**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2018-2019**

The high school Confirmation Program at St. Vincent’s is designed to be an enriching experience that will help each participant not only prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, but also to develop and deepen his or her relationship with God. The program is designed to make available teaching, experiences, and community that will encourage each participant to live out life-long discipleship of Jesus, as an active member of the Catholic Church. We are excited to offer a wide variety of opportunities that will enrich the faith-life not only of the high school aged participant, but of that student’s #1 faith formational support system—the family. Each class, assignment, youth night, parent/family requirement, etc. is designed to help form true friends of Jesus who are connected to the parish community as well as the universal, Roman Catholic Church, and live out their calling from God as missionary disciples.

Jesus said, “Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.” (Matthew 7:7) Our goal is to provide a space for students to ask questions, to seek God earnestly, and to knock on His door through many prayer experiences. As the Lord promises, all who seek Him with their whole heart will find Him with them. (Jeremiah 29:11) The Confirmation prep curriculum is designed to help students seek with their whole hearts, going back to and digging deeper into the basics: Who is Jesus and why does He matter to me? What is the Church that Jesus left us and what does it mean that I am a child of God? What is my purpose and mission in life? Why does the Church teach what it does (and what exactly does the Church teach) about x, y, z topics, etc. Through delving into these topics with large group teaching, followed by small group discussion time in class, students will be able to explore the Catholic faith with peers and adult mentors. Other meetings and at home faith work, will allow a chance for students to engage in regular faith conversation with their sponsor and family. Through Youth Nights and other required outside events, students will have a chance to socialize, have fun, pray and discuss the faith with their friends and with the greater diocesan Catholic community.

In this packet you will find spelled out the requirements for a participant to successfully journey through the preparation/inquiry stage in order to show readiness and desire to be Confirmed. The packet is detailed in order to help you understand the full scope of the requirements.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2018-2019**

**The Basics:**

Students must be no younger than 9th grade and no older than 12th grade to start the program

Only **registered parishioners** of St. Vincent’s are eligible to register for the confirmation program. Any non-parishioners, those who do not attend Mass at St. Vincent’s weekly, cannot register for Confirmation without the following:

- Letter of good standing and written approval to receive Confirmation at St. Vincent’s from the pastor of the parish they attend (while in Confirmation classes, must attend St. Vincent’s).

- Permission from the pastor of St. Vincent’s, which may also require a meeting with the family.

-  If approved, the youth must attend weekly Masses at St. Vincent’s, and Family must turn in a guest envelope for tithing (see Mass participation section).

**It is recommended that students fulfill the Confirmation prep requirements over the course of 2 Years.** A two year program allows more time to truly be immersed in the community, catechesis and prayer experiences—the extra time over a two year period may help allow students to come to more of an ownership of their Catholic faith. However, **students *may* take the consolidated track and complete the Confirmation prep in one year, *if the following conditions are met:***

a) Student will be 15 years old by May of 2019

b) Student opts to fulfill all requirements/class times/curriculum stated in both the “1st year program and 2nd year program” during the course of only one year.

\*\*If a student signs up for the 1 year, consolidated program, but misses more than 2 classes, youth nights or other required gatherings (in any combination), they will automatically be switched over to a two year enrollment.

**In the following pages you will see a complete overview of both the Consolidated 1 Year Program and the Recommended 2 Year Program. The full scope of the One Year Program is all in *BLUE* and the full scope (both years) of the 2 Year Program is in *Brown*—this way you can compare, knowing all details.**

**One Year Consolidated Program**

Cost: $260 plus additional fees for mandatory retreats and other activities.

Cost includes: Bible, YouCat, You book, supplies, course materials (You, Chosen, YDisciple, etc.), teacher training resources, etc.

**Class Session Requirements**

* Attend **ALL regular class sessions: every 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month 9AM-10:20AM** in the parish hall. Class sessions include large group lesson, followed by small group break-out sessions. \*There will also be 2-3 guest speaker presentations on Sunday afternoons/evenings that count as class time (see calendar)
* **On the 4th Sunday of the month students are given work to do with their sponsor and/or parent(s)** **at home**—an online series called YDisciple. You will be able to choose topics that are interesting to you and complete a written journal of what you discussed (questions are given for each segment of the video teaching)—typically 20 minutes total of video teaching, and then the discussion guides to facilitate conversation and reflection between the student and sponsor and/or parents. **The written work will be due on the 1st Sunday of the month.**
* **Disciple-Mentorship: Twice a year on the 4th Sunday of a month**, students will make a **20 minute appointment with their small group leader**(s) to sit for a personalized disciple-mentorship session—to hear where the student is in their walk with Jesus and to help “coach” them on their journey.
* Most classes will involve a **video from one of the below mentioned Confirmation curriculum programs** and/or a sharing from an adult or youth leader/guest speaker on a similar topic and **small group time to digest the message**. *See full curriculum map for specifics topics we will cover.*

