

## REQUIREMENTS / COMPONENTS OF THE CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

### CALENDAR/ATTENDANCE

The Confirmation Program Calendar included in this booklet lists all the meetings, Youth Masses and the required retreat date for the entire program. **THESE DATES ARE IMPORTANT!** Meetings are from 6-8 PM in Church/Ross Hall. Please check the schedule for exact dates. Preparation for Confirmation demands participation just as sports, band, or any other activity. Therefore, I implore you to make these time commitments a **top priority** to truly prepare for the celebration of confirmation. **If a candidate misses a class, a make-up project will be assigned and due by the next session. If more than one class is missed, the candidate will then be asked to come before the team to discuss the importance of the sacrament of Confirmation and whether or not it is a priority to the candidate.**

### COMMUNITY

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the completion of one's initiation into the parish community and the community of the universal church. It is vital that there be an active involvement from the candidate in experiencing these communities. So the Candidate can have a sense of belonging as an adult Catholic in the St. Pius X Community, but more importantly the Roman Catholic Church. The **required** experiences are as follows:

#### **Retreat Experience**

**All candidates are required to make the retreat experiences during their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.** A retreat is taking time away to reflect, learn, pray, and discern how God is calling an individual. Jesus did not begin His ministry until He had taken time to be with God, His Father, and to face the temptations that were all around Him in the world in which He lived. The teens have the same opportunity to get away and to spend some special time with God and each other. As noted on the Confirmation calendar the **Confirmation Retreat will be on April 18, 2009.** This is a required experience. If there is a conflict with these dates please discuss your situation with Father Jerry and Angie Hyre as soon as possible.

## **REGISTRATION**

A Registration form needs to be filled out completely for a candidate to be registered in the program. A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate is needed, if they were not baptized at St. Pius X and didn't receive First Holy Communion here. **All certificates and records are due no later than the second session, September 14, 2008.**

## **INSTRUCTION**

Our instruction component will occur by means of large group, small groups, guest speakers, and reflection experiences as well as individual and group service opportunities.

## **SERVICE HOURS**

A successful Confirmation candidate is one who participates in service opportunities and, when fully initiated into the community of faith, continues to serve God and the people of God. Candidates for Confirmation explore how a fully initiated member in the parish serves the Lord and others. To provide that experience the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has set a goal of **30 hours** of service. You will find a Service Booklet in this Confirmation packet along with a service hour log.

Be sure to log your service hours in the Service Journal and log sheet provided. Please be responsible and turn in by the **April 18, 2009** due date.

## **WORSHIP**

The candidate is highly encouraged to develop a consistent worship practice by regularly attending mass together as a family or with the sponsor, and implementing prayer into daily lives by praying together. Each candidate is asked to attend the monthly Youth Mass here at St. Pius X, which is at 5 PM on the second Sunday of each month before the Confirmation sessions.

## HOW DO I CHOOSE A CONFIRMATION SPONSOR?

Every candidate is required to choose a sponsor. **THIS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY!** The sponsor serves as a witness on behalf of the faithful of the Catholic Church. The person you select will serve as your **mentor** and **friend**. Your Sponsor should be someone who will support and encourage you during your preparation, at the confirmation celebration, and in your faith life. This person should not be your parent. This person will need to be present for the Rite of Enrollment (the **November 9, 2008** at the 5:00 p.m. Youth Mass), the sponsor session and the **Confirmation Ceremony (May 3, 2009)**. Here are some simple guidelines for choosing a sponsor:

Talk to your parents about who can best support you during and after the Confirmation preparation.

Consider a person you know who is a **Christian role model**, who truly lives the Good News.

All sponsors are asked to be 18 years of age. If they are between 16 – 18 years of age, they will need to speak with the Youth Minister, Angie Hyre.

Consider a person who **teaches others through their own example** of Catholic Christian living.

Consider a person who knows you and is **available to listen and talk** to you about your concerns and questions about your faith and the Church.

Consider a person who will be **willing to make the commitment** to be with you at this time and beyond the celebration.

Pray about your decision. With God's help, you and your sponsor can be great **spiritual friends**.

A sponsor needs to be an **active member of the Catholic Church** and has been fully initiated through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

**Note:** *According to the Church's Code of Canon Law (canons 872-873), parents are not eligible to be sponsors for their own son or daughter. The ministry of the parent and the ministry of the sponsor are intended to be two separate and distinct ministries.*

Consider choosing one of your Godparents as a Confirmation sponsor. A relative might be an appropriate choice, if he or she lives within a reasonable distance. Another choice may be a parishioner, teacher, or a friend's parent. To help share this journey with the Candidate, the sponsor and candidate are asked to attend the classes together. Understanding the busy lives we lead, if a sponsor is unable to attend a class we ask that an adult close to the candidate attend. As a component of the program, we do ask the sponsor and candidate to reflect on the class experience at the end of the night. So each candidate will need an adult to be present for this portion of the class.

## **WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS?**

“The initiation of children into the sacramental life is for the most part the responsibility and concern of Christian parents. They are to form and gradually develop a spirit of faith in their children, and with the help of the catechetical institutions, prepare them for the fruitful reception of the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. The responsibility of parents is also shown by their active participation in the celebration of the sacraments.” (Rite of Confirmation, No. 3)

Some possible ways to support your teen in the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation are:

- Read the Confirmation Handbook with your teen.
- Encourage your teen to participate in all Confirmation sessions.
- Participate in Confirmation activities and programs.
- Be a Christian role model.
- Assist your teen in selecting service projects.
- Demonstrate the importance of the sacraments in your own life.
- Assist your teen in choosing a Confirmation sponsor.
- Support the Confirmation sponsor and maintain contact with them.
- Pray for all confirmation candidates.
- Discuss with your teen the progress of the confirmation preparation.
- Attend Youth Ministry activities with your teen and offer to assist.
- Read Scripture with your teen and pray with them.