

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROCESS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Initiation, along with Baptism and Eucharist, all of which complete your membership in the Church. Confirmation is a celebration of the conscious awareness of the Holy Spirit in your life and choosing to make a commitment to work with that Spirit as a Roman Catholic. Confirmation, along with other Sacraments, are gifts of God's grace freely given. To be confirmed is a choice you will make over the course of the next year before the actual celebration of Confirmation in September 2014 and should be discussed with your parents and sponsor. The Confirmation Preparation Process will assist you in making a good decision about whether to be confirmed or not at this point in your life.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church 1309:

Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit—his actions, his gifts, and his biddings—in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands.

Through weekly Mass attendance, daily prayer, participation in prayer experiences during the process and completion of the candidate sponsor workbook the candidate will move to a more intimate union with Christ and familiarity with the Holy Spirit. The catechesis for Confirmation presented at Confirmation group sessions and participation in youth events at the parish will awaken the sense of belonging to the Church universal as well as the parish community.

The preparation for Confirmation will include an entrance and exit interview, attendance at the information meeting/retreat with a parent and sponsor, four Confirmation Group Sessions, completion of six hours of service and active participation in youth activities at the parish. Information regarding scheduling interviews may be found on the back of this page. Group sessions will be offered several times throughout the year. An explanation of this new format and service suggestions will be explained at the information meeting which will take place before the retreat. Parents need not stay for the retreat portion, but are welcome. Youth activities may be found on the parish website, bulletin and outside room three in the lower church hall.

If you are a high school student, registered parishioner and agree to fully participate in the Confirmation Preparation Process, please complete the following forms:

- _____ Religious Education Form
- _____ Candidate Questionnaire/Commitment Form
- _____ Name Form
- _____ Sponsor Form
- _____ Emergency Health Form

Bring all forms and the following to your Entrance Interview:

- _____ copy of your Baptismal Certificate (only if you were not baptized at Holy Family, Stow)
- _____ check for \$70.00 made payable to Holy Family Church (*Please note that no one is ever denied preparation for or celebration of a Sacrament for financial difficulty. If the fee is difficult, please call.*)

If you have any questions about the Confirmation Preparation Process, please call me at (330) 688-6412 x271 or email me at byrne@holymfamilystow.org. Please be assured of my prayers as you think about being confirmed.

Sincerely,

Barbie Byrne,
Confirmation Coordinator/Youth Minister

2013/2014 CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROCESS SCHEDULE

Mrs. Barbie Byrne (330)688-6412x271, byrne@holyfamilystow.org – Confirmation Coordinator

Mrs. Kathy Chadsey (330)688-6412x274, chadsey@holyfamilystow.org – Secretary

Ms. Pam Schultz (330)688-6412x271 – Youth Assistant

Session	Date	Time	Place
Entrance Interview	See below	20 minutes	Lower church hall rm #3
Parent/Candidate/Sponsor Information	Sunday, October 13	1-2:00pm	Lower church hall
Candidate/Sponsor Retreat	Sunday, October 13	2-6:00pm	Lower church hall
Confirmation Group Session	tba		Lower church hall rm #3
Confirmation Group Session	tba		Lower church hall rm #3
Confirmation Group Session	tba		Lower church hall rm #3
Confirmation Group Session	tba		Lower church hall rm #3
Exit Interview with a parish staff member	Late July/early August	20 minutes	tba
Confirmation practice & celebration	tba Sun in Sept.2014		

Entrance interviews may be scheduled by calling Barbie Byrne in the youth ministry office at (330)688-6412x271. Interviews will be held in August on Monday's from 3-8:30 and Thursday's from 5-8:30. Time are scheduled every half hour on a first come first serve basis.

In order to awaken the Candidates sense of belonging to the church, preparation includes active participation in parish life, which will hopefully last a lifetime. Below are a few summer activities offered for high school teens. A schedule of youth group meetings will be available in the Fall outside room 3 in the lower church hall, on the parish website www.holyfamilystow.org and on the Holy Family Stow Youth Group facebook page.

Event	Date	Time	Place	Other
Fun & Games	Wednesday's June 12- August 14 (not July 3)	7-10pm	Holy Family lower church hall	Bring clean, dry, non marking gym shoes for the gym
The Fest	Sunday, Aug. 4	12-11pm	Seminary grounds Holy Family will have a canopy set up so families can gather	www.thefest.us
Rally @ the Fest	Sunday, Aug. 4	3:00pm	Field House @ seminary	Text Barbie (330)650-9688 for a ticket & info
Exalt – Life Teen Praise & Eucharistic Adoration	2 nd Tuesday Sept-May	Leave 6:15 Return by 10	Borromeo/St. Mary seminary	Car pool info tba
Catholicism Pilgrimage	Sunday's Sept. 15-April	11am-noon	Youth room –lower church hall	breaks for holidays
Diocesan Youth Rally	Saturday, Nov.9	8am-10pm	St. Ignatius	Free for first 25