

## **St. John Paul II - Confirmation Program**

Prompted by Archbishop Thompson's changes to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, we have reviewed our preparation program. We believe this new program will be beneficial to our youth in several ways:

- Provide opportunities to develop community with their peers
- Grow in their faith journey and learn to express their faith to others
- Help youth deepen their relationship with Jesus and grow as disciples

Youth can start the program at any time after graduating eighth grade and throughout high school. Once all requirements are met, youth may be confirmed at the next Confirmation Mass that SJPII participates in.

The provided Tracking Sheet of requirements must be completed and turned into Dawn or Kristina in order to participate in the celebration of the next Confirmation mass.

### **The following Criteria must be met:**

- To begin the program a letter from the youth needs to be sent to Fr. Tom via email at [tclegg@stjohnpaulparish.org](mailto:tclegg@stjohnpaulparish.org) with the subject Confirmation Letter and attached as a word document. The letter must address the following questions:
  - What do you think Confirmation is?
  - What do you like about your parish?
  - What's your favorite Bible story that involves Jesus and why?
  - Where have or where do you see God in your life?
  - How often do you go to mass (when and where)?
  - Don't forget to put your name, grade, and school.
- Dawn or Kristina will contact the youth to meet with the parents and youth after Fr. Tom receives the letter.
  - Registration Form, Sponsor Form, Baptism Form with Certificate (unless baptized at SJP, SP or SJH) are due at the meeting along with the registration fee of \$30 to cover program costs.
  - Youth will receive a Tracking Sheet and Mass Journal to complete the program. Dawn and Kristina will not track youth's progress.
  - Formation opportunities for parents to empower them as the primary educators of their children will be discussed as well.
- Attend the Sacrament of Reconciliation at a Penance Service or privately with Fr. Tom.
- Youth are expected to attend Mass on a regular basis (a great time for sponsors or parents to discuss the readings or their faith with the youth after mass in the car). Youth must record their attendance at 40 masses before celebrating Confirmation. This will be done with a mass journal, which will include instructions.
- Attend one confirmation retreat day hosted by CYO Camp Rancho Framasa or the New Albany Deanery YM (payment made by parents directly to CYO Camp or NADYM Office).

- Small Group –Youth will be assigned a small group and small group leader. Youth will be expected to attend all sessions scheduled. If two or more small group sessions are missed, they will need to join the next group session starting up. Small group meeting dates will be set by the group at the first session. Small groups will last anywhere between 2 and 6 months (starting in August 2018). Small Group sessions will follow this format: First Fifteen, video/intro, discussion, closing prayer (each youth picks a session to lead closing prayer – assigned at first session). The order of small group topics is listed below:
  - Intro Session- meet/greet, Where have you been?, set session dates as group
  - Where are you now?, Where do you want to get to?
  - How are you going to get to where you want to go?, How will you know you've arrived?
  - Sacraments – living a sacramental life
  - Mass – discuss why we do and say what we do
  - Creed (Q/A Session)
  - Who is the Holy Spirit? (Scripture/images)
  - Virtues and Gifts of the Holy Spirit
  - Fruits of the Holy Spirit
  - Discipleship as a way of life
- With Your Sponsor-
  - Meet with Dawn or Kristina to go over expectations, get Confirmation Youth-Sponsor booklet and discuss goals (can be done with conference call for sponsors out of town)
  - Complete Sponsor Interview Worksheet
  - Complete Sponsor Conversations using the booklet
  - Write Saint Paper and submit to Dawn or Kristina (criteria explained at meeting)
  - Invite sponsor to do service day with you if available
- Service-
  - Participate in one of two service days hosted by our parish. Parish Service Day will be held in the spring, YM Service Day in the fall. Registration is required with Dawn.
  - Participate in two of four of the following parish events (work at least one full shift):
    - Breakfast with Santa (first Saturday of December)
    - Men's Club Fish Fry (on Fridays during Lent, except Good Friday)
    - Turkey Shoot (first Sunday in October)
    - Parish Annual Raffle (usually in May or June)
- Write Letter to Bishop and turn in with completed tracking sheet. Criteria for Letter to Bishop will be distributed to youth at the second to last small group session.