

St. Ignatius Parish Confirmation 2009-10 Administrative Requirements and Information

Registration Requirements

- Candidates and their families must be registered, active members of St. Ignatius Parish for at least six months prior to the start of classes.
 - Candidates must be at least in the 7th grade.
 - (It is preferable that candidates have completed some form of middle school religious education last year.)
- Basic knowledge of scripture and Catholic doctrine is important because candidates will be asked to make an informed, mature commitment to their Church.

Sunday Mass

- Regular participation at Sunday Liturgy is an important part of preparation for Confirmation. At the Eucharist we experience the continuing presence of the risen Christ in the Scriptures, the Eucharist, and in the Community. It is here that we are nourished and strengthened to live out our lives as disciples of Christ. This is a fundamental part of being a Catholic Christian.
- Candidates and their families are especially invited to the **Sunday evening 5:00 pm Youth Mass and Social**, where youth assist with the various liturgical ministries.

Group Meetings

- We will have four separate Confirmation class groups. Please refer to the calendar for teacher information and class locations.
- On the first Sunday of each month, all four groups will meet together in Fromm Hall, Room 110, 10:45 am – 11:45 am for sessions with guest speakers.
- Parents are encouraged to attend the **Parent Workshops** facilitated by Greg Fox. These will be offered the same time as the teens have their speaker, 10:50 am – 11:45 am, Fromm Hall, Xavier Chapel.

Attendance

- It is important that candidates attend all class sessions. Confirmation candidates should have no more than three absences. After the third absence, a meeting will be required with the Director of Religious Education, (DRE), Confirmation Coordinator, candidate and parents.
- Candidates will not be allowed to switch between the AM and PM groups.
- We realize that absences due to illness are unavoidable, but it is required that you please e-mail or phone your teacher if you're going to miss a session. Please refer to the calendar for teacher contact information in the event your child is not able to attend.
- Tardiness is disruptive to the class. **We ask that you make every effort to be on time for class.**

If you know that you will have three or more absences due to scheduling conflicts that you can foresee now (e.g., a traveling soccer team or other regular activity that meets on Sundays), you should not register for this year's Confirmation group. If you have such scheduling conflicts, you might want to consider doing Confirmation next year or looking for a program that doesn't meet on Sundays.

Make-up Work for all missed class meetings is to be picked-up at the parish offices through Dan Faloon, and is due within a two week period following the missed meeting.

Homework

- There is one required homework assignment so please plan accordingly. Teachers will assign and review a typed one-two page paper explaining the following: (1) why you want to be confirmed; (2) what Confirmation name you have chosen and why; (3) whom you have chosen as your sponsor and why; (4) Reflect on the service hours you have completed up to this time, and comment on your experience. Due February 7. Please attach a copy of your Service Log to this paper listing the hours you have completed up to this time. Occasionally we may assign voluntary projects.

Community Service

- Candidates are required to complete 10 credits of service in the parish community (e.g., hospitality, altar server, lector, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Shelter Meals, Sandwich Saturday, Ministry to Nursing Homes). Candidates may **not** count hours they have completed for their regular school service requirements or other groups they belong to towards Confirmation. Dan Faloon, the Director of Religious Education, will administer this aspect of the Confirmation program. Students required to complete a large number of service hours in their schools are encouraged to choose service opportunities in the parish connected to the Sunday Liturgy, Sunday Evening 5 PM Youth Mass, parish coffees, etc. Please direct your questions regarding service requirements directly to Dan at the parish office.

Sponsors

- Sponsors are an important part of the Confirmation process. On November 8, we'll distribute guidelines for choosing a sponsor. Sponsors and candidates will be presented to the St. Ignatius community during the 9:30 am Mass at the Entrance Rite for Confirmation candidates on February 7. A meeting of sponsors and candidates will follow this Mass from 10:45 am to 11:45 am. Teens and sponsors will meet in their regular rooms. Sponsors are asked to attend a second rite at the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, April 18. There will be a Confirmation liturgy practice for candidates and sponsors prior to Confirmation in the church.

Archdiocesan Requirements for Confirmation Sponsors:

- Confirmed, practicing Catholic.
- at least 16 years of age
- Parents may not serve as sponsors, as the sponsor is a symbol of the larger community's support for the candidate.

Parent Involvement

- We strongly encourage parents to participate in the monthly CFF Parent Workshops and become involved in the program. We offer many levels of participation - from assisting at our weekly meetings to helping on one or more special events such as the Confirmation Retreat.

Discipline

- This is not a mandatory class. Candidates should be preparing for Confirmation because they want to be confirmed or, at least, they are willing to consider being confirmed. We expect candidates to be committed, respectful, and active participants in our meetings and activities.

Dropoff & Dismissal

- Parents are responsible to walk your teen to the class meeting place each week and to pick them up at the designated pick-up location after class.

For the Evening Groups:

- Parents are to pick their teens up **promptly at 7:15 pm;** it is inappropriate for students to call parents after class for pick-up.
- Teens in the Parish Library (Church), are to be picked up on Parker Ave. outside the parish offices. Because of recent **safety issues** in the neighborhood, teens are asked to **stay with their group** and their teacher until they are picked up.
- Teens in the **Accolti Room** are to be picked up on Golden Gate Ave. Because of recent **safety issues** in the neighborhood, teens are asked to **stay with their group** and their teacher until they are picked up.
- In case of an emergency, there are USF Public Safety phones outside in front of the Parish Offices and near the entrance of the Accolti Room. Parents and teens in each group are encouraged to look out for the safety of one another and should never hesitate to contact USF Public Safety in case of an emergency or other safety issue. USF Emergency number on your cell phone: 422-2911.