

To: 2019-20 St. Therese Confirmation Parents:

Welcome to an exciting and important Sacramental year! The Faith Formation program for your Confirmation Candidate will begin **Sunday, Septemberth at 7 pm with an informational meeting for students and parents** following the 5:30pm Sunday night Mass. An overview of the Confirmation process and requirements will be presented. Attendance is critical. The meeting will be held in the multipurpose room from 7:00-8:30pm.

Parent meetings: We have several parent sessions scheduled for this confirmation year. The sessions are scheduled during class time from 7-8:30pm. **At least one parent per confirmation student must attend these meetings.**

Parent involvement is an intricate part of the Confirmation process. We invite you to join your child and our catechist team on our journey. This process cannot happen without a lot of help from you!

Sunday Night Programming and FOOD: Confirmation programming begins at 6:30pm on Sunday nights following the 5:30 pm Mass, with dinner for our Confirmation students and High School Youth. All programs will end at 8:30pm. Gathering for dinner provides our students with important socialization time, and the sustenance they need to make it attentively through class! We will need a team of parents to coordinate the Sunday night meals. Please prayerfully consider helping in this area.

Confirmation Retreat: Our program requires two retreats during the Confirmation year. Attendance is mandatory. The fall retreat will be an all day retreat. The retreats are a lot of fun and no special training is required to help out. We will need plenty of parent chaperones at these events. **The date for the fall retreat is still in the works but the cost of the fall retreat is \$30.00.** This cost covers lunch, snacks, and materials for the retreat. **The date for our overnight retreat is still to be determined,** with a cost of \$175.00. Please see Carmen San Juan if these fees present a burden to your family.

Nursing Home Service Outings: We will be taking our Confirmation classes to the nursing home. This will count as 1.5 hours of their service requirement. **These trips will no longer be held during class time.** Each family will be responsible for getting their child to this event. Our students will run a bingo game for nursing home residents or do room visits. We will ask your child to please bring donations of cookies and/or small "bingo" prizes.

5th Street Ministries Service Outing: (9:15am-12:15pm on Sunday morning) We will be planning a service trip to 5th Street Ministries for each class. The students will receive a tour of the facility and will serve and visit with the clients of the shelter. Students will sign up in class to bring a main dish, vegetable, dessert, or bread to this outing, so we can provide lunch for 100 homeless people. Food should be prepared ahead of time, and ready to serve. We only have the capability to keep food warm at the mission kitchen.

Many other service opportunities will be presented throughout the year to help your child meet the required 20 hours of service.

Enclosed is a St. Therese Confirmation Policies Form, please sign this form and return no later than September 8th.

Regular Sunday mass attendance is the basis of this program, as our classroom discussion is based on the Scriptures of the week. If you don't plan to take part in the faith life of the Church, why bother with Confirmation? Sacraments are moments of initiation into a worshipping community (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), moments of commitment to service (Holy Orders, Matrimony) and moments of healing (Reconciliation, Sacrament of Healing). Sacraments taken without intent to participate in the life of the Church miss the whole point of the Sacrament. Attending Sunday Mass is one of the Precepts of the Church. "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (illness, care of infants) or dispensed by the pastor." CCC#2181

The Confirmation program stresses the importance of not only learning Christ's message, but also living it through service. We are honored by the opportunity to assist your student through this sacramental year, and know that your family, as the primary Catechists of these young people, will keep this ministry in your prayers.

See you on September 8th!

Sincerely,

Carmen San Juan, Director of Religious Education

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