

Saint John Vianney Parish High School Confirmation

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Program Overview:

The Confirmation Program, is a preparation program for High School students in grades 9-12th grade for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Through the Confirmation Program we hope to teach young people the foundations of our faith and “To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.” (according to *Renewing the Vision the framework for Catholic Youth Ministry by the US Catholic Bishops*)

Since we are trying to encourage young people to live as disciples, our goal is for them to get involved in the life of the parish. Therefore, all young people are required to attend Youth Mass at 6:00PM every Sunday during the two years of their preparation.

Confirmation Retreat:

It is a requirement that every youth attend the Confirmation Retreat and participate fully. The retreat is Friday February 15 through Sunday February 17. The cost of the retreat is \$150 per person, you should have been told this when you registered. **Please see the Retreat Brochure, for more information.**

Calendars:

Please see the attached calendar for High School Confirmation. This calendar lists the sessions for Confirmation, parent and sponsor meetings, the retreat, and other important dates. Every three months you will receive a Youth Ministry Calendar mailed to your home. The calendar will be addressed to the student enrolled in Confirmation. However, we recommend looking it over to insure you know what activities are sponsored by the Parish and Youth Ministry. Youth Ministry activities are optional and not required, but we do highly recommend being involved in Youth Ministry during your Confirmation process.

Confirmation Interviews:

During the parent/student orientation each student will need to sign up for an Initial Confirmation Interview. The interviews will take place from September 17-29. We do the interviews so we can put the student in the right class and so we know how much faith formation the child has already received.

At the end of the process, in the second year, the student will sign up for an Exit Interview, which is when we sit down with the student to help him or her discern if they are ready to be Confirmed.

Missing Classes or Meetings:

It is highly important that everyone attends every class. Each group will be having discussions on a variety of topics, the topics build on each other, missing one class may make it harder to understand the next classes.

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If you are going to miss a class please call the office and let us know. Anyone missing three classes or more may be asked to continue the program next year. In addition, each student is required to attend the Youth Mass and sign in at the end of Mass. Students are allowed four absences from Youth Mass, any more than that, may result in the student being asked to continue the program the following year.

Justice and Service Hours:

Similar to community service hours at school, each student will need to complete 15 hours of service or justice projects and at least three Justice or Service projects. **These hours are due by the time of the Retreat in February.** The projects must be done with Saint John Vianney Community. We will offer pre-approved projects once a month for students to participate in. If there is a project a student would like to do outside of these projects he or she must get the project approved by the Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Sponsors:

By Monday, October 17th each student must have the paperwork turned into us for their Sponsor. We highly recommend that sponsors are at least 21 years old, but they can be anyone who has been Confirmed and lives in the San Jose area. If the person is someone who cannot make it to all the Sponsor meetings, the student should pick two sponsors. One Sponsor for each student must be at each Sponsor meeting and the rehearsal. The attached sponsor sheet must be signed by an official at the sponsor's parish, to verify that they are an active member of the parish. **If they attend Saint John Vianney, you do not need to have an official sign it off, we can verify the information.**

Saint Names:

Each candidate will need to have a Saint Name. We will work on this in class a little bit. However, each candidate will need to write a one to two page paper describing why they picked the saint name, and some biographical information on the saint. **More information is attached and will be talked about in class, this will occur in the second year.**

Holy Thursday:

It is tradition that the youth involved in Confirmation and Youth Ministry help with the Holy Thursday service. **The rehearsal will take place on Monday, March 17, 2008 from 6:45PM to 8:00PM. ALL CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES SHOULD BE HERE. All Confirmation Candidates must be at the church on Holy Thursday by 6:30, which is Thursday, March 20, 2008.**

Confirmation Mass:

The Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, May 10th at 9:30AM at the Cathedral. Students, Parents, and Sponsors will need to arrive at the Cathedral by 8:45AM. More information will be mailed home at a later date.