

Grade 7 Church Gathering Parent Update

Your children attended a 7th Grade Church Gathering during the first week of Religious Education. The session was divided into two parts.

Part 1 was a short presentation on the Confirmation packet for this year. Every section was explained in detail and the reason they were being asked to do each part was also included. You will notice that accommodations have been added throughout the packet this year due to the current covid pandemic.

Confirmation Packet (black folder)

There are three components:

1. **Green pages** contain the projects. The first project is about their Baptism, which is the starting point in Confirmation preparation. They are also asked to consider potential Confirmation sponsors at this early stage in the preparation to help them reflect on people they consider as role models. Spirit Night is a parent and child experience conducted by Deacon Tom Connolly. As a follow-up, every child must complete the project paper. Service requirements this year have been adjusted due to the pandemic. Service within the family is permitted along with any other safe service activity while restrictions are in place. All service must be documented by whomever is supervising the service. Ten hours are required.
2. **Gold Mass Reflections** include instructions and a sample of a Mass Reflection. Due to the pandemic concerns, while the obligation to attend Mass in person is still suspended, Sunday Mass Reflections from online or television Masses will be accepted; however, if and when the obligation to attend Mass in person is restored, any remaining Mass Reflections must be in person. The number of reflections has been reduced to six: three due in January and three in April.
3. **White Catholic Basics pages** provide basic prayer and information that Catholics should know. Information from the Basics Pages as well as information from the text series will be used in the final exam in April. Everyone should learn the Apostles Creed.

We discussed the importance of taking responsibility to be sure to submit all work on time and to keep copies of everything submitted to avoid any misunderstandings about work submission and outstanding assignments.

Part 2 of the Church Gathering was a presentation about the human dignity of every human person to help the children think about their own uniqueness and individual gifts and the importance of using those gifts with and for others. There was a homework assignment given to create a personal shield using words and images that represent their relationships with God, themselves, and others, as well as their talents, dreams/goals, and even aspirations. These shields were due on October 26th. The children were given an extra week to complete the assignment before any assignments were sent out from the textbooks. An instruction sheet was placed in the left pocket of their black folders along with special paper to do the assignment. If for some reason, someone missed the presentation, this assignment can be completed without having attended the session.

Please monitor your children's work and remind them to use their books to complete the online tests. The tests are first graded by the publisher and if the answer isn't the exact word from the book, the answer is marked wrong. So far, we have been checking the actual answers of anyone who did not pass a test to see if the problem was due to someone using a synonym of the answer the machine was expecting. In those cases, the grades have been changed to credit those answers.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any difficulties. Sacramental preparation under these circumstances is certainly presenting many challenges but we will get through it!

Thank you for your cooperation and support.