

# Welcome to the new Confirmation Process



# New Process Overview

- Previously
  - 3 year process - Student automatically enrolled
  - 1-2 Annual Retreats
  - 2 Annual Sessions
  - Annual Service Hours
- New Process
  - 1 Year Process - Students must apply
    - May apply in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, or 11<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Will Meet Monthly with Mentors as a small group
  - Will attend 2 “Discipleship Events” as a small group
  - Will complete 1 Service Project, either individually or as a group.

# Expectations for Students

- Teens are expected to be
  - Attending Sunday Mass
  - Attending Religious Ed OR Catholic School
  - Willing to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ
  - Willing to continue to continue to practice the faith.
- This process will be INDEPENDENT of Religious Education or Religion Classes held at Catholic School
  - Material about the Sacrament of Confirmation will be presented in ALL classes this year (only 8<sup>th</sup> grade in future years)

# Steps in the Process - Mentor Meetings

## Regular Small Group Mentor Meetings

- These will be held once a month during the normal Sunday Religious Education times.
- Students will meet in small groups with assigned mentors to talk about how they are growing in their faith.
- Mentors will assist students in choosing Saints, Sponsors, etc.
- Mentors will assist students in other steps of the confirmation process as small groups
- Mentors will be a resource to Parents through the process.

# Steps in the Process - Discipleship Events

As part of mentor meetings, the small groups will choose TWO Catholic events over the course of the year to attend as a group.

Young people are free to choose events that interest them

After attendance, the small group will reflect on the event at the mentor meetings.

## Examples of Discipleship Events

*(Events should typically be at least 3 hours total)*

- Diocesan Men's Conference
- Diocesan Women's Conference
- SHYCON
- St Joseph Triduum
- St Patrick Triduum
- Infant of Prague Novena

# Steps in the Process - Service Project

Young People will be responsible for a service project.

This service can be done with their mentor small group, or individually

- **Project should be**
  - **Personal:**
    - Something that the individual or the group is personally meaningful to the group
  - **Substantial:**
    - Should be more than just raking leaves or folding chairs, it should be something meaningful to the person or group the service is for.
  - **Recorded:**
    - Students will submit a 1-page proposal including
      - Who is involved in the project
      - What the goal of the project is
      - What kind of work the group would do to achieve their goal

# Steps in the Process - Evaluation

In January of each term, the Confirmation Team (Pastor, DRE, and Mentor) will meet to determine readiness of the young people for confirmation

Young people will have a meeting with the Pastor/DRE/Mentor to approve their readiness or to talk about deferring the sacrament and a potential plan forward.

Falling short on any of these may lead to deferral:

- Regular attendance at Mentor small groups
- Active Participation in the process
- Attending Discipleship Events (or having clear plans to attend)
- Regular attendance at Sunday Mass
- Regular participation in Religious Ed/School Religion class

# Am I ready to apply to be confirmed

Not every young person is ready to be confirmed in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Consider some of the following questions from the worksheet.

If a young person is not ready to be confirmed, there is no obligation to take part in the process at this time.

If they do not feel ready within their high school years, the same process is available in our college campus ministry programs.

**NO YOUNG PERSON SHOULD FEEL PRESSURED TO BE CONFIRMED**

# How to I apply for the process

- Fill out the “Commitment to Discipleship Form”
- Letter of Introduction
  - Young Person writes a simple letter of introduction to the pastor expressing your intention to seek the sacrament of confirmation and why they feel they are ready to be confirmed.
  - Letters will be sent to their PASTOR

LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 15  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
CONFIRMATION PROCESS THAT YEAR