

**Dear 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Families:**

I hope you all had a good end to your school year, and are set to finally begin summer. As life begins to get back to a sense of “normal”, I hope you each enjoy a happy and healthy summer.

It certainly has been a year filled with changes. It is a testament to you all that you met those challenges and changes with hard work, respect, and understanding. As we begin to shift back to more in-person events, we are excited to share our vision for Religious Education here at Saint Matthew.

During the past year, the Bishop, together with his Faith Reimagined team, has indicated a universal change for our Diocese with respect to the Sacrament of Confirmation. This new plan envisions the Bishop’s goal of seeing the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred for students who prepare for Confirmation in their 6<sup>th</sup> grade year. The Diocese would like to implement this plan within the next three years at all of our parishes.

In order to meet this goal, Confirmation Class this 2021-2022 Religious Education year will be made up of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the following year 2022-2023 religious education for Confirmation will be 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and then beginning in 2023-2024 the uniformed Diocese year will be the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation year.

**Confirmation Registration this year will be open to all incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (who began their prep last year), and incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who have been participating in Religious Education (either at church or at school). If you have not been engaged in Religious Education or there have been significant gaps in your religious education years, there will be an alternate plan for you to follow before you can be registered for Confirmation. Please contact the Religious Education Office if that is the case.**

**Registration Forms are available on the parish website to either register on-line or to print and mail in/drop off.**

Our plan for the 21-22 Religious Education year, is to have in-person classes and events. Our hope is to hold Confirmation Classes for both grades on Sunday mornings after the 9am mass until 11:30am. If more students register than the expected projected number, and we are unable to host both grades on Sunday mornings, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Class will be held Sunday evenings from 6-7:30pm.

Registration for Confirmation will be \$250. If you need financial assistance or a payment plan, please contact the religious education office. The program outline is listed below for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In order to bring the 7<sup>th</sup> grade up to the necessary requirements, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade will have additional classes and service projects.

I consider Confirmation to be a journey for the whole family. It is a journey made together to support, motivate and ignite the many gifts that your children already possess. I hope this journey helps them learn to share those gifts in their family, the parish, and in the community, as they grow closer in their relationship to Jesus. I look forward to us all working together to help achieve that goal.

We welcome parent volunteers for hallway monitors, service project leaders, and chaperones, and for other aspects and events of the Confirmation program. We especially welcome any parent who wishes to teach Confirmation.

Please know I am available at any time for questions, cares or concerns. You can email me at the parish office or to my home email. [stmattreled@gmail.com](mailto:stmattreled@gmail.com) or [Mer313@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Mer313@sbcglobal.net)

In addition, please feel free to contact me at 203-838-3788 x107.

Many thanks. Again, I am very much looking forward to sharing this Confirmation journey with your child and you all.

All my best,

Liz Reid