



**9th-10th Grade Faith Formation**  
**Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation**

Dear Parishioner,

As we look toward another year of faith formation in our parishes, we are coming off one of the wildest and most challenging years in our lifetimes. There has been a lot of suffering. There have also been many graces. We have learned from this pandemic and are, with God's help, moving forward with more "tools in our belts" for handling challenges that life and society throws at us. And we always have our faith that God will see us through any and every challenge on this journey to eternity with Him.

Last year, we were forced to use ZOOM for much of our Sacramental Prep for 9th and 10th grade. While this was indeed much better than not meeting at all, it came with significant challenges to the process. Most of the candidates, for instance, rarely were convinced to turn their video cameras on, making it quite hard to engage as a group with each other. Many of the candidates in our program I would not know if I saw them passing on the street because I have literally never seen them!

That being said, we are going to return to in person sessions as much as possible this coming year, understanding that COVID is not yet gone and we might be forced back onto ZOOM for a time. We intend to have two options for each grade: Sunday afternoons at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall in Newburyport OR Tuesday evenings at Nativity Church Hall in Merrimac. ***Candidates from both parishes are welcome to choose either option.***

It is my hope that the schedule you see below will help give candidates a deeper, fresh look at the basics of the Gospel of Jesus Christ while equipping them to live committed lives as His missionary disciples in the world. This means not just teaching them doctrines, but praying with them, listening to them along the way and encountering them where they are as young men and women in a world often opposed to faith.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.

In Christ,  
Aaron Giard  
Director of Lifelong Faith Formation

## **9th Grade/YEAR 1 Sacramental Preparation**

- Main Curriculum: Life Teen PURPOSE
- Small Group Format, candidates only (*no parents, except first meeting*).
- In the event of a rise in local COVID cases or inclement weather, sessions will be held on ZOOM.
- Once a month September - May (9 meetings; 90 minutes each)
  - Sundays: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM @ Immaculate Conception Parish Hall
  - Tuesdays: 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM @ Nativity Church Hall, Merrimac
- Sunday Session Dates (@ IC Parish Hall):
  - Sept. 26th - **Parent/Teen Meeting**
  - October 24th
  - November 14th
  - December 12th
  - January 16th
  - February 13th
  - March 6th
  - April 3rd
  - May 1st
- Tuesday Session Dates (@ Nativity Church Hall):
  - Sept. 28th - **Parent/Teen Meeting**
  - October 26th
  - November 16th
  - December 14th
  - January 18th
  - February 15th
  - March 8th
  - April 5th
  - May 3rd

## **10th Grade/YEAR 2 Sacramental Preparation**

- Main Curriculum: Life Teen PURPOSE
- Small Group Format, candidates only (*no parents*)
- In the event of a rise in local COVID cases or inclement weather, sessions will be held on ZOOM.
- Twice a month October - April (14 meetings; 90 minutes each)
  - Sundays: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM @ Immaculate Conception Parish Hall
  - Tuesdays: 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM @ Nativity Church Hall, Merrimac
- Sunday Session Dates (@ IC Parish Hall):
  - October 3rd
  - October 17th
  - November 7th
  - November 21st
  - December 5th
  - December 19th
  - January 9th
  - January 23rd
  - February 6th
  - February 27th
  - March 13th
  - March 27th
  - April 10th
  - April 24th
- Tuesday Session Dates (@ Nativity Church Hall):
  - October 5th
  - October 19th
  - November 9th
  - November 23rd
  - December 7th
  - December 21st
  - January 11th
  - January 25th
  - February 8th
  - March 1st
  - March 15th
  - March 29th
  - April 12th
  - April 26th