April 9, 2019

Dear Parents of 8th Grade or High School Religious Education classes or 8th Grade School,

This coming August, your child has the opportunity to begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Classes will meet in Ross Hall on either Monday night or Wednesday night twice a month. In addition, on Wednesdays, we will offer evenings for service projects, family events and games nights. A detailed calendar will be released on the night of the first meeting.

Our Discipleship program leads families to through a 2 year preparation for Confirmation. To decide if you are ready for Confirmation the candidate must:

* **Have a willingness to attend Mass every Sunday as it is part of the life of a practicing, active Catholic. This teaching is presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church.**
	+ **The Sunday obligation**
	+ The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass."117 "The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day."
	+ The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.
	+ Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
* Have a desire to grow in your relationship with Christ through prayer and study, and to ask Him to help you know His will for your life.
* Choose to serve the needs of others as Christ Himself modeled for us at the Last Supper –

**John 13**

“So when he had washed their feet

and put his garments back on and reclined at table again,

he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you?

You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am.

If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet,

you ought to wash one another's feet.

I have given you a model to follow,

so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

* Participate in the Confirmation classes that meet on Monday’s and Wednesdays. These are small communities of faith during which we share the faith with our peers together with prayer while forming a community of believers. Only 2 absences are allowed during the year. If someone misses more than two classes, they may have to repeat the year.

**All parents MUST attend the first night for Year 1. THERE ARE NO OTHER PARENT MEETINGS. The dates are:**

**Monday, August 26th or Wednesday, August 28th.**

Parents who speak English will meet in Ross Hall from 6:30 to 8:15 PM. Parent who speak Spanish will go to the Meeting rooms for registration and information.

After the first meeting, during the weeks that follow, parents are encouraged to continue attend to learn and be a part of a small faith community. Those who speak English will meet in Ross Hall. Those who speak Spanish will go to the Meeting rooms to have presentations in Spanish.

**WHEN YOU COME THE FIRST NIGHT TO REGISTER PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Your child’s baptism certificate or date of baptism if they were baptized at St. Eugene.
2. A **completed** Sponsor Information Sheet. (Please find included the guidelines for a Sponsor.)
3. An email address for communications.
4. Your child’s saint report. (Please find included the outline for a saint report).
5. Tuition of $45. (If you are unable to pay, please let us know you will need a scholarship).

Registration forms will be available that evening and must be filled out before your child can attend the next class. If you wish to fill out your form ahead of time, please come to the RE office and pick one up there before the first meeting.

Candidates are expected to complete 10 service hours each year.

**The Year 1 retreat is November 1-3, 2019 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Youth Camp. All candidates are expected to attend.** The cost is $80 and scholarships are available. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE RETREAT. If you have concerns about your child being gone overnight, please sign up to help chaperone and then you can be there with them for the weekend. We will need four chaperones per cabin of boys and per cabin of girls. There will be two cabins of each. Chaperones can sign up for one night or both. Please consider whether you can help with this very important job.

Sincerely,

Ms. Patty Dearden