

September 30, 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

You have elected to register your son/daughter for St. Agnes Christian Formation program this year. When registering your son/daughter it is stated that our Confirmation program is a two-year program. This preparation for Confirmation starts in 8th grade and the student will be confirmed with the completion of 9th grade studies. It includes weekly catechesis, weekly celebration of the Eucharist, service to others, and spending time with God in prayer. Below is a list of other expectations. Remember, these “assignments” are designed to support our students in their desire to know, love, and serve our wonderful God while helping to prepare them for reception of the Sacrament.

This process for being confirmed in the Spirit is a commitment from the parish, support from parents and a commitment from the student that wishes to be confirmed.

WEEKLY CELEBRATION of MASS and RECEIVING the EUCHARIST – FOOD for the JOURNEY:

Just as God fed manna to Moses and the Israelites on their journey to the Promised Land, the student candidates and their parents will need spiritual nourishment for their journey. God provides this through the weekly celebration of Mass and reception of the Eucharist. Weekly attendance at Mass is a critical component in the preparation process.

INSTRUCTION – ONGOING THROUGHOUT the TWO-YEAR PROCESS:

Instruction for students who attend St. Agnes Christian Formation Program will gather for 19 class sessions (**class attendance is also a requirement in the program. If a student misses more than 3 classes they must make up additional unscheduled classes. These make-up classes will be determined before June 2, 2018**). Our 8th grade students will be using “LifeTeen”. They will be in a combined class with our 6th and 7th grade students. Our 9th grade students will be using “Chosen”, a journey towards Confirmation. Each of these programs challenges them to grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith and their personal relationship with God.

PRAYER ASSIGNMENT:

Each student will be given a backpack journal for teens, “Finding God in Prayer”. There will be weekly pages to complete prior to that week's class. This journal will be kept with the student for two years.

SERVICE to the PARISH and COMMUNITY:

Acknowledging and developing our God-given talents is an ongoing part of our individual faith journeys. Using these talents in the service of others is why we were created and what God calls us to do. During Confirmation preparation, we focus on gaining a deeper understanding of how we can help our parish and community. Candidates are required to complete each year 10 hours of community services and 5 hours of parish services (a total of 20 hours for community and 10 hours for parish in the two year preparation for Confirmation). Students are to record each service in journal binder with reflection form filled out as well. * see service tab

Students will be provided opportunities throughout the year to fulfill their requirements through community services that the Christian Formation Program will provide (such as the Christmas tree wrapping and Thanksgiving basket).

RETREATS:

8th grade students are required to attend 1 retreat (date to be determined). If student is unable to attend that they are responsible to find one that they can attend.

9th grade students are required to attend 2 retreats. A Confirmation retreat our diocese is providing which is scheduled for November 12th in Plattsburg. If student is unable to attend that they are responsible to find one that they can attend to and a parish retreat in May (date to be determined).

CHOOSING a SPONSOR:

Choosing your sponsor is one of the most important decisions that students will make during the preparation process. It requires discernment and prayer. A sponsor needs to be willing and able to make the faith journey with the candidate. The sponsor will be required to obtain a Letter of eligibility from the home parish. * see attachment tab

LETTER to the PASTOR:

Each 8th grade student is required to write a short letter to the Pastor. The parents' guidance and instruction should be given while preparing rough drafts at home. * see attachment tab

LETTER to the BISHOP:

Each 9th grade student is required to write a letter to the Bishop who will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation. * see attachment tab

CHOOSING a CONFIRMATION NAME:

Candidates are required to choose a Saint's name to become their Confirmation name. This person should be someone that they want to emulate. Students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the Saint and share their reasoning for choosing that person. Several options to choose from: a 1 page paper (12 Font), a presentation in front of your class, a PowerPoint presentation, etc. In discerning their Confirmation name, student will be required to report on the saint. * [see attachment tab](#)

If student is unable to fulfill these obligations he or she might consider Confirmation in their 10th year.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us preparing our youth here at St. Agnes for a fruitful everlasting relationship and journey in the faith.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father John Yonkovic, Pastor

RoseAnn Hickey, Catechist

Mrs. Marcia Bugbee, DRE