

## Confirmation Information for 8<sup>th</sup> grade 2020-2021

### **\*\*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Sacramental Preparation will be done remotely through December.\*\***

- In accordance with the Diocese of Cleveland, Confirmation at Saint Rita Parish is a two year process.
  - In the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 to be engagement in the service components of our Parish.
  - In the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, students learn how to deepen their personal relationship with Christ and grow their engagement activities.
  
- Why do the children not receive Confirmation in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year?
  - 8<sup>th</sup> 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.
  
- At Home Formation
  - On the second Sunday of the Month (October 11<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup>, and December 6<sup>th</sup>) you will receive a Constant Contact email with the monthly check list that needs to be accomplished.
    - If you HAVE NOT gotten an email by the following Monday, please contact Corey Lesko at [clesko@stritaparish.com](mailto:clesko@stritaparish.com).
    - Constant Contact will be our main form of communication.
  - The monthly emails will include:
    - 1-2 short videos to watch
    - A chapter to complete in their Awaken Confirmation text book
    - A prayer or activity to do at home.
    - A Survey with questions regarding the work.
      - This is how we will assess your participation for the semester.

- Paperwork/Registration
  - Please first complete the online registration for confirmation preparation via our website, [www.stritaparish.com](http://www.stritaparish.com)
  - The teens will receive their Engagement Form in the October Information Email.
  
- Engagement Requirements
  - As part of the Sacrament of Confirmation we ask the teens to participate in engagement activities in our Parish, there are two 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 ---**do not lose the book**
      - We will distribute the books in two ways
        - Day School Students will receive them through school.
        - PSR students will receive their book with their PSR materials.
  - Class Structure
    - October through December will all be completed at home.
    - January- April : TBD
      - We will send out another informational email in December regarding the second half of the year. Our hope is to begin meeting in person.
  - Absences
    - It is extremely important to complete every session.
    - If you do not complete a session by the time of the following session it will be marked as absent.
    - To be fully prepared, 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!

- **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!
  
- **Parent Zoom Follow Up**
  - **Sunday September 20, 2020 at 6pm**
  - **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.