

Confirmation Information for 9th grade 2020-2021

****9th Grade Sacramental Preparation will meet in the Church through December.****

- In accordance with the Diocese of Cleveland, Confirmation at Saint Rita Parish is a two year process.
 - In the 8th grade year, there is more of a historical and academic focus. Students are asked to begin discerning a Confirmation Sponsor that meets the requirements of the Church. Also, students begin engagement in the service components of our Parish.
 - In the 9th grade year, students learn how to deepen their personal relationship with Christ and grow their engagement activities.
 - 8th graders “graduate” from their schools. We don’t ever graduate from our faith or the journey to God. When students are confirmed during their eighth grade year, and experience a type of final ceremony at their school, many families apply that to their Catholicism as well.
 - Confirmation is a sacrament of engagement. They are sealed, strengthened and commissioned by the Holy Spirit to go out into the world and make a difference for Christ. They are sent among the flock to be the much needed hands and feet of Jesus in a world that has gone astray.
 - In ninth grade, students are challenged with a new beginning. They have higher expectations of responsibility, maturity, socialization and spirituality. Therefore, this is also the perfect time for this Sacrament as it poses a new beginning in their life within the Church.

- Confirmation Sessions through December
 - On the second Sunday of the Month (October 11th, November 8th, and December 13th) The teens will meet in the Church.
 - We will offer two sessions on those Sundays to comply with proper safety protocol
 - 5:30pm-6:30pm
 - 7:00pm-8pm
 - Parent can sign up via Sign Up Genius link in this informational email
 - Teens must attend the session they registered for.
 - The monthly emails will be sent out as reminders prior to the meetings:
 - These emails will also have any updated information you will need for the month/ year.
 - Constant Contact will be our main form of communication. If you are not getting our emails please email Corey at, clesko@stritaparish.com.

- Paperwork/Registration
 - Please first complete the online registration for confirmation preparation via our website, www.stritaparish.com

- Once that is received, you will be mailed (not emailed) the official sacramental form that gets mailed to the diocese.
 - Your teen can bring this form back to a Sacramental Meeting or it can be dropped off/ mailed to the Parish Office
 - **Form Due by the December meeting.**
- Copy of Baptismal Certificate
 - Your teen can bring this form back to a Sacramental Meeting or it can be dropped off/ mailed to the Parish Office
 - **Form Due by the December meeting.**
- Sponsor forms must be returned to the Parish Office.
 - A Sponsor Certificate from your sponsor's parish stating that they are in good standing within the Church.
 - Your teen can bring this form back to a Sacramental Meeting or it can be dropped off/ mailed to the Parish Office
 - **Form Due by the December meeting.**

- Engagement Requirements
 - As part of the Sacrament of Confirmation we ask the teens to participate in engagement activities in our Parish, there are categories, Parish Life and Community Outreach.
 - Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are still finalizing this piece of our formation. In our October email you will receive detailed information about this part of our program.
 - If there are school activities or family service engagements that you think would also apply to these categories, please verify with Corey. They may also be acceptable.

- Housekeeping
 - Books
 - Awaken will be used for the two years
 - The teens will NOT need to bring their books for the first three sessions. Make sure the books are in a safe location because they will be needed the second half of the year.
 - Class Structure
 - October through December will take place in the Church.
 - Two sessions per evening will be offered.
 - Parents drop their teen off, but MUST come into Church to pick them up at the end of the session.
 - This is for safety reasons and a policy of Saint Rita Parish

- Please do not allow your teen to bring their cell phone to the sessions. If they do, phones will be collected until the end of class.
 - January- April : TBD
 - We will send out another informational email in December regarding the second half of the year. Our hope is to continued meeting in person.
 - Absences
 - It is extremely important to be at every session.
 - 9th grade meets for **8/1 hour meetings, participates in a retreat and has rehearsal**
 - **Retreat:** The Retreat is scheduled for Saturday February 6th, 12pm-6pm
 - Please block this date off on your calendar.
 - More information to come in December on how we will host our retreat day.
 - The retreat is a mandatory requirement of Confirmation.
 - There is not much time to prepare the students for this glorious sacrament. To be fully prepared, the presence and participation of your teen is expected during the two year Confirmation Preparation.
 - The Confirmation Team has the responsibility to fully prepare the teens and will be asked by the Bishop, in front of the community, if we believe the teens are ready. We take this very seriously and want your child to confidently accept the mission of spreading the Gospel and truth in this world!
 - If your teen must miss a session, please email Corey, clesko@stritaparish.com or Kelly, kforaker@stritaparish.com so we are aware. If the session is not able to be made up by catechesis offered at home by the parent, the teen may be asked to attend other offerings at Saint Rita.
- Parent Resource – Confirmation Conversations – What Parents and Teens Need to Know
 - This is a great resource for our parents! We have added a link where this book can be purchased if you, the parent, are looking for something more. Spiritually guiding teens can be a challenge. Please read and use this resource to help you answer some tough questions about the faith and specifically about Confirmation.
 - If you need any other assistance in talking with your teen, please contact Corey or Kelly. We are here to support you on your family's faith journey!
- Remind
 - **We will only use this if we need to cancel a meeting at the last minute due to weather or Covid related issues.** We will also use Constant Contact and our social media

platforms to communicate important information. Please do the following to be connected:

- Download the free App ***Remind***
- To join the 9th Grade Group – send a text message to 81010. In the message space type: @kforaker

- **Confirmation Mass **Subject to Change due to Covid safety procedures.**
 - **Confirmation is Wednesday, May 5th, 2021**
 - **Mass begins at 7:00pm**
 - **Teens and Sponsors must arrive by 6:00pm**
 - **Abbott Hoover is presiding**
- **Parent Zoom Follow Up**
 - **Sunday September 20, 2020 at 7pm**
 - **Not a required Zoom, but offered for any questions you may have regarding the Confirmation preparation Process.**

If you have any questions, please contact Corey or Kelly. We look forward to a Blessed year of Preparation.