



## St. Mary Parish Dartmouth, MA

### Confirmation Program Responsibilities 2018-2019

#### Mass & Confirmation Sessions/Nights

Our goal is to help the Confirmation Candidate build a deeper relationship with Jesus and to learn how to be a stronger disciple. This will be done by attending weekly Mass and monthly Confirmation Sessions/Nights. All Confirmation Candidates should be attending weekly Mass throughout the summer and Faith Formation Year. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith and will strengthen each of us during this journey. Candidates are free to choose any Mass schedule during the weekend. There are certain Masses outside of the weekend Masses that we ask all Candidates to attend, as well. Please check your schedule for those particular dates. There are Online Confirmation Sessions (Refer to Calendar), there will be no in-person sessions on these evenings. Assignments for the online sessions will be due the following Session. In order to successfully complete the program no more than 2 Confirmation Sessions (Online Sessions must be completed) can be missed and Mass should be attended weekly.

#### Prayer

It is expected that all Candidates entering the Confirmation Program know and understand some of the most fundamental prayers of our faith. The following prayers should be known by the Candidates: Lord's Prayer (Our Father), Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, Apostle's Creed, Seven Sacraments, and The Ten Commandments. Candidates will be tested on their prayers and basic Catholic knowledge. They must also have some basic knowledge of our Beliefs and Traditions.

#### Individual Meeting

Each candidate will be asked to set aside time for an opportunity to meet with Director of Parish Faith Formation and at least one parent/guardian is asked to accompany the Candidate. This gives everyone an opportunity to begin knowing each other on a more personal level, understand the Candidates' responsibilities and to ask any questions.

*Deadline:* May/June 2018

#### Letter to the Pastor

Each candidate will write a letter to the Pastor explaining why he/she wants to be confirmed. Guideline will be provided.

*Deadline:* February 1, 201

#### Retreat & Days of Reflection

Candidates are asked to attend a three day Retreat and various Days of Reflection.

**The Retreat** is scheduled for Friday Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – Sunday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be held at Camp Aldersgate, Tiverton, RI.

Transportation will be provided to and from the facility. More information will be shared as final arrangements are made.

#### The Sponsor Day of Reflection

The Sponsor Day of Reflection is scheduled for Sunday, October from 4-6pm.

#### Parish Service Projects

As part of our Christian responsibilities, the candidate is responsible for completing (10) ten hours of community service.

A few Community Service Opportunities are provided by the Parish. You may also participate in activities outside the parish but they must be approved by the Director of Parish Faith Formation.

*Deadline:* April 1, 2019 (Hours Completed)

#### Parents

St. Mary's Confirmation Program, following the teachings of the Catholic Church, recognizes the importance of parents in the lives of teens. Pope John Paul II called the family the "domestic church" and parents "the spiritual leaders of their families".

The influence of parents on the faith lives of teens cannot be denied and so throughout the year we will provide opportunities for you to enrich your own spiritual lives and participate actively with your children. We will share dates and times for Parent events and even retreat that you may wish to attend as they become available.



### **Sponsor**

Candidates will explore what a Confirmation Sponsor is and why the Church asks that one is present during the ceremony. All Candidates will need a suitable sponsor and will need to submit the paperwork by their Confirmation Meeting. We will also provide opportunities for the Sponsor to grow in their own faith lives throughout the year. Please refer to the “Sponsor Form” for additional information and specific dates that sponsors are to attend.

*Deadline* August 1, 2018 (Sponsor Form and Certificate)

### **Confirmation Name**

Each Candidate will be asked to pray about choosing a Confirmation name. We choose a name as a sign of growth in our faith. This name that is chosen will represent the direction you feel your faith life is taking and will show the need for strength and guidance. It is important that the Candidate has an understanding of the Saint or person they have chosen to use for a Confirmation name. The Candidate will be asked to write a brief summary why they chose the name they did and about the person whose name they chose. The write may be done online. A guide will be given to help with the write up.

*Deadline:* December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Name and Write Up).

### **Deeper Sessions**

Deeper Sessions are various other events, activities, or sessions held throughout the year either at St. Mary’s or other locations that will minister to, and help the candidate strengthen their faith and their relationship with Christ and His Church. Candidates participate in 3 Deeper Sessions Ash Wednesday Mass, Reconciliation Service either during Advent or Lent, Stations of the Cross during one of the Fridays of Lent. You must keep track of your Deeper Sessions on the tracker form.

*Deadline:* April 19, 2019.

### **Prayer**

It is expected that all Candidates entering the Confirmation Program know and understand some of the most fundamental prayers of our faith. The following prayers should be known by the Candidates: Lord’s Prayer (Our Father), Hail Mary, Glory Be, Act of Contrition, Apostle’s Creed, Seven Sacraments, and The Ten Commandments. Candidates will be tested on their prayers and basic Catholic knowledge. In order to successfully complete St. Mary’s Confirmation Program all candidates must pass the assessment. (Written)