

# Confirmation Preparation Overview

- **Mass Attendance:** Candidates are required to attend Mass each week. This should be a priority to all who wish to be confirmed in the Catholic Church.
- **LIFE Sessions:** Full and active participation in the LIFE program is expected during 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Those that miss more than 3 sessions a year will need to contact Lester to discuss make-up activities.
- **Sponsor:** Youth need to choose an adult confirmed in the Catholic faith to act as a sponsor and prayer partner. Sponsors will be asked to support their Confirmation candidates by:
  - Striving to attend any scheduled candidate/sponsor LIFE sessions (Parent may attend if candidate is not available)
  - Assisting candidate in completing the Confirmation Journal and other required meetings and activities.
  - Praying for candidate during the preparation process
  - Attending the Confirmation service
- **Retreat:** A NET Ministries team will be hosting an evening retreat for the first year confirmation students at St. Michael's church. (Dec. 6th, 2013) All first year students are required to attend. Second year students are required to register with NET Ministries to attend a weekend confirmation retreat at the NET Center in South St. Paul. We are asking our youth to register for one of the two available retreats in February. *\*If students are unable to attend the NET retreat at St. Michael's, they are expected to find a retreat at another parish that they can participate in. Also, financial assistance may be available to those who may be unable to afford the weekend retreat. Contact our parish office.\**
- **Journal:** Youth will receive a journal that must be completed on their own time. This journal will be collected, read, and returned in the spring of the Confirmation year.
- **Parish Involvement:** In the place of service hours, we ask that youth participate in each of the following areas during both Year 1 and Year 2 of Confirmation. Following each experience, youth will briefly reflect upon their experience in each of these areas (forms providing clearer direction will be available in class).
  - **Liturgical Experience:** Youth may choose to serve as a Greeter, Altar Server, assist with Liturgy of the Word for Children, etc. during a particular liturgy.
  - **Parish Experience:** Youth may choose to serve at any one of our many parish functions. The LIFE team will provide a list of upcoming events each month to choose from.
  - **Outreach Experience:** Youth may participate in a scheduled outreach event such as "Sharing and Caring Hands" or "Feed my Starving Children" *or* do an act of service on your own...touch base with Lester or Dottie if you need ideas!
- **Saint Name:** Archbishop Nienstedt has asked that all candidates choose a Saint's name to be used at the time of their Confirmation.
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** All Candidates will be responsible for participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the year of their Confirmation.
- **Rite of Sending or Welcoming:** Candidates will participate in a special sending or welcoming rite during the 10:30 Mass around the time of their Confirmation.
- **Celebration Luncheon:** Following the Rite of Sending or Welcoming, candidates and their families are invited to attend a celebration luncheon in the social hall.