**Curriculum on 1st and 3rd Sundays**: Alpha Youth –a dynamic program of videos and small group questions that create an atmosphere of exploration and participation in the basics of Christianity and growing a relationship with Jesus. Catholic Specific: A combination of Chosen Confirmation Program by Ascension Press, Matthew Kelly’s Decision Point Confirmation program

**Curriculum on 2nd Sundays:** 2nd Year Curriculum: “YOU” by Ascension Press—based on St. John Paul II’s teaching on Theology of the Body. This curriculum focuses on who we are as persons, created male and female in the image of God; it delves into pertinent questions about what the Church teaches about sexual ethics and why. It explores how we are to live a pure and fulfilled life of self-giving love in a sex-saturated culture that tends to promote the opposite lifestyle from what God intended for us as beloved children of God. YDisciple, another nationally recognized Confirmation/Youth Ministry program with a variety of topics (student/parent choice of topics) for independent. See curriculum calendar for details of topics.

**Class Policies**

* If there is a family emergency, illness, or other valid reason for missing class, the parents should *provide an email explaining the reason for the absence.* **More than two excused absences will result in an automatic transfer to the 2 year track.**
* In the event that the student has a valid excuse to be absent from class, the student will still need to **complete the prescribed** **make-up work** for the day that he missed, in order that he does not fall behind. Make-up work will be emailed to the parent (and student, if email was provided). Make-up work as well as the regularly assigned homework will be due at the beginning of their next class meeting time.
* Students are expected to be prepared for class with all appropriate books, homework assignments, a pen and their Confirmation journal.

**Books and Confirmation Journal**

* Students will receive a **Bible**, **YouCat** and the **“You”** (Theology of the Body for Teens) Workbook.
* Students are also asked to **purchase their own journal** that they will use to record notes in class and write down their Mass notes (see section on Mass)

**At Home Family Discussion and Personal Growth Work**

* Students will receive “personal growth” work to do over the course of the time between classes. This may be a daily prayer “assignment,” a video to watch and discuss with parents, to have a Bible study with any member of the family, etc.
* There will often be a **family discussion sheet**, or prayer activity for the family to do together and the student may be asked to write a journal entry on that discussion or prayer experience.

**Participation in Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation**

* Students are expected to **attend Mass *every* week**—not just when they have class, but every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) of the year, as prescribed by the Church, as well as all holy days of obligation (August 15, December 8th, November 1st, Dec 25th).
* Mass is the source and summit of the Christian life, and taking seriously the privilege and responsibility to honor and worship God the way He deserves/requires is an extremely important part of being a Catholic. **Students are expected to take this tenant of the Church seriously not only during their preparation for Confirmation, but throughout their entire lives.**
* In order to better enter into the Mass and listen to the Lord, students are asked to **record the “one thing” God spoke to them at Mass each week in their Confirmation Journal.** Students should write this down immediately following Mass attendance in their Confirmation journal, so they do not forget. The “one-thing” will be reviewed by the teachers periodically during classes.
* The class is timed so that **students can participate with their families in the 10:30AM Mass**. Students/families are not required to go to this specific Mass, but it is recommended to attend this one if possible. The most important thing is participating in the Mass weekly. **Mass attendance will be checked in the following way: please write the Confirmation student’s name on your family’s tithing envelope and put into the collection basket at the Mass you attend (even if you give online).** The only reason to miss Mass is if you are sick. If you are on vacation, you can find a nearby church using [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) –you can search a zip code and it will show you all the Catholic Churches in the area and the times they have Mass (as well as Confession). *If you are on vacation, please bring a bulletin from the church where you attend Mass.*

**“Ignite” Youth Group Meetings**

* **Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday**, 6-7:30PM in the Parish Hall/youth room according to the Youth Ministry Calendar.
* These gatherings offer a time for fellowship with peers, weaving together faith, fun, catechesis and prayer.
* **Students are required to attend BOTH youth nights per month. \*During the time of year with final testing at school, you may have a pass to attend only 1 youth night for that month.**
* Youth Nights are open to all high school teens, not just Confirmation students—**you are encouraged tobring your friends** (they don’t have to be in Confirmation or even go to St. Vincent’s to come)!

