



ASCENSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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October 8, 2009

Dear Parents,

We invite you to join us for an Information Meeting about the Confirmation program at Ascension Parish. A child in your family might be interested in beginning the discernment process. This is the time when, through prayer, meetings and discussion, students decide if they are ready to complete their initiation by making a personal commitment to their faith. The process may also lead your child to decide that he/she needs more time to prepare.

Now is the time we begin forming our group of confirmands for the 2010 celebration of Confirmation. If you are interested in celebrating Confirmation in the Fall of 2010, we invite you and your child to an Information Meeting on **Thursday, October 29, 2009**, at 7:30 PM in the Pine Room.

Some of the characteristics of our Confirmation process are:

1. Participation in the program is not limited to any specific grade level. Preparation meetings will take place outside the classroom setting. On occasion, issues related to Confirmation will arise out of 7th and 8th grade classroom materials. The regular religion class provides the opportunity for Confirmation candidates to extend and explore issues presented at the Confirmation classes. It is not, however, the primary place of Confirmation instruction. Communication about the program will take place in the parish bulletin, through parent letters and by personal contact.
2. The process includes some reading, study, reflection and sharing. Work will be expected of the students outside the meeting times. A reflection process on the materials will be developed during the classes and used in various ways throughout the preparation time. The reflection process is an integral part of helping the students understand how they live out their lives in the light of their faith. **Parent participation in this reflection process is highly encouraged.** Setting aside one-half hour a week to read scripture and reflect on it will enhance the preparation experience.
3. Expectations of the process are explained on the attached sheet. The requirements of the program do not include age. However, a study of the Confirmation expectations will indicate that a certain level of maturity is necessary to complete the program.

After considering all aspects of the program, if your family is interested in celebrating Confirmation in the Fall of 2010, please come with your future candidate/s to the Information Meeting on **October 29** at 7:30 PM in the Pine Room. At that time, you will receive a registration form for the program and be able to ask questions regarding the process. Attendance at the Information Meeting is a prerequisite to joining the Confirmation program.

THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION FOR THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM IS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 8 PM.

1. PLEASE TAKE TIME TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THIS DECISION, AND
2. PLEASE RETURN THE REGISTRATION ON TIME SO AS TO BE CONSIDERATE OF THE TIME NEEDED TO PREPARE AND RESPECTFULLY RECEIVE YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY INTO THIS PROGRAM.

SINCE THE PROGRAM IS OPEN TO STUDENTS OF VARIOUS AGES, FAMILIES WHO MISS THIS YEAR'S DEADLINE WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN THE PROGRAM NEXT YEAR.

Reminders of this meeting will be in the parish bulletin only. Please watch for them!

Christine A. Ondrla
Director of Religious Education