

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a joyous & monumental moment in the life of a Catholic. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, “This seal of the Holy Spirit marks our total belonging to Christ, our enrollment in his service forever, as well as the promise of divine protection...”

Preparation for Confirmation should enrich the life of a Catholic by helping them more deeply understand & appreciate the love of God & help them become more familiar with the actions and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Practicals

- 1) **Weekly Sessions:** These gatherings are from 4:30-8:30 p.m. on Sunday nights. They include educational talks/Q&A, Mass, dinner, & games/social time. The objective is to deepen their knowledge of the faith & give them an opportunity to make life-long friends to support each other in living out their faith.

They need to attend 18 gatherings total—10 core topics* and 8 electives.

**If your teen is unable to attend a “Core Topic” session, please e-mail/call Clare or Adam to specify the reason for the absence. An unexcused absence or absence without a compelling reason will require a follow-up conversation.*

- 2) **Retreat:** A retreat is an opportunity to step away from everyday life to reflect on their relationship with God and how the graces of Confirmation will transform their lives. *With approval from Clare Daly and Adam Krywinski, teens may attend a different retreat than listed below.* Potential retreat options include—

- o **St. Ambrose Retreat Option:** Spring 2018. Date: TBD.
- o **Fearless Retreat** (<https://fearlessretreats.com/>): September 28-30, 2018 in Hurley, NY. **Registration deadline: September 21. Cost: \$45.**
- o **Hearts Aflame Eucharistic Congress** (<https://www.rcda.org/offices/prayer-and-worship/hearts-aflame>) Saturday, September 22, 2018 at the Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville. Free and Open to the Public.

- 3) **Service:** We hear in the Gospel of Matthew that Jesus did not come to be served but to serve. We ask young people preparing for Confirmation to serve for 4 hours in any St. Ambrose Church service project. **Teens who volunteered at Vacation Bible School during Summer 2018 have fulfilled this requirement.** Popular options include—

- **Assisting at the EDGE.** Our middle school ministry meets on Sunday mornings from 10:15-11:15 a.m. If your high schooler is open to preparing

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

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Adam Krywinski: Adam.Krywinski@rcda.org

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a game/activity/service project or deliver a reflection/brief talk while they're at EDGE, contact Adam or Clare *at least 2 weeks in advance*. Generally assisting at EDGE is one service hour. Preparing an activity or talk will cover two service hours.

- **Decorating the Parish Bulletin Board.** Teens can use their artistic talents to beautify the parish. This project is done monthly. If your teen is interested, they need to submit a design proposal (color scheme, theme (particular saint, devotion, etc), images, etc) to be approved by Adam or Clare. If approved, the teen can then schedule a convenient time to decorate the board. Designing and decorating the bulletin board will count as at least 2 service hours.
- **Help with a Parish Ministry:** There are many opportunities for service including Altar Rosary Society/beautifying the church sanctuary, garden ministry, building/grounds maintenance, teaching pre-K-5 faith formation, food pantry, office volunteer, media ministry, music ministry, Martha Ministry/hospitality, Thanksgiving Day ministry, and more! For more info, contact the parish office directly (518-785-1351).
- **Serving at the 5:30 p.m. Mass** (each Mass counts as one service hour). Options include: altar serving, lectoring, etc. If you let us know ahead of time, we can train you and, if you're reading, give you the reading ahead of time to practice with.
- **Volunteering at the St. Ambrose Breakfast.** Serving breakfast to families and the parish community is always a beautiful way to spend a Sunday morning!

Other parish service opportunities will be promoted as they become available.

- 4) **Reconciliation:** *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit." **Teens preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation should be encouraged to regularly experience God's transforming love and mercy through the Sacrament of Penance.** Reconciliation is available Saturdays from 3 p.m.- 4 p.m. in the Chapel (parishioners may wait in the Church) or any time by appointment.
- 5) **Family Involvement.** The Church is a family. As your teen prepares for Confirmation, we want you to be an active supporter in this process. We require that you complete at least one of the activities below—
 - **Attend the Fearless Retreat or Eucharistic Congress with your teen.** Adults/volunteers attend both of these events for free. Pre-register

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online. The experiences will be joyful, educational, and inspiring for all involved!

- **Attend Part/All of a Sunday Gathering as an Active Participant/Volunteer** Come join us at 4:30 p.m. to disconnect from the noise of life and pray. Swing by for dinner after joining us for the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Tag along for one of our social/movie nights. Regardless of what your teen may say, your presence is powerful. Your time is a precious commodity. Spending your time at an event promoting faith may impact your teen or the people around you more than you may realize. If you'd like to volunteer regularly, we'd be delighted for you to join us!
- **Donate Soft Drinks, Powdered Drinks, Desserts, Napkins, Grocery Store Gift Cards, or Other Item for the Sunday Dinners.** There's a saying, "Some give by going. Some go by giving." If you're not able to physically attend a Sunday evening gathering, show your support by sending your teen with something for the Sunday dinner. If you need ideas of what to send, contact Adam or Clare.

