Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our records indicate that your child may be ready to begin (or continue) his/her formal preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation this year. This is very exciting! Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is a big step in your child’s journey as a disciple of Christ. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace” (CCC 1285). With this sacrament, your child will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Please review the information below for a better understanding of registration, our program, and upcoming events.

There are three requirements your child must meet to begin preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. First, your child must be baptized and have received First Holy Communion. Second, your child needs to be in or beginning high school by fall 2019. Third, your child must have received at least one year of religious education in a parish religious education program or a Catholic school prior to beginning preparation for Confirmation. If your child meets these three requirements, he/she can register to begin preparation classes this fall! If your child is in need of religious education or the Sacrament of Baptism or the Eucharist, please contact the youth ministry office for further information.

*It is important to remember that Confirmation is an intentional choice that must be made by the candidate.* If your child is not ready at this time for the commitment and dedication to the faith required by Confirmation, that is okay, and we will gladly welcome him/her at any point throughout his/her high school years. We encourage him/her to continue faith formation through our high school youth group, LifeTeen, or by volunteering in various parish ministries.

This year, we have moved the Confirmation registration process entirely online. Please visit [ccasta.org/confirmation](http://ccasta.org/confirmation) to register. Registration is due by **August 7th**. Especially important to include in the registration form is any special information regarding your child that will help us effectively engage him/her at our events. If during the year there is a change in any of your contact information, please notify our office so we can update our records.
The Confirmation Masses will take place in the spring of 2020 – at St. Augustine on Friday, April 17th, and at Ascension on Sunday, April 19th. **The completion of all requirements by the candidate determines on which date he/she will be Confirmed, and no one is guaranteed one church over the other.** Preparation sessions for all candidates will begin in September 2019 and will run until March, followed by a retreat. A Google calendar of events can be found online at the registration page.

In addition, completion of service hours is required for Confirmation, as the Christian life is necessarily one of service to others. This year, candidates must complete a total of **25 hours.** These hours may be completed either within the parish or elsewhere (or both!), as long as they are completed outside of the candidate’s immediate family and they are not being paid for their service. **At least 15 of these hours must be completed in the same ministry/doing the same activity,** with the goal of building community and fostering a sense of responsibility. If the candidate would like to complete all 25 hours doing the same activity, that is perfectly acceptable and even encouraged.

In order to ensure completion of these hours, the candidates have the opportunity to begin their service well ahead of time; included with this letter is the form on which candidates will be expected to track their hours.

There is an orientation meeting scheduled from 6:30pm–7:30pm on **Wednesday, August 21st in the Hall at St. Augustine.** It is expected that you attend this meeting with your candidate.

Finally, to stay connected, I’ll be adding you to our Flocknote system, if you are not already signed up. Please make sure you are checking your emails for updates! If you misplace any forms or need to look at them on the go, they can all be found at ccasta.org/confirmation.

Thank you for continuing to guide your child in the Catholic faith. I look forward to journeying with you as he/she prepares for Confirmation!

Peace and All Good,

Shannon O’Toole

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