

## Revised information for Parents and those interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation:

At our Breakaway Large group tonight, we have encouraged the teens to truly discern their desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. The most important aspect of this discernment is having the teens ask themselves, "Am I actively living out my faith?". We have given them these core items to help in their discernment.

1. Am I Participating in Breakaway/Discipleship group ministry?
2. Am I living the minimum guidelines for being an active Catholic, this includes going to Mass Regularly found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2042?
  - a. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
  - b. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
  - c. You shall receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter Season.
  - d. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
  - e. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.
3. Is my Family involved in TLC or LIFT?
4. Do I participate in any of the many youth ministry events offered by our parishes?
  - a. Middle School youth ministry events include Friday Night lives, Winter Blast, and Extreme Faith Camp.

Parents are encouraged to assist their teen in this discernment process. Please go through each one of these core items and discuss how your teen has been actively participating in all of these areas and perhaps areas which could use some improvement.

If a teen discerns they are not yet actively involved in our parish, we welcome them to work on their involvement and want your family to know we will continue to offer this Sacrament every year. When they are ready we will welcome them to move on with the process preparing for the Sacrament.

If a teen discerns they are actively living out the faith and are ready for the Sacrament of Confirmation, then all they will need to do is go through the packet in the manila envelope. It states, provide a letter of intent as described in the hand out, Choose a sponsor, plan out the process for requesting your Baptismal Certificate if you were not Baptized at St. Michael or St.

Albert, and lastly choose a Confirmation name. It also gives you a series of dates to make sure you write down.

Teens must return all registration information and the letter of intent if they have chosen to be confirmed by Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>!

After Father or Staff review the letter of intent, we will discuss with the small group leaders and the teens individually to help complete the discernment. We do not expect the teens to be perfectly living out their faith, but rather honestly look at where they are at in living out the faith, and if they are not living out the faith to choose to wait.

It is essential that we all remind ourselves what it truly takes to be lawfully confirmed: Canon law states: " Apart from the danger of death, to receive confirmation lawfully a person who has the use of reason must be suitably instructed, **properly disposed**, and able to renew the baptismal promises" (CIC 889). If a teen is unwilling to receive confirmation, he is not properly disposed and cannot lawfully receive confirmation.

To attempt to make this as simple as possible. No one but your teen truly has the capacity to decide whether they are open or ready for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Not our staff, small group leaders or even the parents. Since your teen has reached the age of reason, only they can truly discern if they are properly disposed and ready to enter fully into the Catholic Church. We are all here to assist them in this process and help them to be suitably instructed.

If your teen chooses not to be confirmed this year, we encourage them to remain in their D-Group and when they discern they are properly disposed to reach out to us, we will be sure to get them the necessary information in order to be confirmed that year. Whether they are in 9th Grade through 12 grade. If they choose to wait till after High School, then they will be invited to prepare for the sacrament by attending R.C.I.A. Most importantly they are always welcome in their D-Group throughout High School whether confirmed or not. D-Group is not confirmation, but truly the way for them to grow in their faith through High School.