copy of the baptismal certificate to: St. Joseph Parish, PO Box 338, Charlton City, MA 01508, ATTN: Deacon Bill Shea.****

If you were baptized at St. Joseph/Charlton, please give approximate date: _____

Not Baptised at St. Joe's Name of Parish/Address: _____

Please list ONE retreat/real world experience you've completed or plan to this year (refer to Faith Encounters on the Areas of Preparation form): _____

DUE BY SUNDAY, December 12th:

- Confirmation Candidate Information Form - filled out online!**
- This "Online Confirmation Information Form" includes:
 - Two Pictures - one from Baptism OR First Holy Communion AND a current picture. Or emailed to lifeteen@stjosephscharlton.com if issue. No physical copies, please.
 - Saint Paragraph - Who, What, When, Where, Why you chose them, Fun Facts
 - Small-Group Service Project - Reflection or Plan - What you did or plan to do, how you did/will implement it, what did you learn, where/how did you see Christ?
 - Upload/Send a Copy of Baptism Certificate - IF student was NOT baptized at St. Joseph in Charlton.
- Sponsor Certificate IF they are NOT at St. Joseph's in Charlton - Your teens' sponsor will need to contact their parish and ask their pastor for a sponsor certificate. Please make sure that your teens' name is written on the certificate in the upper right-hand corner.