



Dear St. Rose Families

Thank you for your interest in our new Confirmation program. In this packet, you will find all the information you need about the Confirmation Program at St. Rose. This is a special time of spiritual formation for your teen; one that we hope will strengthen your entire family. We are excited to journey with not only your teen but your family as they take their first steps toward the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is our goal that each candidate for Confirmation learn and follow these 4 basic principles: **Come, Learn, Inspire, Proclaim** ... **Come** to know their faith. **Learn** to open their hearts to the Holy Spirit. **Inspire** others with their commitment to our faith. **Proclaim** and evangelize to all.

In the Catholic Church, we know that the Sacrament of Confirmation is given to the baptized in order to more perfectly bind the Candidates to God through His Church! Through this Sacrament, your child will be enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit to be a true witnesses of Christ. Confirmation is not a graduation from Religious Education or the faith, but rather a beginning to being fully initiated into the church. Therefore, a comprehensive preparation for Confirmation necessitates proper planning of curriculum, teacher-formation, Clergy participation, parental involvement and the prayerful support of the total Parish community. Unlike previous years, this year we are engaging 8th graders to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in a new 2-year preparation so that the candidates can deepen their faith through study, service, retreat and liturgy. Beyond just catechesis, our new approach will include significant service opportunities within the parish and beyond, retreats and rallies where the candidates can engage with other youth to create a “faith bond” so that each candidate knows that they are not alone on this journey of faith, weekly Mass attendance as well as participation in St. Rose Youth Masses on the 3rd Sunday of

each month, and welcomed into HS (High School) Youth Ministry to share your faith with peers in a more relaxed and fun setting. The youth who fully enter into this process of ongoing conversion have the opportunity to encounter Christ and become his disciples. Because of this, our entire Confirmation Preparation Program is structured in a way to encourage the candidates to not just go through the motions but to be open to the life changing power of the Holy Spirit as we see in the apostles at Pentecost.

Confirmation preparation at St. Rose will be a 2-Step process:

Year 1/Step 1

During year one of the preparation, candidates will be engaging in a youth group model with grades ranging from 8th-12th on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Every other month the candidates will meet on the third Saturday of every month as a class to dive deeper into what Confirmation is and the importance of their role in the Catholic faith.

Year 2/Step 2

Year 2 we will take the next step and go straight into our formal curriculum of Matthew Kelly's Decision Point as well as moving up into our HS Youth Ministry.

In addition to this curriculum we will also be emphasizing "service" to church and community. This way the Candidates are able to take what they are learning in the classroom and through discipleship and evangelization are able to reach a better understanding of what "Love God & Neighbor" really means. *All Candidates will be required to attend ALL Confirmation sessions in addition to the **Youth Sunday** fellowships, become involved in a parish ministry and most importantly attend Mass every Sunday.

We also recognize that you, as parents, are the first and most important teachers of your children in matters of faith and morals – therefore we have opportunities for parent involvement in our program as well. All parents are asked to commit to leading their child into a deeper faith relationship by attending Mass with your child, engage them in their journey and volunteering as a leader in one of our classes.

To learn more about the program and your role in preparing your child for

Confirmation, we invite you to attend a parent/candidate information evening on Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 4:00pm - 5:30pm in the conference room. The meeting will not only inform you about the program, but will also offer ideas and tools to confidently engage and encourage your child during their preparation. We will also review all components of this two year program, and will be able to answer any questions that you may have!

Yours In Christ

Fr. Matt Libra

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