**Catholic Youth Events (CYE)**

* Catholic Youth Events are listed below and include larger diocesan youth rallies, weekend events, and shorter day retreats. Each of these exciting events is an opportunity for a deeper encounter with Jesus and His Church.
* Students **must attend at least one CYE over the course of the year,** but are welcomed and encouraged to attend more than one.
* As of now, the following is the list of events that are available over the course of the 2018-2019 year (**please plan ahead and *watch for announcements and permission slip deadlines via email (there is no pre-registration for events—they will typically open for registration 3-5 weeks prior to the event). \*\****This list is subject to change.
	+ **November 3, 2018:** Lifeteen Inspiration Tour at Six Flags – all day event in LA (~$80)
	+ **April 27, 2019: Synergy Diocesan Youth Rally**—All day event (10am-6pm)

at Cathedral Catholic High School (~$80)

* + **July 26-28th, 2019**: Steubenville Conference—3 Day, overnight event, San Diego, CA (~$235) Very limited space and fills up fast! **\*\*If you sign up by April with full, non-refundable payment, this event can count for the requirement, even if Confirmation will happen before Steubenville does.**
* Please note: Most CYEs require a permission slip—**please do not call ahead of time to sign up—all events will be announced via email when they are open** for registration—there are no early registrations.

**Mandatory Retreats**

* Mandatory Weekend Retreat: **January 11th-13th 2019** at Whispering Winds. A weekend to get away from distraction and grow in relationship with God. This is typically a highlight of the Confirmation prep journey. **Cost: $230 (includes 3 day camp stay with 5 meals and 2 overnight accommodations, t-shirt, supplies, volunteer/chaperone costs, etc.)**

**Parish Holy Hour**

* 4 times a year St. Vincent’s will be offering an all-parish event after the 10:30AM Mass. The event will last from the end of Mass for approximately an hour **(~11:30-12:30**). The time will include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a testimony or short teaching, praise and worship and a time for silent prayer.
* **Confirmation families** (at least one parent and the student) **are required to ATTEND 2** of the 4 options. **Sponsors are required to attend one** (if they live out of town, they should attend an equivalent event (prayer service, parish retreat, etc.) sponsored by their parish).
* **The Parish Holy Hour options are listed below:**

Sunday, October 28th

Sunday, December 9th

Sunday, March 24th

Sunday, April 28th

**Parish Community Involvement and Service**

***Serve* at 1 event:**

-Parish Festival (Sept 30th) -St. Vincent School Halloween Carnival Set up (Oct 25th)

-Big Bash Set up (March 16th) -Santa’s Dinner Set up (Nov 29th)

-Other Parish Events that come up during the course of year

**Come to/Participate in 1 of the following parish community events with your family:**

-Stations of the Cross during Lent -Fish Fry during Lent

-Parish Small Group (after 10:30 Mass) -St. Joseph’s Dinner (March 15th)

-Christmas Caroling -Parish Small Group

-Walk for Life in January at Balboa Park - Parish Movie Nights

-Mass Unleashed -Other events that arise

-Parish group at Side by Side Life Perspectives 5K October 27th De Anza Cove

**Participate in 1 of the following ministries at Mass for 4 Sundays in a row:**

Greeter, Altar Server, Usher, Lector

**Final Petition Letter/Exit Interview**

* During the **spring of their second year**, students will be required to **complete an interview** with a panel of 2-3 people comprised of various teachers, clergy, parishioners, parents, etc. Students will share about their faith journey and why they would like to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church.
* Students will also be asked to **write a formal petition letter** to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will be due at the time of the interview (further instructions will be given closer to interview date (in the spring).

**Parent Requirements**

As parents are the primary catechists of their children, we give great deference to parental involvement in the faith-education of their children.

Parent Requirements:

* **Attend 2 Parish Holy Hours** with your child (whole family is welcome and encouraged to attend as well).
* Participate in home growth work with your child.
* Help out in one of the following ways: chaperone an event, provide food to share for a youth night, be a driver to an event.
* We invite and encourage parents to attend as many classes as they would like to with their children. During large group time, parents are able to intake the lesson along with their child, in order to assist their son or daughter to better process it after class and dive deeper into the teachings at home. **During small group time, parents are invited to join other parents who choose to attend that particular class to have their own “parent small group.”** These “Parent Small Groups” are self-led, and parents are simply encouraged to pray together for their children, and engage in conversation and fellowship with one another.
* Most announcements and updates can be most efficiently made via email, so we ask all parents to **check their email at least once a week**, in order that we can keep you apprised of any changes to the schedule, upcoming events, or other important reminders.

