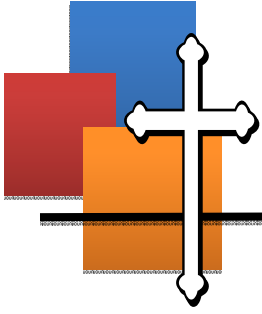


Saint Catharine's Parish Religious Education Program



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MEMO: To Parents of the 2011-2012 Confirmation Candidates

From: Audrey Angelini

Date: August 9, 2011

Subject: Confirmation Preparation Program

I just wanted to inform you and your children about the Confirmation preparation program here at St. Catharine's...especially since there have been a few changes in recent years and a few more changes are in the works.

First, let me emphasize that Confirmation preparation is the beginning not the end, of the spiritual journey upon which your child is embarking. It is the last of the Sacraments of Initiation, marking the beginning of full membership in the faith community. Over the last few years, the catechists and I have noticed that our students have become increasingly disenchanted with the catechetical process. The popular culture has secularized our young people to a disturbing extent. So, we in the Parish Religious Education Program have had to adapt to meet this challenge.

A few years ago, we began the process by requiring that students turn in an attendance card at Mass every Sunday. Obviously, all baptized Catholics 7 years of age and older are both obliged and privileged to attend Mass each Sunday and holyday of obligation, but we thought it particularly important to emphasize this fact during sacramental preparation years.

This coming year, we are planning on instituting a program of three Communion breakfasts for our Confirmation candidates and an important adult in their lives. This could be a sponsor, a parent, a grandparent or another positive influence in their lives. It needn't even be the same adult at each Communion breakfast. We would require that on these particular Sundays, all students attend the 9:15 Mass with their adult guest, after which we would serve a breakfast in the gym. Following breakfast, there would be a short program of prayer, instruction and faith-sharing. We are planning on one Sunday in November, one in January and one in March. The topics would include Commitment and Role of the Sponsor, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and finally, Discipleship in the Real World. It is our hope that by providing a forum for the candidates to explore their faith, guided by those adults who love them most, they will come to a clearer understanding of their own need to form a strong relationship with God. You are the most important role models in your children's lives. We in the catechetical ministry of the parish see these Communion Breakfasts as a way of recognizing and capitalizing upon your central place in the spiritual formation process.

+ BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF FAITH WHERE WE FEEL LOVED AND RESPECTED. +

Saint Catharine's Parish Religious Education Program

There will be one further innovation, though this will take place during class time. To prepare the young people to take responsibility for their own prayer lives, we will be exposing them each month to a different prayer form. It is our hope that as they "try on" different prayer "styles," they will find several that will be a "good fit" as they grow in age, in grace and in wisdom.

Our program continues to be a work in progress with our goal to share our faith with our young adults in a way that is innovative and interesting. We will continue to provide opportunities for our candidates to grow in their faith at retreats, outings, trips and by providing special guest speakers who are master catechists in their chosen ministries. We pray that with continued family support our youth will find a conscious awareness of the Holy Spirit, and will want to continue the Lord's work after they have been confirmed.

We look forward to working with you and your children in the coming year. May it be a grace-filled year for us all.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Audrey Angelini, CRE

We are very fortunate to have obtained a date for the Sacrament of Confirmation on a Saturday. Many parishes have been forced to offer the sacrament on a weekday evening. Please mark your calendars and save the date:

Confirmation Date – Saturday, April 14, 2012