

CONFIRMATION ENCOUNTER PROGRAM

Igniting a Fire and Leading Teens Closer to Christ

ENCOUNTER OVERVIEW

*The Confirmation Program at St. Agatha Parish is designed to give teenagers a real and intimate **ENCOUNTER** with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Candidates experience God through the teachings of the Catholic Church in a dynamic and engaging environment.*

SESSIONS

*Over the course of the 2 year program, candidates participate in 7 sessions each year that occur approximately once a month. Sessions cover an overview of many crucial topics of the Church and Her teachings. Each Session is held on a **Sunday Night from 6-8 pm in the Gathering Space** (dinner included). Please see the schedule for all dates.*

RETREATS

Each year Confirmation candidates will participate in a retreat. For year 1, this retreat will be an on-site day long retreat and for year 2, this retreat will be an off-site weekend long retreat. This will be an incredible experience for candidates to grow closer to God and their peers.

YEAR 1 RETREAT: APRIL 6

YEAR 2 RETREAT: MAY 3-5

CONFIRMATION MASS

All Confirmation Candidates will be initiated into the Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation during a Mass at the end of their second year. A rehearsal will be held sometime the week prior. Date selections or changes will be made later in the year. The following will be the Confirmation Mass Dates for this year:

TUESDAY, MAY 21 AT 7 PM AT ST. AGATHA PARISH

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 AT 7 PM AT ST. AGATHA PARISH

ENCOUNTER POLICIES & REQUIREMENTS

ABSENCE POLICY

Attendance is mandatory for all sessions of both years in order to receive the Sacrament. Valid excuses will be accepted for 1-2 sessions of the year. Because this is not a class but rather an encounter, there will be no make-up work. Make-up's will be in the form of youth group or other youth program event attendance, and will be determined by the Youth Minister depending on the situation.

MASS ATTENDANCE

Although Mass attendance is always expected of practicing Catholics, attendance is required of all Confirmation Candidates. Confirmation Candidates are highly recommended to attend the 5 pm Youth Mass. If you have trouble getting your child to Mass and need help, please contact Youth Minister, Helen Bornhorst.

SERVICE REQUIREMENT

Service is a huge part of our Catholic Faith and helps us display the love of God to others. Confirmation Candidates are highly encouraged to participate in service outreach through St. Agatha Parish. Because of the large number of service hours that almost all Confirmation Candidates must complete for their High School requirement, St. Agatha's Confirmation Program does not currently require any service hours, but does provide opportunities for service throughout the year.

YOUTH GROUP

*As a way to plug into the Young Catholic Community and encounter Jesus on a more intimate level, **Confirmation Candidates are required to attend 2 youth group night's per year.***

CONFIRMATION POINTS

*In order to provide opportunity for a deeper encounter with God and connect Candidates with other Catholic Youth, a new system of Confirmation Points has been implemented. All youth program activities and Church ministries can be used for points in addition to external events. In order to receive credit, you must either sign-in at the event or fill out and get signed the Confirmation Point Form. **Candidates must acquire 25 points for each year of the program.** The list of some point values is by no means exhaustive. Anything of a spiritual nature that is not being used as service hours and provides an opportunity for Catholic community and an encounter with God can be used. If you are unsure if it will count, please contact the Youth Minister, Helen Bornhorst.*

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Each Confirmation Candidate will pick a Confirmation Sponsor to walk alongside them in their faith journey. In accordance with Canon Law, a Sponsor can be any confirmed, practicing member of the Catholic Church in good standing (but cannot be a parent or legal guardian). A Sponsor should be someone who is a strong witness to the Catholic faith who has an ongoing relationship with the Candidate and can communicate the importance of having a deep relationship with God.

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Name of the Confirmation Sponsor

Signature of Sponsor Confirming their Baptism and Confirmation

Signature of Sponsor Confirming that they are in Good Standing with the Church

CONFIRMATION SAINT

Each Confirmation Candidate will pick a Saint who they believe serves as a role model to them. Candidates are required to write why they chose that Saint in their Letter Requesting Confirmation.

LETTER REQUESTING CONFIRMATION

During Spring of their second year, Confirmation Candidates will write a brief letter addressing why they chose their Confirmation Saint and Sponsor in addition to why they want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

ENCOUNTER SESSION DATES

All sessions are held Sunday Night's from 6 to 8 pm (dinner included).

YEAR 1

Oct. 21
Nov. 18
Dec. 16
Jan. 27
Mar. 3
Mar. 24
Apr. 28

YEAR 2

Oct. 14
Nov. 4
Dec. 2
Jan. 13
Feb. 10
Mar. 10
Apr. 7

“WERE NOT OUR HEARTS BURNING WITHIN US WHILE HE TALKED WITH US ON THE ROAD AND OPENED THE SCRIPTURES TO US?”

LUKE 24:32

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 18

Remaining Baptismal Certificates Due

DECEMBER 2

Year 2 Confirmation Sponsor Form Due

DECEMBER 16

Rite of Entrance Mass for Year 1 Candidates, *Sunday 5 pm Mass, St. Agatha Parish*

FEBRUARY 10

Year 2 Saint Information Due

APRIL 6

Year 1 Confirmation Retreat, *St. Agatha Parish*

APRIL 7

Confirmation Year 2 Retreat Permission Slips Due

APRIL 28

Year 1 Confirmation Sponsor Form Due

MAY 1

Year 2 Letter Requesting Confirmation & Confirmation Points Due

MAY 3-5, FRIDAY NIGHT-SUNDAY

Year 2 Confirmation Retreat, *Camp Fatima - Gilmanton Iron Works, New Hampshire*

TBD, MAY

Confirmation Rehearsals

MAY 21, TUESDAY

Confirmation Mass 1, *7 pm St. Agatha Parish*

MAY 22, WEDNESDAY

Confirmation Mass 2, *7 pm St. Agatha Parish*

JUNE 1

Year 1 Confirmation Points Due