**Sponsors**

Each candidate for Confirmation is asked to choose **ONE sponsor** (one only) for their sacrament. A sponsor is someone who is willing to pray for and with the candidate, to be a role-model in the faith, and to journey with the candidate as they live out their life with Jesus and the Catholic Church. In order to be considered for the role of Sponsor a person must (as stated in the diocesan handbook policy 314):

a.) be at least 16 years of age and sufficiently mature for this responsibility;

b.) be a Catholic who has been confirmed, has already received first Eucharist and is leading a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;

c.) NOT be a parent of the candidate; and

d.) not be prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor.

[See Canon 893 with reference to Canon 874; Rite of Confirmation, 6]

* Students are asked to **choose a sponsor by October**, in order that the sponsor may also journey with the student through his or her time of preparation for the sacrament.
* Sponsors are invited, but not required to participate in class, in the same way parents are.
* As mentioned above, **sponsors are required to attend ONE of the parish holy hours per year**, or an equivalent event if they live out of the area.
* Also, as mentioned above, sponsors are invited, in the second year to do the monthly at home, independent study, YDisciple program assignments with the student.
* Sponsor paperwork:
	+ Sponsor must have letter of good standing from their parish priest and fill out the sponsor information sheet

**Two Year Program \*Recommended**

Cost: $130 **each year** plus additional fees for mandatory retreats and other activities

Cost includes: Bible, YouCat, You book (year two), supplies, course materials (You, Chosen, YDisciple, etc.), teacher training resources, etc.

**Class Session Requirements**

***First Year (2018-2019)***

* Attend ALL regular class sessions: every **1st and 3rd Sunday** of the month, **9AM-10:20AM**.

***Second Year (2019-2020)***

* Class every **2nd Sunday of the month**, 9AM-10:20AM. \*There will also be 2-3 guest speaker presentations on Sunday afternoons/evenings that count as class time (see calendar).
* As well, on the **4th Sunday of the month students are given work to do with their sponsor and/or parent(s) at home**—an online series called YDisciple. You will be able to choose topics that are interesting to you and complete a written journal of what you discussed (questions are given for each segment of the video teaching)—typically 20 minutes total of video teaching, and then the discussion guides to facilitate conversation and reflection between the student and sponsor and/or parents. The written work will be due on the 2nd Sunday of the month.
* **Disciple-Mentorship: Twice a year on the 4th Sunday of a month**, students will make a **20 minute appointment with their small group leader**(s) to sit for a personalized disciple-mentorship session—to hear where the student is in their walk with Jesus and to help “coach” them on their journey.
* Most classes will involve a **video from one of the below mentioned Confirmation curriculum programs** and/or a sharing from an adult or youth leader/guest speaker on a similar topic and **small group time to digest the message**. *See full curriculum map for specifics topics we will cover.*

***First Year Curriculum****:* Alpha Youth –a dynamic program of videos and small group questions that create an atmosphere of exploration and participation in the basics of Christianity and growing a relationship with Jesus. Catholic Specific: A combination of Chosen Confirmation Program by Ascension Press, Matthew Kelly’s Decision Point Confirmation program.

***Second Year Curriculum:*** 2nd Year Curriculum: “YOU” by Ascension Press—based on St. John Paul II’s teaching on Theology of the Body. This curriculum focuses on who we are as persons, created male and female in the image of God; it delves into pertinent questions about what the Church teaches about sexual ethics and why. It explores how we are to live a pure and fulfilled life of self-giving love in a sex-saturated culture that tends to promote the opposite lifestyle from what God intended for us as beloved children of God. See Curriculum calendar for details of topics. YDisciple, another nationally recognized Confirmation/Youth Ministry program with a variety of topics (student/parent choice of topics) for independent. See curriculum calendar for details of topics.

**Class Policies**

* If there is a family emergency, illness, or other valid reason for missing class, the parents should *provide an email explaining the reason for the absence.* **More than two excused absences may result in a repeat of the year.**
* In the event that the student has a valid excuse to be absent from class, the student will still need to **complete the prescribed** **make-up work** for the day that he missed, in order that he does not fall behind. Make-up work will be emailed to the parent (and student, if email was provided). Make-up work as well as the regularly assigned homework will be due at the beginning of their next class meeting time.
* Students are expected to be prepared for class with all appropriate books, homework assignments, a pen and their Confirmation journal.

