

August 10, 2016

Dear Confirmation Families,

Thank you very much for your participation in our Confirmation Program. In light of the Synod, we have made some exciting changes to our program.

Our mission is:

- To support the faith formation that occurs at home
- To foster enthusiasm for living the Catholic faith
- To give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- To encourage family participation in the life of the Church

Our goals are:

- To teach the Catholic faith
- To encourage a commitment to Jesus Christ
- To create a community spirit that inspires active participation in parish life
- To encourage prayer which leads to a deeper relationship with a loving God
- To assist parents in their role as primary instructors of our Catholic Faith

We are asking your family to attend Mass each week starting now. We come together as a parish community to worship, thank God, and support each other in prayer. It is at Mass that we come to know Jesus in the Eucharist. Attending Mass each week reinforces what is taught in the classroom. Without this important time to celebrate and pray together at Mass, it can be a struggle for your child ... indeed, for all of us ... to achieve a fuller understanding of the greatness of our God and the love and forgiveness of Jesus.

Tuition for this year will be \$250.

**Registration for Confirmation will close on September 25, 2016.** This year we will be accepting credit card payment. If you plan on using this service, tuition must be paid in full and there will be a \$3.00 fee. Instructions for paying by credit card are on the registration form. We also accept cash and checks made out to St. Matthew Church.

If you need information about payment plans or tuition assistance, please contact me.

### **Confirmation Candidates:**

Confirmation is a Sacrament that gives each of the candidates many privileges in the church. First, you will be considered a full member of the Church. You will be able to be Godparents to children at Baptism and you can be a Sponsor to candidates at Confirmation (at age 16). Along with the privileges come duties that you take upon yourself as a confirmed Catholic. One of the main duties is to follow Christ through following the Commandments. Your visible following of Christ can be seen in your participation of the Holy Mass every weekend and Holy Days of Obligation. You will also demonstrate your following Christ by your service. As a Parish it is our duty to see that you are given enough opportunities to worship and serve God.

The Confirmation Program consists of the following Worship and Class instruction.

### Worship

- Regular Mass attendance on weekends and Holy Days of Obligation along with your family
- Be Ministers at Mass on Weekends (lectors, altar servers, ushers, or Youth Choir). This is a one year commitment. Training will be in October.
- Regular reception of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation

### Class Instruction

- Classes will be held on the Sundays typically twice a month starting in January from 4:45PM (includes 5 pm Mass) – 7:30PM. (See calendar of class dates)
- Ministry Training – Candidates can choose to be an altar server, usher, lector, or youth choir. Training dates will be in October.
- Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> Adoration & Benediction with one parent
- Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> Stations of the Cross
- Service Projects – This year Candidates will complete a Family Service Project as well as a Candidate Group Service Project. Service projects will be presented at the meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

**\*\*\* If you volunteered at Bible Camp 2016 you have completed your candidate group service obligation**

- Candidates will also have an individual interview with a member of the clergy.
- Attendance at a full day Retreat (Date TBD)

There will be an important parent and Confirmation Candidate meeting on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 5:00PM Mass. Since the Confirmation date will be Fall 2017, we are configuring our program slightly differently than in the past. The following items will need to be completed prior to starting the program in January 2017. If items are not turned in by Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> the candidate will not be able to start the program:

- Saint report - Each candidate will prepare a one page essay on the Saint whose name they wish to take as their Confirmation Name. Information on the saint report will be emailed out in late August.
- Sponsor Certificate - Candidates will choose a sponsor for Confirmation to help guide them on their faith journey along with their parents.
- Test on grades 1-8 material - Book and review materials will be supplied at the parent/candidate meeting. There will also be a review class on November 13<sup>th</sup> prior to the test on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

Attached you will find a registration form which will need to be filled out and mailed, dropped off in the church office or brought to the meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> as well as a list of important dates. Information regarding Saint Report and Sponsors will be emailed in late August.

Please remember that grades 1-8 of religious formation instruction must be completed before your teen is eligible for Confirmation.

The entire Confirmation team is looking forward to an exciting year!

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in becoming a catechist, please contact us in the Faith Formation Office at (203) 838-0231 or by email at [stmattreled@gmail.com](mailto:stmattreled@gmail.com).

Blessings,

Michele Scholl  
Faith Formation Coordinator

Liz Reid  
Confirmation Coordinator