

Parent Meeting Year 1 | Confirmation | 2019-2020

Welcome to Confirmation! Here are some highlights from the parent meeting.

Explore Four

Explore 4 is a new way to receive attendance credit for Confirmation Classes. We have 4 categories for faith learning **and all confirmation students need 25 attendance credits**. There will no longer be Service Hour requirements.

Students must attend 16 (out of 18) confirmation classes, a minimum of 1 attendance in the Faith Practice category, a minimum of 1 attendance credit in the Service category, and a minimum of 1 attendance credit in the Social category. The additional 7 to 9 (depending on how many Confirmation Classes you attend) attendance credits will come from Faith Practice, Service or Social Explore Four attendance options. **The Explore Four Reflection Form must be filled out to receive attendance credit and must be turned in at the end of the month for the event attended.** The Explore Four Reflection Form may be placed in the drop box next to the "Explore Four" bulletin board in the Holy Family Center or in the drop box for the Faith Formation front office.

We encourage you to participate in Explore 4 activities as a family. This is how our faith is formed.

Changes in the Calendar

There is a change in the calendar for parent and sponsor meetings. We needed to open an additional class and we no longer have parent and sponsor meetings the same evening as confirmation classes.

There is no parent meeting in October and the sponsor Meeting in March has been moved to February. February 23 at 3:15pm to 4:30pm for First Year Confirmation students and Sponsors and/or Parent. A sponsor is required to attend with the student, or a parent may attend if the sponsor is not local or unable to attend.

Changes in Class Times

There is a change in class times. Classes are 15 minutes shorter for both Sunday and Wednesday. **Class times for Sunday will be 3:15pm to 4:30pm. Wednesday Class times will be from 6:30pm to 7:45pm.** We needed to accommodate 5:00pm mass on Sunday and it we changed Sundays class to 1 hour and 15 minutes. Class times were shortened on Wednesday as well to align lesson plans. This will help with the parent pick up on Sunday for our students and will keep the disruption to Mass at 5pm on Sunday to a minimum.

Parking drop off and pick up

Parking drop off and pick up will both be at the stone circle side of the church. Students who are attending 5pm Mass on Sunday will need to have a parent meet them outside to walk them to Mass. You can enter to the upper level/sanctuary through the sidewalk by the large oak tree. A parent or adult must meet our students for their safety.

Please do not park on the east side (stone circle side) of the Church or by the dumpsters. If you are parked in the "car line" area, you will need to wait to leave your parking spot until the car line has dismissed. Please see the attached file for parking. If you do not pick up your child at the time of

dismissal, he or she will be brought into the church office. You will need to park and come inside to pick up your child. Should you have any questions, please do let me know.

Attendance Credit

Students are required to sign in when they arrive to their classroom. This is how we mark them present. If they don't sign in, they will not be given attendance credit for class.

Classroom Expectations

Please be on time. 3 tardies = 1 not present.

A Bible is provided to students. They need to bring their Bible to every class. This is the Catholic Youth Bible (Saint Mary's Press) and will be used for both Year 1 and Year 2. If it is lost and you need to purchase another, the cost is \$25.

Classrooms are technology free. No cell phone use is permitted. A \$25 donation to youth ministry will be required for youth who are using cell phones during Confirmation Classes.

Behavior Expectations: Our children are amazing, thoughtful, kind, and considerate. If there is a concern with student behavior, this will be addressed with the parent(s)/guardians. Concerns will be handled on a case by case basis.

Assignments

The following assignments will need to be completed the first semester of Confirmation Year 1. A paper copy will be sent home during the month of the assignment and an email reminder. Should you lose that copy, the file will be placed on the youth ministry website for you to print additional copies.

<https://ourladyrockwall.org/confirmationprep>

- Parent/Student Agreement (timeline/September)
- Sponsor Interview (timeline/October)
- Saint Biography (timeline/November)

Communications

Youth Ministry uses **Flocknotes** to communicate with families. If there is a weather cancellation, this is how we let you know. If there is an important parent reminder, this is how we communicate with families. You do not need to create an additional account with Flocknotes, but you will need to join my groups.

- TEXT OLOLRockwall to 84576
- Join Year 1 for Sunday if you are the Sunday Class.
- Join Year 1 for Wednesday if you are the Wednesday class.

Volunteers

If you are interested in being a classroom helper on Wednesdays or a Safety Monitor on Sunday, please let me know.

- Classroom helpers to help prepare the classroom.
- Safety Monitors to help with drop off and pick up, patrol classroom areas, HFC, parking lot, and grounds during your child's lesson.

Volunteer commitments include being here/80% attendance and committing to 10 hours of learning for yourself as an adult through classes here at the church, in addition to attending volunteer meetings. If you complete these requirements, youth ministry provides a "Pay it Forward" where your child's next year class fee ONLY will be waived. Class fees are \$65. Volunteers also have the benefit to register their children first. As a reminder, next year for 2nd year confirmation students, there is a class fee of \$65 and \$183 for the confirmation retreat, which is mandatory for all 2nd year confirmation students.