

Dear parents,

As you know, the freshmen will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation soon, and this requires a period of preparation. This year St. Joseph parish will be following the curriculum "Decision Point". This curriculum was created by Matthew Kelly and his team. We are excited about this program, which we think will make the preparation process more meaningful to the candidates. Outlined below are some important aspects of this period of preparation:

1. **Attendance at PSR:** If your child will not be attending, please call one of us, so that we know that your child will not be there. If you do not contact us, we will call you.
2. **Mass Journal:** Part of the Decision Point program is a Mass Journal in which the Confirmand will make an entry each weekend. These journals will be at the entryway at the back of the church. We will explain what is expected to the students, but be prepared for them to be writing in them at Mass. This is a means for them to focus on what God is conveying to them as individuals each week. Students who are at Mass at another location can write on a piece of paper and turn it in at the next class period. It will be attached to his/her journal. Students who do not have an entry will be kept after class to hear the readings, psalm, and Gospel and then make an entry.

2. **Stewardship and Service:** A big part of preparing for Confirmation is learning the importance of "discipleship." It is important that the candidates understand that it is not only a responsibility, but an opportunity to serve gratefully, and to give thanks for all that God has given. We do have a few mandatory service hours for the Confirmation class. One of these is the Life Chain in October. We also help Altar Society clean the church before Christmas and Lent. Finally, our class serves at the soup supper the first Friday in Lent. Your child will be assigned to bring either a soup or a dessert.

There will be a form to record the service. Some of these service opportunities include:

- School Auction
- Funeral Dinners (Saturdays)
- Father/Son Breakfast & Mother/Daughter Breakfast
- Help with Sunday PSR between the Masses
- Assisting at Mass as Reader, Cantor, or Organist
- Pro-Life Prayer Services (as announced by Father)
- Working at March for Life fundraising activities (such as at Fall Fest)
- Volunteering at Friendship Meals during Christmas break.
- You may come up with other opportunities for service and stewardship also.

3. **Attendance at the DiRT Retreat:** This is a one-day retreat put on by college students at Newman University. The date will be determined at a later time. We will send more information out about that as the time approaches.

4. **Sponsor.** Your child must choose a Catholic sponsor. If the sponsor is not a member of St. Joseph parish, the form must be signed by his or her parish priest. This form will be due on prior to Confirmation. This document is available on the parish website (www.stjoecs.org).

5. **Saint name.** Your child must choose a saint to be his/her patron saint. This is on the bottom of the sponsor form, and is also due prior to Confirmation. They will be doing some research on saints and will need to know something about the life of the saint, and why they chose that saint as their patron.

6. **Letter to Father.** The students must write a letter to Father Andy, confirming that they choose to receive the Holy Spirit and be strengthened in the Catholic faith. A guideline for this is included. This letter can be typed or hand-written. This letter will be due several weeks before Confirmation.

7. **Confirmation will be held on Tuesday evening, May 1st at the Cathedral.** We will send a letter home with your kids as that time approaches. For the Confirmation Mass, boys will be required to wear slacks and a shirt with a collar (Tie is optional). Girls may wear slacks, a dress or a skirt. (Knee length). Spaghetti straps or sleeveless shirts must have a cover-up. The Confirmation Mass may be attended by an unlimited number of guests. Please encourage as many friends and family to come as possible for this celebration. Keep an eye on the bulletin for continuing Confirmation news.

The parish website (www.stjoecs.org) will also have updated Confirmation news and reminders.

If you have any questions, please call one of us.

Sincerely,

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