

ST MATTHEW PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Attend preparation classes on Sunday evenings from 7:15 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. Attendance will be a factor for consideration for Confirmation. Students may not miss more than 3 classes.
- 2) Choose a sponsor. (See Parent/Sponsor Involvement below).
- 3) Candidates may choose a special saint's name for Confirmation or retain his/her baptismal name. Throughout the scriptures, names have had great importance. Both Jews and early Christians felt that a person's name carries a special meaning and influences an individual's life. It is for this reason that we take special names at Baptism and Confirmation. The Confirmation name is only 1 name, unless the chosen saint's name requires 2 or 3 names, as in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.
- 4) Candidates are required to complete a **Confirmation Form** and provide a **copy of their original baptism certificate** before they can be confirmed. This information is kept as part of the permanent records at St. Matthew Parish and is also forwarded to the church of baptism to be kept as part of their records. **THESE FORMS NEED TO BE TURNED IN BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH.**
- 5) Candidates need to receive the sacrament of Penance prior to receiving the sacrament of Confirmation.

MANDATORY DATES AND FUNCTIONS

There are five functions that are considered mandatory for the parish confirmation program. If you have a problem with any of the dates or times listed below, please contact the Youth Ministry Office at 478-5011, and we will try to help you in any way that we can.

- 1) **PARENT AND CANDIDATE MEETING ON Sunday, September 16 at 7:15 P.M.** in the McDonald Family Center.
- 2) The **Rite of Welcome** for candidates on Sunday, **October 14, at the 6:00 P.M. mass.** Sponsors do not have to attend, but are welcome to do so. Candidates will be presented as a group and will ask the support of the parish during the candidates' time of preparation. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.
- 3) The **Rite of Election** on Sunday, **January 13 at 7:15 P.M.** in the church, following the 6:00 P.M. mass. It is necessary that a sponsor, or parent, or another adult accompanies the candidate. Each candidate will be presented by his/her sponsor/parent and the candidate will sign his/her name in the Inscription Book as a sign of willingness to continue the Confirmation process. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.
- 4) **Day of Reflection.** Either the sponsor, or a parent, or another confirmed adult needs to attend with the candidate. Please **see the attached explanation** for the Day of Reflection.
- 5) **Confirmation practice.** Only the candidates need to attend. **DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED.**

Parent/Sponsor Involvement

- 1) Sponsor can be the candidate's godparent, a close relative, or a person whom the candidate feels that he/she can call on for spiritual guidance. Sponsor must be a confirmed Catholic. **PARENTS CANNOT BE SPONSORS (AS PER CANON LAW).**
- 2) Parents are asked to keep in mind that their candidate will be looking to them first to be an influence in their attitude toward Christian living.

Confirmation Liturgy

- 1) The liturgy will be the highlight of the Confirmation program. Every effort will be made to make this liturgy special. As soon as we have a definite date, you will be notified. Candidate and sponsors will meet in the Parish Hall one hour before the service begins. Again, **DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED SOMETIME AFTER JANUARY.**
- 2) A reception will follow the ceremony in the McDonald Family Center.

Community Involvement

In preparation to receive the sacrament, candidates are required to complete some type of Christian service project before they are confirmed. This service can be anything that is of benefit to another person, the community, or their parish. Several candidates may want to join together for this project. Youth Group does a special project every Christmas with the El Carmen Mission. There is no particular amount of hours that need to be completed. Just a project approved by Michelle Weekley, the Youth Ministry Director.

Although the high school retreats are not mandatory for Confirmation candidates, candidates are urged to attend. The Fall retreat is scheduled for October 5-7, with the Spring retreat to be announced. The retreats provide a time to look at the individual's relationship with their God, and also those family members and friends that are such a vital part of their lives.