

St. Joseph Parish Religious Education Program

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Spring 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and soon-to-be Confirmation Candidates,

Confirmation 2018 seems far away, but will be here in no time at all. Being a sixth grader can be a challenge in itself. There are many things to be done and learned pertaining to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation as well. Below are three things which can be worked on over the summer which will greatly reduce the workload in the coming school year.

- **Service/Stewardship . . .** We are all called to serve one another by virtue of our baptism and the mandate given to the disciples by Jesus on Holy Thursday night when He washed their feet... *“I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do”* (John 13:15). Try to do things you enjoy doing. Volunteer opportunities can be found at home, school, in the parish and local community. Options might include such things as helping at the parish festival in mid-June or straightening up in the church after the Mass you attend. Students are asked to complete 20 hours of service and a record sheet is attached for your convenience. It is our hope that this will be only the beginning of sharing your time and talents with others as acts of stewardship throughout your lifetime.
- **Sponsor . . .** You never journey alone within the Christian community. Throughout your life you will encounter people who demonstrate what it means to be a Catholic. Your sponsor is someone who stands up for you before the community, presents you to the bishop, and witnesses your anointing with chrism. The sponsor should serve as someone you can turn to for help and guidance as you continue the journey of faith in the years ahead. **Your sponsor must be at least 16 years of age and a practicing, confirmed Catholic who is not your parent. Spend some time considering who this person will be and why you are choosing him or her.**
- **Saint Name . . .** Think of several names and do some research on these saints. Find out if there is a patron Saint for something of interest to you – sports, music, art, cooking, gardening, etc. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in choosing the Saint who will be most meaningful to you and be an additional role model in your life.

It is my hope that this information will assist you and your family in preparing for Confirmation in the coming year. God bless you.

Mrs. Kathy Thomas, DRE



Some OPPORTUNITIES for Christian Service and Stewardship

The following list is to help you get started. You are probably already giving stewardship and service. In essence, service is what you do for someone without monetary compensation. This year, you are asked to record what you do (20 hours minimum). Any act of service you do for others is acceptable. If you help with a sport team for younger children, help clean-up a roadside or park, be a “parent’s helper” for children in your neighborhood, etc.

Your service hours “count” as soon as school is finished this year in June. Start right away and don’t overlook the “small” things. If you are a ‘Church Mouse’ every Sunday (15 minutes), you will have (1) hour of service each month from just that activity.

WHEN	WHAT	more information :
Any Saturday/ Sunday Parish Liturgy	CHURCH MICE After the Mass you attend, as quite as a mouse, straighten up the pews.	Ask Mom and/or Dad if you can stay a few minutes after Mass is over.
Any time	Yard work, household chores for family and friends	Ask your grandparents, neighbors, parents how you can be of service to them.
Aid For Friends (AFF)	Volunteers prepare individual meals for the homebound in the area. Pans are picked up at the parish office, filled at home, and returned to the “AFF” freezer in the Holy Family Center.	Debbie O’Keefe for more details dokeefe19@hotmail.com
Altar Server	Assist the priest during Mass Training required.	Mrs. Eileen Amicone eileena.427@gmail.com
Loaves & Fishes	Bring nonperishable items to Church and place in the closet. Benefits the Lord’s Pantry.	Nancy Farrington fangloose@verizon.net
Good Neighbors, one Saturday a month.	Volunteers help make repairs at area homes for those who cannot afford the repairs on their own. No previous experience is required.	Becky Kopec 610 873-4527 beckykopec@comcast.net Minors must be accompanied by adult for this activity
Any Saturday/ Sunday Parish Liturgy	St. Joseph Parish Greeters – greeting parishioners at Mass	Christina Ross christinaross9197@gmail.com
St Joseph PREP office	610 873-8798	www.stjosephrc.org/PREP PREP@stjosephrc.org
St. Joseph Parish Office	610 269-8294	http://www.stjosephrc.org/

CONFIRMATION SERVICE HOURS

Name _____

Teacher: _____

	Date	Description	Amount of Time	Signature
Family				
Parish				
School and Neighborhood				
Local, National, and International Community				