

ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE CHURCH

Office of Christian Formation

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June 10, 2023

Dear St. Jude High School Parent(s):

Just the other month, we had an individual in their mid-20's come into our Religious Ed Office and excitedly announce to us that they were asked to stand Godparent for their recently born niece. It was obvious the individual was honored and joyful by this prospect, and we were pleased for them.

However, their happiness and excitement faded quickly when they asked what they needed from St. Jude's in order to participate in the Baptism. We said they simply needed a standard letter of good-standing from our Parish Office declaring that they are a registered member of the parish and a fully-initiated Catholic who has been both Baptized and Confirmed in the Catholic Church. Their face turned to panic when they said they weren't Confirmed but were baptized as an infant.

The conversation then goes something like this; *"I didn't know that you needed to be Confirmed to be a Godparent! Why isn't Baptism enough?"* **"Because your baptismal promises were made for you. Confirmation fully completes your initiation to the Church."** *"Well, what do I have I to do to get Confirmed before the Baptism?"* Well, THAT answer is not easy; see because the requirements then revert to RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults), and that process can take minimally a year or more.

Think this scenario is rare? It is NOT; and it's happening more and more frequently just in the past seven years I've been here at St. Jude's. The worst part is that it could have all been avoided if parents & students had just "stayed the course" from middle school Religious Ed and moved on naturally to the high-school Confirmation Prep years and had fulfilled on receiving the graces of the Sacrament.

Honestly, I don't want to have to tell ANY of our former students they are not eligible to be a Godparent or Confirmation sponsor now or in the future. That's why I have enclosed a registration form along with a schedule of our upcoming classes for 2023-24. You can either email the completed form or drop it off to the Parish Office or Christian Formation Center. More conveniently, you can complete the registration on-line by visiting our web site www.stjudelewes.org and click on the *"Catholic Things Happen Here"* graphic off of the main page.

Should you have any questions regarding this, our any of our Formation programs, please do not hesitate to contact Donna or I in the Christian Formation Office (302-644-7413). We hope to be having your young adult this fall included in our Confirmation prep program.

God Bless!

Michael J. McShane

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