

6 August 2018

**Dear Parents of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class,**

I hope all is well! As you know, at Saint Peter Parish Confirmation is a two-year formation process. We concluded our first year of Confirmation preparation and, as we look towards Confirmation in the Spring of 2019, I wanted to share some information about year two of the program. The goal of these years of formation is not simply to prepare these young men and women for Confirmation, but to provide opportunities for them to grow in relationship with God and know God more fully as they prepare for the journey ahead.

**Extra-curricular activities and Reflections:**

As a reminder, over the two-year preparation period, all students preparing for Confirmation are asked to do:

- Service work– 5/year – 10 hours total
- 2 Events at the Parish, beyond Sunday Mass

After completing any specific event, students are asked to complete the “Service and Event” form (included in this letter and available on the Religious Education portion of the Parish Website). This reflection is simply intended to help our young people reflect on the importance of Christian service and participation in parish life.

If you need help identifying opportunities for these events, please see the parish bulletin, the Youth Ministry page, or contact me and I would be happy to help brainstorm some events. As a reminder, service work does not need to be completed with the parish. Any service work the young people do is wonderful, but they should still complete the service form. Reflections may be turned in to the Parish office (to the attention of Katie) or to Tom, our Youth Minister.

**Confirmation Date:**

The date and time of Confirmation is determined by the Bishop’s Office. Last time, we were notified about the date in late November. We anticipate Confirmation to take place in mid-Spring 2019. As soon as we know the date, we will communicate it to families.

**Candidate Information Sheet**

Included in this letter is the “Candidate Information Sheet,” which we ask all Confirmation Candidates to complete. This helps us organize all the information for the candidate, as well as providing an opportunity to reflect on selecting a patron Saint.

**Requirements of a Sponsor:**

Sponsors are men and women who know a Candidate and intend on helping the young person on their spiritual journey. A Sponsor must be a fully initiated, practicing Catholic in good standing, which means:

- ✓They should have the intention of performing the role of sponsor and be someone who takes his or her Catholic faith seriously
- ✓Confirmed Catholic who attends church regularly and lives in harmony with the faith

- ✓ Must be at least 16 years old
- ✓ A sponsor can not be the candidate's parent
- ✓ If married, the marriage must be a valid church marriage

Sponsors will need to obtain a "sponsor eligibility form" from their parish. These letters should be submitted to the Religious Education Office by Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. If the sponsor is a practicing parishioner at Saint Peter Parish, all you will need to do is submit his or her name.

When submitting a "sponsor eligibility form," please be sure to note your name on it, so we can match-up the correct form with the correct candidate.

**Baptismal Certificate:**

For those who were Baptized at Saint Peter Parish, we have your Baptismal information on record. If you were Baptized at a different parish, please contact that church and ask them to send a copy of the Baptismal certificate. Baptismal forms should be submitted by October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Retreats:**

There are two retreats this year for all 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation candidates.

**Fall Candidate/ Sponsor Retreat:** Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:45am at Saint Peter Church. This retreat is for Candidates and their Sponsors. Pastries, coffee and juice will be served at 9:30am and we will begin at 9:45am. It will conclude with the 11:30am Mass at St. Peter Church. This morning of recollection is intended to get sponsors and candidates talking about the Sacrament of Confirmation and a life of faith. If a sponsor is unable to attend, a proxy or "fill-in" should stand-in for the Sponsor.

**Spring Confirmation Retreat:** The date for this is TBD, and will be based on the date the Diocese sets for Confirmation. This retreat will be facilitated by Rock Catholic college students and will be held at another church in the Butler area. More details will follow about this retreat.

**Contact Information:**

I frequently send reminder and informational emails regarding such topics as upcoming retreats, meetings, and volunteer opportunities. If you have never received an email from me, please let me know. My email is [education@rockcatholic.org](mailto:education@rockcatholic.org) (Please note, several email providers, especially zoominternet, seem to send these group reminders to the "junk" mailbox.)

Hopefully this helps as you prepare for Confirmation in the Spring of 2019. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

**Dates to Remember:**

Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – 9:45am – St. Peter Church – Sponsor Retreat

Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> – 9:45-11:10am – Newman Center – Confirmation Formation Class (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>)

Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> – 9:45-11:10am – Newman Center – Confirmation Formation Class (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>)

Spring Retreat – Date and Location: TBD

Confirmation – Date TBD by Bishop's Office in the Fall

### Checklist for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

- \_\_\_\_\_ Regular Sunday Mass Attendance
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 Hours of Service Work (does not need to be completed with parish)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Events at the Parish (beyond Sunday Mass – i.e. adoration, stations of cross, fish fry)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Eligibility form (if sponsor is a practicing member of St. Peter Parish, just submit name)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Baptismal Certificate (if Baptized at St. Peter Parish, we have the record)

Peace,

Katie Boosel

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