

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Parents,

Our catechetical program for high schoolers (upcoming grades 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>) will be held as previously scheduled, weekdays, **June 1<sup>st</sup> - June 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. until noon.**

We apologize that our confirmation of this date was delayed, but it was necessary that we await directives from the state, parish, and Archdiocese. As such, our lead time to register is very short. We would appreciate your prompt enrollment, so that we have some advance notice of how many we are to prepare for.

Registration forms are linked on our website. Please print those out, complete them, and return them with payment to the MHT office - in person, by mail, or in the collection basket at Sunday mass.

For those of you who participated in last year's program, please be aware that we have made a few changes, in order to ensure a safer environment. We will dispense with any "close-contact" activities, and, thus, will end the day a half hour earlier than last year.

In addition, we want to assure you that we will practice safe distancing in the seating and layout of our classrooms and meeting places, we will clean and disinfect all surfaces daily, and instructors will follow recommended health protocols.

We are asking for your cooperation as well. Please follow the health guidelines that the parish has issued. In addition, we ask that you send your student with their own paper/pencil/pen, etc., so that we reduce handling of items and any resulting contamination. Likewise, please feel free to send them with any drinks or snack items they might want, as they will have a (safe-distanced) break time mid-day.

For your information, our 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be using the *Chosen* curriculum, which is a terrific age-appropriate review of the Catechism. We will have a combined 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> grade class where we will present Theology of the Body, as well as cover some of the "Big Questions" that teens begin to have about the Catholic Faith. In addition, all students will attend Mass both Fridays, and will have the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation one day as well. (Students will need masks to participate in Confession.) We will also present a brief, Archdiocesan-required Safe Environment presentation one day. If you would like your student to opt out of this, please contact me for the appropriate release form.

Below, I have listed a few FAQs. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by email or phone (listed below). You may also contact our Director of Parish Catechesis, Dr. Gamundi at [cgamundi@mhtcc.net](mailto:cgamundi@mhtcc.net). Information is available on our website as well, at <https://mhtcc.net/high-school-psr-confirmation>.

Many thanks for your cooperation and your support in forming your child in the Catholic Faith. If you have any questions or hesitations about sending your child to our program, please let us know.

Beth Simon,  
MHT High School PSR Coordinator  
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## **MHT HIGH SCHOOL SESSION FAQ'S**

- 1. Because of the corona virus shutdowns, my son/daughter was not able to complete all of this year's HS PSR requirements. Will he/she be allowed to advance to the next PSR grade level?**

We understand that the cancelation of Abbey Youth Fest, our Youth Group meetings, and some service hour opportunities necessitates us dispensing with strict compliance to the requirements. Therefore, students will be advanced to the next grade level.

What we would recommend is that, as things resume, you encourage your son/daughter to resume their participation - in Youth Group activities, service hours opportunities, and any offerings that might support and develop their spiritual formation. That participation could be documented to meet the requirements for the upcoming year.

And for students who HAVE completed their service hours for the 2019-20 school year, please have them fill out the service hour form located on our website at <https://mhtcc.net/high-school-psr-confirmation> and bring with them to class.

- 2. Does my son/daughter, who will enter 11<sup>th</sup> grade this upcoming year, need to attend both the summer session AND the fall Confirmation prep classes in order to be Confirmed?**

Attendance at the fall, 12-hour Confirmation prep classes is a requirement for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, as is attendance at our Confirmation retreat, 5 service hours, and an interview with our pastor, who will determine a Candidate's understanding of and desire for the Sacrament. (These requirements can be found on our website at <https://mhtcc.net/high-school-psr-confirmation> )

As far as attendance at the summer session, we will have an 11<sup>th</sup> grade class. Perhaps a better question than "is attendance at this class required?" might be "how much can I offer my child so that he/she is adequately formed in the faith?" Teens and young adults often have questions and/or doubts about their faith that our culture is all too ready to answer with inauthentic responses. Our program allows them to ask these questions and to receive authentic answers that we hope will help them to see Christ as the True, Good, and Beautiful that they seek, and the Church - even in its human frailty - as the place in which He resides and meets them. Consider it spiritual fortification for their journey into life, and decide if that is something you desire for your child. But, strictly speaking, the requirements for Confirmation reception are those stated above.

- 3. My son/daughter has a conflict and will miss some of the scheduled summer classes. What do I do?**

Above and beyond any unforeseen illness, etc., one planned missed day is allowable. If you have extenuating circumstances regarding attendance, and have not already been in touch, feel free to do so.

#### 4. Can you remind me of the other requirements of this program?

We intend the 2-week program to be an intensive catechetical foundation for the year, but we desire that the students become engaged throughout the school year. As such, additional requirements to be met throughout the school year include:

- Attendance at one **retreat** throughout the year (World Youth Day, Abbey Fest, CCRNO Youth Retreat, etc.)
- **5 service hours with theological reflection**, due at the end of the upcoming school year. (Service hour form is available on our website.)
- Periodic **attendance at MHT Youth Group** gatherings (**Seven required** over the course of the upcoming school year. Students asked to sign in when attending.)