

Hello Confirmation Prep Families!

Happy Friday!! I hope you all get a chance to enjoy the beautiful weather today or tomorrow:) I just wanted to email your classes separately with important and hopefully useful information. The preparation for Confirmation requires a great deal of commitment, time, prayer, and reflection. Thank you for your role and support in preparing these amazing kids for their full initiation into our faith. I am excited to watch them on their journey!!

### **Both 7th and 8th Grade**

- Thank you for attending the Parent Meeting last week. For those of you that could not, arrangements have been made to get materials to you. Please take time to review the handbook (8th has it from last year) and mark your calendars for all the due dates and event dates. It is our hope and intention to continue to move forward in our planning, and if we need to make adjustments along the way due to the pandemic, I will communicate that to you. I appreciate your understanding and flexibility in this matter.
- Please make Mass attendance (either in person or virtually) a priority for your Confirmand and family. Mass is at the very heart of all that we are instructing, and as I shared at the meeting and to quote Father Bernard..."It is Heaven" as we are here with the true presence of our Lord. Honestly, it has been strengthening my own spirit in these uncertain and difficult times, and my wish is for everyone to experience that peace and joy as well. Please check out the website, bulletin, and Facebook regularly to see all the events and opportunities we have here to practice our faith and grow with Christ.
- Service Hours and Formation Activities are the biggest change and also the area where I get the most questions and concerns. Moving forward, students are expected to contribute *40 hours of service and attend 3 formation activities over the two year preparation period*. While that seems daunting, I truly believe this is achievable for all students. I do recognize that the pandemic makes it a little more challenging, but I invite you and your student to think creatively and thoughtfully on how to give time and service to others as well as seek opportunities to learn more and understand our faith. I have attached an idea sheet to this email, and I will try to regularly communicate ideas and suggestions to you. Let's change the mindset from "obligation" to "opportunity" together:)
- Whether you are in person or virtual, please continue with regular class attendance in person or zoom and set aside regular time each week for the videos (online kids) or requirements/assignments each week. Please stay connected to your teachers and me so we can keep everyone on track and keep up to date.

### **7th Grade**

- The Mandatory Saint Retreat is this Sunday (11/22) from 5:30 to 7:30PM. It will be in the Social Hall (only 14 kids so easily social distanced), and students/teachers will all wear masks and sanitize regularly. This is a great way to get the Confirmands to

research and learn about Saints and to understand this significance of choosing their Confirmation name. Our dinner (catered by Giant - ha!) will be mini sandwiches, chicken fingers, macaroni and cheese, individual chip bags, carrots, drinks, and dessert. There will be a guessing game, trivia search, and Saint bingo as well.

- Please take time to really read over and review the handbook you received, and return any paperwork from the "Documents" section that you can at this time. Keep everything together in your folder, and please hold on to your Chosen workbooks and handbooks for *next year too*. Feel free to contact me with any questions/concerns that you have.
- All 7th Graders received Bibles this year. Please use them and bring them to class each week this year and next year.
- In the "Documents" section is a paper about helping or participating at Confirmation. If any 7th Grade parent is interested in organizing our (hopeful) Confirmation Dinner (TBD) this year, please let me know. It basically involves creating a flyer/invite, a sign up sheet for donations/helpers (7th graders), and helping me that evening. Last year's was really nice, and I am hopeful we can do that again and keep this tradition going.

### 8th Grade

- Please take time to review your handbooks from last year and the new papers that were handed out (or mailed), and please make note of all the due dates and events. This year gets very busy, and I hope to keep everyone on track. The majority of this class already submitted baptism forms and Code of Conduct forms. PLEASE submit to me this week or the week after Thanksgiving all the Service/Formation thus far. Also please turn in the "Data" sheet if you have chosen your Sponsors already.
- The change in Service Requirements can be used if it helps you OR you may continue on last year's plan. As I shared at our meeting, it may actually be more beneficial to go by HOURS now as MANY of these kids did SO MUCH already last year. I had one parent contact me, and according to our records, her 8th grader only needs 2 and 1/2 hours and 1 formation project because of counting hours now:)
- Finally, my big push is to remind this EXCEPTIONAL group of young men and women that Confirmation is NOT Graduation! I really hope we can offer VBS this summer and many other fun events for little ones in which your students can help. They really are a wonderful group of students and can serve to be excellent role models for the younger students. Also, we finally have a Youth Minister (Shawn Marker), and your students can be a part of this growing and meaningful ministry:)

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving!! Thanks again for all you are doing to support Religious Education!!

God Bless you!  
Georgann Azzalina