

St. James 9th Grade

Religious Education Classes

For Confirmation Preparation

Courses:

Public school students are to *satisfactorily complete 4 courses while in ninth grade. The four courses run in mini- sessions. The 4 courses are:

- ◆ Church
- ◆ Old Testament
- ◆ Sacraments
- ◆ Service

9th Grade Seton Catholic Central High School (SCC) students are only required to complete our Service course.

**Must attend the majority of the classes in each session. e.g. if a session has 6 classes in it, the student must attend at least 4 out of the 6 classes.*

Retreats:

Along with taking classes, all Confirmation students are required to participate in one retreat. You will be offered retreat opportunities in both 9th and 10th grades. The retreat opportunities provided are:

- ◆ 9th & 10th Grade Retreat (St James Church Hall-Sunday October 2, 2016 from 12:30-5:30pm)
- ◆ Parish Mission (St James Church- March 12th- 15th, 2017) Students need to attend one of the weekend masses, and then the Parish Mission talks on Monday, Tuesday, **and** Wednesday evenings at 7pm.)

Service:

In the "Service" course, students will be given the background on Catholic Social Teaching, participate in service projects, and develop an understanding of the application of the theology. While in the course, each student is to engage in 3 different service projects:

- ◆ **One individual project-** a project the student chooses. This can be within the parish or an outside organization. (Helping a neighbor etc.)
- ◆ **One parish activity-** e.g. helping at Breakfast with St. Nicholas etc. You will be given a list of many Service Opportunities to choose from.
- ◆ **One Large Group project-** this year's 9th Grade students will work together as a group on a project. It is expected that every 9th grader will participate on this project. There will be various dates and times available for your participation. I will inform you at a later date of this year's group project.

It will be the student's responsibility to keep track of their 3 service projects. You will give details of your 3 service projects, along with a description of your experience in a 400-500 word reflection paper. You will be given the details of the paper in service class.

A Look Ahead...

There are two important steps in the confirmation preparation process at the *beginning of tenth grade*. It is important to consider them throughout the ninth grade year and the summer before you are confirmed.

Confirmation Name:

At the baptism of each student, when their parents and godparents accepted this new Christian life for them, the first question asked was “What name do you give your child?” That name marked the beginning of a new life. Thus, each student is encouraged to take his or her baptismal name for their Confirmation Name.

Or, you can choose to take the name of any saint whose life has special meaning for you. The practice of taking a new name dates back to the first Christians. As they were baptized, they took on a new identity, a new life. However, if we are to reflect on who those first Christians were, it was most often adults, accepting the faith for themselves. Therefore, it is not inappropriate for an adolescent to take on a new name as they accept new responsibilities of faith.

Confirmation Sponsor:

A sponsor may be male or female and must be at least 16 years of age. A sponsor must be a Confirmed Catholic who is in good standing with the Catholic Church. It is appropriate that one of your godparents also be your Confirmation Sponsor. Parents cannot be sponsors. The reason being, a sponsor is to compliment the parents’ role as a teacher, the first teacher of faith.

A sponsor also needs to be a role model of faith and a “companion on the journey” with the candidate. Their participation in the direct Confirmation preparation at the end of tenth grade is welcomed, but not required. They will be asked to maintain contact with the student throughout the tenth grade year and to attend the rehearsal prior to the Confirmation Ceremony.

What You will need to be Confirmed in the Spring of 2018

9th Grade:

- **Complete Courses**
 - Church**
 - Old Testament**
 - Sacraments**
 - Service****(Exception- SCC students need only Service)**
- **May Attend a Retreat- or wait until 10th**
- **Participate in 3 service projects and write a service report**
- **Weekend Mass attendance**

10th Grade:

- **Complete Courses**
 - Morality**
 - New Testament****(Exception- SCC students do not need to complete the above courses)**
- **Attend a Retreat if haven’t done so yet**
- **Choose Confirmation Name**
- **Choose Sponsor**
- **Write Saints Report**
- **Attend Rite of Acceptance Mass and Student/Sponsor Workshop**
- **Complete Direct Preparation**
- **Weekend Mass attendance**
- **Go to confession prior to being Confirmed.**