**Books and Confirmation Journal**

* Students will receive a **Bible**, **YouCat** in the first year--they should keep these for use the second year.
* In their second year, students will receive the **“You”** (Theology of the Body for Teens) Workbook.
* Students are also asked to **purchase their own journal** that they will use to record notes in class and write down their Mass notes (see section on Mass).

**At Home Family Discussion and Personal Growth Work**

* Students will receive “personal growth” work to do over the course of the time between classes. This may be a daily prayer “assignment,” a video to watch and discuss with parents, to have a Bible study with any member of the family, etc.
* There will often be a **family discussion sheet**, or prayer activity for the family to do together and the student may be asked to write a journal entry on that discussion or prayer experience.

**Participation in Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation**

* Students are expected to **attend Mass *every* week**—not just when they have class, but every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) of the year, as prescribed by the Church, as well as all holy days of obligation (August 15, December 8th, November 1st, Dec 25th).
* Mass is the source and summit of the Christian life, and taking seriously the privilege and responsibility to honor and worship God the way He deserves/requires is an extremely important part of being a Catholic. **Students are expected to take this tenant of the Church seriously not only during their preparation for Confirmation, but throughout their entire lives.**
* In order to better enter into the Mass and listen to the Lord, students are asked to **record the “one thing” God spoke to them at Mass each week in their Confirmation Journal.** Students should write this down immediately following Mass attendance in their Confirmation journal, so they do not forget. The “one-thing” will be reviewed by the teachers periodically during classes.
* The class is timed so that **students can participate with their families in the 10:30AM Mass**. Students/families are not required to go to this specific Mass, but it is recommended to attend this one if possible. The most important thing is participating in the Mass weekly. **Mass attendance will be checked in the following way: please write the Confirmation student’s name on your family’s tithing envelope and put into the collection basket at the Mass you attend (even if you give online).** The only reason to miss Mass is if you are sick. If you are on vacation, you can find a nearby church using [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) –you can search a zip code and it will show you all the Catholic Churches in the area and the times they have Mass (as well as Confession). *If you are on vacation, please bring a bulletin from the church where you attend Mass.*

**“Ignite” Youth Group Meetings –requirement in both first and second year**

* **Available every 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6-7:30PM** in the Parish Hall/youth room from according to the Youth Ministry Calendar.
* These gatherings offer a time for fellowship with peers, weaving together faith, fun, catechesis and prayer.
* **Students are required to attend ONE per month**, but are welcomed and encouraged to attend both.
* Youth Nights are open to all high school teens, not just Confirmation students—**you are encouraged tobring your friends** (they don’t have to be in Confirmation or even go to St. Vincent’s to come)!

**Catholic Youth Events (CYE)**

* Catholic Youth Events are listed below and include larger diocesan youth rallies, weekend events, and shorter day retreats. Each of these exciting events is an opportunity for a deeper encounter with Jesus and His Church.
* Students **must attend at least one CYE over the course of EACH year of Confirmation prep** but are welcomed and encouraged to attend more than one.
* As of now, the following is the list of events that are available over the course of the 2018-2019 year (**please plan ahead and *watch for announcements and permission slip deadlines via email (there is no pre-registration for events—they will typically open for registration 3-5 weeks prior to the event). \*\****This list is subject to change.
	+ **November 3, 2018:** Lifeteen Inspiration Tour at Six Flags – all day event in LA (~$80)
	+ **April 27, 2019: Synergy Diocesan Youth Rally**—All day event (10am-6pm)

at Cathedral Catholic High School (~$80)

* + **July 26-28th, 2019**: Steubenville Conference—3 Day, overnight event, San Diego, CA (~$235) Very limited space and fills up fast! **\*\*If you sign up by April with full, non-refundable payment, this event can count for the first year requirement, even though first year will be over by July. You will still need another event for second year.**
* Please note: Most CYEs require a permission slip—**please do not call ahead of time to sign up—all events will be announced via email when they are open** for registration—there are no early registrations.

**Mandatory Retreats—to be done in FIRST year of prep**

* **Mandatory Weekend Retreat: January 11th-13th** **2019** **at Whispering Winds:** A weekend to get away from distraction and grow in relationship with God. This is typically a highlight of the Confirmation prep journey.