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Sunday Classes

Topics may be subject to modification.

- = Core Topics (Please Attend All 10)
- = Contemporary Issues (Pick 2)
- = Liturgical Seasons (Pick 1)
- = Saints (Pick 2)
- = Social (Pick 1)
- = Spiritual Life & Realm (Pick 2)

2018

August 25th St. Ambrose Family Festival – Confirmation Candidates & their Families are Welcomed to Meet Fellow Parishioners & the Staff/Volunteers Coordinating Confirmation Preparation.

September 9th Welcome! Parents and Teen Night. Meet & Greet/. Appetizers and Dinner. Attire: Casual. Talk Topic: Made for Greatness: The Meaning of Life

Friday, September 14th Dinner and Movie Night @ 6:30-9 p.m.

Saturday, September 15th Service Project from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (FULFILLS ENTIRE SERVICE REQUIREMENT)

September 16th Class - The Church is a Hospital for Sinners: Meet Famous Catholics Who Experienced God's Forgiveness & Mercy (such as Blessed Charles de Foucauld, Saint Augustine, Saint Margaret of Cortona, G.K. Chesterton, etc.)

September 22nd Day Retreat at the Shrine of North American Martyrs (FULFILLS RETREAT REQUIREMENT). Free and Open to the Public. Online pre-registration encouraged. (www.rcda.org).

September 23rd Class - The Eucharist (featuring the short film *Fishers of Men*)

September 28-30th FEARLESS RETREAT in Hurley, NY (FULFILLS RETREAT REQUIREMENT). Cost: \$45. Adult volunteers attend for free. Registration deadline: September 21. For more info, visit www.fearlessretreats.com

September 30th Class - The Bible 101

October 7th Optional Class - *Columbus Day Weekend* (Movie Night: *Facing the Giants*).

October 14th Class - Sacrament of Confession

October 21st Class - The Arts and the Catholic Imagination

October 28th Class - The Devil, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare

All Saint's Day is November 1st (Holy Day of Obligation)

November 4th Class - Authentic Love (Supplemental Material: *Pure Love* booklet by Jason & Crystallina Evert)

November 11th Optional Class - *Veteran's Day Weekend* (Movie Night: *Called and Chosen*, a documentary about Servant of God Father Vincent Capodanno).

November 18th Class - St. Thomas Aquinas and his 5 Proofs for the Existence of God

November 25th No Class - *Thanksgiving Weekend*

December 2nd Class - Mary

Feast of the Immaculate Conception is December 8th

December 9th Class - Advent/Sacrament of Penance: Preparing our Hearts for the Savior

December 16th Class - You Are Loved: A Catholic View on Life Issues

December 23rd No Class - *Christmas Eve*

December 30th No Class - *New Year's Eve*

2019

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is January 1st (Holy Day of Obligation)

January 6th Class - Class - The Mass (Liturgy of the Word)

January 13th Class - Class— The Mass (Liturgy of the Eucharist)

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January 20th Optional Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Weekend (Movie Night: *Liberating a Continent*, a documentary on Pope John Paul II's fight for human dignity and against injustice)

January 27th Class – An Overview of the Sacraments

February 3rd Class – Virtues

February 10th Class – Make Your Requests Known to God: Prayer

February 17th Mid-winter Recess (Game Night! Bring your favorite games!)

February 24th No Class – Mid-winter Recess

March 3rd Lent and the Liturgical Seasons

Ash Wednesday is March 6th (Lent Begins)

March 10th Class – The Last Things: Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory

March 17th Science and Religion: Can They Work Together?

March 24th Truth, Gentleness, & Love: What Does the Catholic Church Actually Teach About Homosexuality? (Movie: *Desire of the Everlasting Hills*) **Questions for the Q&A session will be collected during this gathering.**

* Teens need to attend only one of the Q&A sessions.

March 31st Q&A pt. 1* Do you have a question about Catholicism, God, prayer, or faith? Come ask our panel members!

April 7th Q&A pt. 2*

April 14th No Class – Spring Recess

April 21st No Class – Easter Sunday

April 28th Class – Protestantism 101/FAQs about Catholicism

May 5th Class – The Apostles and the Resurrection

May 12th Class- Stewards of Creation

May 19th Vocations: How God is Calling us to be Holy

May 26th The Holy Spirit/ Gifts of the Spirit

Youth ministry meets on Sundays year-round. As teens begin this new chapter in their faith journey, they are invited to continue joining us to maintain strong friendships that will encourage them to live out their faith.

Confirmation Ceremony

June 2nd CEREMONY REHEARSAL

June 9th PENTECOST – **TENTATIVE CEREMONY DATE @ 5:30 p.m. MASS***

**These details are NOT finalized. The date and time depend on Bishop Scharfenberger's schedule. Parents will be notified when an official date and time is officially confirmed.*

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