

# **St. James Tenth Grade Religious Education Classes & Confirmation Preparation**

## **Mini-courses:**

Public school students are to \*satisfactorily complete two mini-courses in tenth grade which will run in 5 week sessions from September thru December.

They are:

- ◆ Morality
- ◆ New Testament

*Seton Catholic Central students do not need to attend Morality or New Testament.*

\*To satisfactorily complete a course the student must attend the majority of the classes in that session. e.g. must attend at least 3 out of the 5 classes in each session.

## **Retreats:**

St. James Confirmation students need to attend **one** retreat provided by St. James before they can be confirmed. This retreat can be attended while in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade. There are two options made available in 10<sup>th</sup> grade by St. James Parish for students to choose. The retreat opportunities provided this year are:

- ◆ “Our Good Gifts” Retreat (Skylake Retreat Center, Windsor, NY Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-6:30pm)
- ◆ Parish Mission (St. James Church- February 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> – 21st, 2018). Students need to attend one of the weekend masses, and then the Parish Mission talks on Monday, Tuesday, **and** Wednesday evenings at 7pm.)

## **Confirmation Name:**

Students need to choose a 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 other 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.

Whether it is a new name, or your Christian baptismal name, you are required to write report on a saint. An additional handout will be available regarding the “Saint Report.” These reports are **due on or before October 29<sup>th</sup>**). You cannot proceed to Direct Prep without this component completed.

## **Confirmation Sponsor:**

Confirmation sponsors names are to be submitted in writing by October 29th. If the sponsor is not a member of St. James Parish, they must obtain a Sponsor's Certificate from their parish. We need to receive this Certificate by the Student & Sponsor Workshop.

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, attend a Workshop with the student in January, and attend the rehearsal prior to the Confirmation Ceremony.

**Sponsors must be chosen and submitted in writing to Mrs. Davis by October 29th.** You cannot proceed to Direct Prep without this component completed.

## **Confirmation Preparation**

### **Liturgies:**

**It is expected that students are fulfilling their Sunday and Holy Day obligations through attendance at Mass.**

During our Direct Preparation, students will be expected to be present for their Rite of Acceptance Mass which takes place at our 11:30AM Sunday Mass. (See calendar for date.) This is an opportunity for the parish to participate in your preparation through prayer, but also to continue to learn as well regarding their faith and the Sacraments. Sponsors are encouraged to attend if possible, but it is not mandatory.

Students are also encouraged to participate in several other liturgical events throughout the years such as; Marian Devotions in October and May, Stations of the Cross, Lessons and Carols and the seasonal Penance Services.

### **Direct Preparation:**

A student may **proceed to direct preparation for Confirmation if they have:**

- ◆ Submitted their Confirmation name, Saint's Report and Sponsor's name.
- ◆ Completed one Confirmation retreat.
- ◆ Completed the required courses in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades (*taking into account the SCC exceptions*):
  - ◆ Church
  - ◆ Old Testament
  - ◆ Sacraments
  - ◆ Service
  - ◆ Morality
  - ◆ New Testament

There will be no less than five weeks of Direct Preparation. These sessions will include the following:

- ◆ Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- ◆ Rite of Confirmation: Signs and Symbols
- ◆ Vocations and Parish Ministries
- ◆ Hierarchy of the Church