

Saint Mary Faith Formation Office

Confirmation Program



Baptismal Information

- **ALL** candidates are required by Church law to provide proof of their baptism. If the candidate was baptized here at St. Mary, please fill out the baptismal information form this evening and hand it in before leaving. If the candidate was baptized in a church other than St. Mary, a copy of his/her baptismal record must be obtained from the parish in which he/she was baptized. This should be done before the first class, which will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2017.

Class Attendance

- Candidates are expected to attend **ALL** classes.
- In the event of an absence, it is the responsibility of the candidate to obtain the make-up assignment from his/her teacher.
- Candidates must come prepared to every class – this includes textbook, Bible, a notebook and a pen or pencil. **First Class will be held on Sunday, October 15th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.**

Rite of Enrollment Ceremony

- All candidates beginning preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation will participate in the *Rite of Enrollment* ceremony, to be held on **Sunday, October 22 at the 8:00 am and 10:30 am Masses.**
- Due to the size of the class, candidates will be divided alphabetically and assigned the Mass which they are to attend.
- All candidates are to assemble in the parish hall **NO LATER** than 7:30 am and 10:00 am respectively.
- A Bible will be presented to each candidate at this time.
- Appropriate dress is requested.

Mass Attendance

- All candidates are expected to attend Mass every Sunday and to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly.
- While **attendance at the monthly Teen Mass** (see calendar for dates) is **strongly encouraged**, candidates may attend the Mass of their choice.

Confirmation Sponsors

- Each sponsor must obtain a certificate from his/her own parish. Sponsors (including St. Mary parishioners) should call their parish secretary to make a request, which will then be forwarded to the sponsor's pastor for his approval. **ALL** certificates must be signed by the sponsor's pastor and handed in **BEFORE** the First Candidate/Sponsor Meeting, which is scheduled for year one candidates and their sponsors for November 12th during regular class time.
- **Going forward, it is now the policy of this program that high school students not act as sponsors. We ask that sponsors be 18 years of age or older.**
- Church law states that parents may not act as sponsors for their own children.

Confirmation Retreat

- Diocesan guidelines require that **ALL** confirmation candidates be provided 2 retreat experiences; one in their first year of preparations and one in their second year. The retreat for year one will be held here at St. Mary on January 28, 2018 from 10:30 am until 5:30 pm.
- NOTE: All candidates will attend the 10:30 am Mass
- Any student who misses this retreat will be responsible for finding another retreat provided in another parish and show proof of attendance in order to complete their preparations. **This is a mandatory element of the Confirmation program.**

Service Hours

- **ALL** candidates will be required to provide a total of 20 hours of service to the parish and to the community at large. Hours will be fulfilled on an individual and group level, with specific information to be provided by your child's catechist at a later time.
- **All service should be a new experience for the candidate.**
- Some examples of community service can be participation as an altar server (5 hours may be applied to the total required), hospital volunteer, school volunteer, soup kitchen volunteer, etc. Service hours must be approved by Mrs. Ferraiolo prior to the time the service is rendered. **Candidates may not submit hours provided to family members.**

Date for the Sacrament of Confirmation

- The date of Confirmation will be assigned to our parish by the Bishop's office at a later time. As soon as we receive word of the date – we will notify our families (2018).

Email Information

All families must provide us with an email address, as all correspondences – including updates, reminders and snow cancellations will be done via email.

For general questions, you can contact Laura Burgess in our faith formation office by email at stmaryportlandfaith@gmail.com or by phone at 860.342.2308.

For specific concerns, please contact the program director, Susan Ferraiolo, at stmaryportlanddre@gmail.com.