

Dear Parents,

We are excited that your son or daughter is taking part in the Confirmation Preparation process with us this year at Holy Trinity Parish. We are blest to be a part of your child's faith journey, and hope that we can help prepare them for a lifelong and lasting friendship with God!

Your child will receive a copy of the text, Decision Point. Throughout the course of the year, we encourage your child to come to each class prepared which will entail reading a few selected pages out of the text. Some classes there will be more required reading than other classes, but the reading is generally enjoyable and will help your child be prepared to participate in the following class. On the following dates are the reading requirements:

October 7th

- Session 1: Choices
- Session 7: The Eucharist
- Session 9: The Church

November 4th

There is no required reading for this session

December 2nd

- Session 2: What's Holding You Back
- Session 3: The Jesus Question
- Session 4: The Prayer Process
- Session 5: The Bible

January 6th

- Session 9: The Church

February 3rd

- Session 8: The Holy Spirit
- Session 6: Relationships, Session 10: Confirmation

March 3rd

- Session 10: Confirmation
- Session 11: Made for Mission
- Session 12: Holiness is Possible

In addition to reading the short sessions, we still request that you meet with your sponsor on a monthly basis. Forming a good relationship with your sponsor is critical to your Confirmation process. The purpose of your sponsor is to have someone who would walk with you and guide you on your faith journey, so making sure that you are meeting regularly with them (through face-to-face contact, phone contact, facetime, or e-mail... you name it, as long as you are having contact!) Although I think it speaks for itself that face-to-face contact is preferable, any of the other venues will work as well!

This year, if you have been a sponsor before or have had a child go through our preparation process before, you will notice that some things have changed in the process. Prior to this year, each month there was required homework that the candidate had to complete with their sponsor and turn in monthly. There will still be homework to turn in, but it will be based primarily instead on their service projects.

This year for service each of the youth is asked to choose **one** service to work on for the entire year with their sponsor. This can be a variety of things. One example would be working at a soup kitchen. They could do this continuously throughout the year. Another could be visiting nursing homes. A third could be working to clean up cemeteries, etc., etc. The project that you choose is not as important as making sure the project is a good fit and that you are able to really participate in it well. Each month you and your sponsor should be doing something to further your choice of service.

Your assignments will look like the following, along with the required reading outlined above. See the attached worksheets to complete the assignments.

By October 7th

- Choose a service that you can do for the entire year. Complete the works of mercy and how it pertains. Discuss with your sponsor, how this service is in-line with the Parish Mission Statement and also how they fulfill each of the Works of Mercy.

November 4th

- By this class, you should have started working on your service with your sponsor. Complete research on your area of service. Discuss what the problem is, what has been done effectively to help in the past, what has not been effective in the past to help, and what you think could help with the service.

December 2nd

- By this class, you should still be working on your service with your sponsor. Talk to someone who regularly works with the program you are working with or someone who works with a similar program. Ask them questions about how the program operates and what are benefits and disappointments in working with the particular program.

January 6th

- By this class, you should still be working on your service with your sponsor. Discuss the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they are helpful in completing this service.

February 3rd

- By this class, you should still be working on your service with your sponsor. Create a poster- either hand drawn or computer generated and of any size- that could alert others to the service you are doing, why there is a need and how they can help.

March 3rd

- By this class, you should still be working on your service project with your sponsor, but what is also due is your Saint's Paper and Letter to Father Paul.

In addition, this year the Diocese of Toledo has implemented some changes to enhance the Confirmation Preparation Process. These come in the form of hosting parent sessions so that parents are learning about Confirmation at the same time as their child. Although most of us have been through the Confirmation process already, it has been years since we have done it and it is a good refresher course for all of us so that we can best fully help our child through the process.

The parent meetings will take place during regular PSR time in the cafeteria (unless otherwise noted). These will include watching informational films about Confirmation and discussing it with other families who have children getting confirmed. The dates for these parent sessions are as follows:

- November 4th
- December 2nd

- January 6th
- February 3rd
- March 3rd

Your student's classes will take place on the first Sunday of the month **following** regular PSR class for one hour (10: 45 a.m.- 11: 45 a.m.).

In addition, please note the retreat for our students is the Back to Heartland Junior High retreat taking place in February.

If you ever have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to contact me and thank you so much for allowing your child to participate, and allowing us to take this step on their faith journey with them!

Elizabeth Wurm
Holy Trinity