

Holy Family Catholic Church

Confirmation

Pass Christian, MS

September 3, 2020

Dear Parents:

Your eleventh grade child will be celebrating their Confirmation this year. This is a benchmark time for their faith formation and a very important sacrament as they prepare to go out into the world after high school. As part of their faith and spiritual development in preparation for this they will need to attend the parish's **Lifeteen** program *weekly* beginning in September. This applies to **both** public school **and** catholic school students.

The **Lifeteen** program is on **Sunday evenings** beginning with the **5:00 p.m. Mass**, (we started up on 9/13) followed by different dynamic activities from **6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** in the Youth Ministry building. (Please see enclosure for more info.) An **informational meeting** for parents outlining the requirements for Confirmation (attendance, retreat and sponsors, etc.) will be held on **Sunday, September 27th at 4:00 p.m.** in the church meeting room. In November a formal **Rite of Transition** will be celebrated by the new Confirmation class of 2020 at the **5:00 p.m. Mass Sunday, November 1st**. The teens should be there for 4:30 p.m. properly dressed for this special Mass.

The diocesan requirements; in addition to the weekly activities required by our Parish are:

* **Ministry/discipleship hours** (more on this at the Parent meeting); This should be started on as soon as possible and not left to the last minute. The teens are being encouraged to find a church ministry that appeals to them and is in line with their gifts and talents to *regularly* participate in.

* The selection of their **Saint's name** for Confirmation

* Selection of a **Sponsor** for Confirmation (must be at least 18 and a *regular practicing* Catholic and preferably not a sibling. God parents are great!)

* A **letter written to the Bishop** about what they understand about Confirmation, why they wish to receive this sacrament and PARTICULARLY what they have learned about discipleship through their Ministry Service Hours (they will be enlightened about this during the class sessions)

* The **Rite of Covenant** on January 17th at the 5:00 p.m. Mass

* Regular faithful attendance at **Lifeteen**/Confirmation classes beginning in January on Wednesday evenings. More to follow on that.

* Attendance at a **Retreat** usually held in late February or March.

We do realize that teens have a multitude of events going on during this 11th grade year. We appreciate this and value their time and we are able to work with the teens to a certain extent when other activities conflict. It is their responsibility to let us know when they cannot come to class, just as their school expects the same.

Teens will hopefully discover how Confirmation prep helps them to prioritize, “do the right thing”, be “the best person they are called to be” and helps prepare them for “real life” in a way their school cannot. We hope you will be *actively* involved in this process with your teen. This is such a special opportunity to walk with your young adult child on this important part of their faith journey. Your teen looks up to you and values your love of your faith. We kindly ask that you do not leave too much of this prep up to them. While you can give them independence with school requirements, parental oversight is necessary for this sacrament. At this point in time they do not yet possess the full power of the Holy Spirit to be successful in this journey on their own, especially with all the distractions of sports, school projects, etc. Many parents do not get involved until the end when the teens are completely behind with the requirements just before Confirmation which causes needless stress for everyone. Use your teen’s Sponsor to help keep your teen on track. We will have other information available at the **September 27th** meeting. Please complete the attached forms for that meeting. We are looking forward to spending this time with your teen and really getting to know them. Looking forward to meeting your teen on September 13th.

God bless your family during this important year.

Cody Roth – Youth Minister

Linden Williams - Director of Religious Education

Enclosures

cc: Ruth Ladner Hillary Roth