**Cost: $230 (includes 3 day camp stay with 5 meals and 2 overnight accommodations, t-shirt, supplies, volunteer/chaperone costs, etc.)**

**Parish Holy Hour**

* 4 times a year St. Vincent’s will be offering an all-parish event after the 10:30AM Mass. The event will last from the end of Mass for approximately an hour (~11:30-12:30). The time will include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a testimony or short teaching, praise and worship and a time for silent prayer.
* **Confirmation families (at least one parent and the student) are required to attend 2 *per year***. Sponsors are required to attend one per year (if they live out of town, they should attend an equivalent event (prayer service, parish retreat, etc) sponsored by their parish).
* **The Parish Holy Hour options for the year are listed below:**

Sunday, October 28th

Sunday, December 9th

Sunday, March 24th

Sunday, April 28th

**Parish Community Involvement and Service (Each Year)**

***Serve* at 1 event:**

-Parish Festival (Sept 30th) -St. Vincent School Halloween Carnival Set up (Oct 25th)

-Big Bash Set up (March 16th) -Santa’s Dinner Set up (Nov 29th)

-Other Parish Events that come up during the course of year

**Come to/Participate in 1 of the following parish community events with your family:**

-Stations of the Cross during Lent -Fish Fry during Lent

-Parish Small Group (after 10:30 Mass) -St. Joseph’s Dinner (March 15th)

-Christmas Caroling -Parish Small Group

-Walk for Life in January at Balboa Park - Parish Movie Nights

-Mass Unleashed -Other events that arise

-Parish group at Side by Side Life Perspectives 5K October 27th De Anza Cove

**Participate in one of the following ministries at Mass for four Sundays in a row:**

Greeter, Altar Server, Usher, Lector

**Final Petition Letter/Exit Interview during SECOND year**

* During the spring of their second year, students will be required to **complete an interview** with a panel of 2-3 people comprised of various teachers, clergy, parishioners, parents, etc. Students will share about their faith journey and why they would like to be Confirmed in the Catholic Church.
* Students will also be asked to **write a formal petition letter** to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will be due at the time of the interview (further instructions will be given closer to interview date in the second year).

**Parent Requirements**

As parents are the primary catechists of their children, we give great deference to parental involvement in the faith-education of their children.

Parent Requirements:

* Attend **2 Parish Holy Hours** with your child **per year** (whole family is welcome)
* Participate in home growth work with your child.
* Help out in one of the following ways: chaperone an event, provide food to share for a youth night, be a driver to an event.
* We invite and encourage parents to attend as many classes as they would like to with their children. During large group time, parents are able to intake the lesson along with their child, in order to assist their son or daughter to better process it after class and dive deeper into the teachings at home. **During small group time, parents are invited to join other parents who choose to attend that particular class to have their own “parent small group.”** These “Parent Small Groups” are self-led, and parents are simply encouraged to pray together for their children, and engage in conversation and fellowship with one another.
* Most announcements and updates can be most efficiently made via email, so we ask all parents to **check their email at least once a week**, in order that we can keep you apprised of any changes to the schedule, upcoming events, or other important reminders.

**Sponsors**

Each candidate for Confirmation is asked to choose **ONE sponsor** (one only) for their sacrament. A sponsor is someone who is willing to pray for and with the candidate, to be a role-model in the faith, and to journey with the candidate as they live out their life with Jesus and the Catholic Church. In order to be considered for the role of Sponsor a person must (as stated in the diocesan handbook policy 314):

a.) be at least 16 years of age and sufficiently mature for this responsibility;

b.) be a Catholic who has been confirmed, has already received first Eucharist and is leading a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken;

c.) NOT be a parent of the candidate; and

d.) not be prohibited by law from exercising the role of sponsor.

[See Canon 893 with reference to Canon 874; Rite of Confirmation, 6]

* Students are asked to **choose a sponsor by October of their first year**, in order that the sponsor may also journey with the student through his or her time of preparation for the sacrament.
* Sponsors are invited, but not required to participate in class, in the same way parents are.
* As mentioned above, **sponsors are required to attend ONE of the parish holy hours per year**, or an equivalent event at their parish, if they live out of the area.
* Also, as mentioned above, sponsors are invited, in the second year to do the monthly at home, independent study, YDisciple program assignments with the student.
* Sponsor paperwork:
	+ Sponsor must have letter of good standing from their parish priest and fill out and sign the sponsor information sheet.