

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 5 classes in it, the student must attend at least 3 out of the 5 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. It is your choice to attend the one retreat either as a 9th grader or a 10th grader. The retreat opportunities provided this year are:

- ◆ “Our Good Gifts” Retreat (Skylake Retreat Center Windsor, NY - Sunday October 15th 2017 from 12:30-6:30pm)
- ◆ Parish Mission (St James Church- February 17th/18th – 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.)

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. You will be given a list of many Service Opportunities within the parish to choose from or you can choose to participate in a non-parish service project.
- ◆ One **small Group Project**- each 9th grade student will be expected to participate in one of two small group projects. One choice will be volunteering at our St. James Food Pantry. The other will be volunteering at a local soup supper. I will send home various dates/times for you to choose from.
- ◆ One **large Group project**- this year’s 9th Grade students will work together as a group on our Thanksgiving Food Collection. It is expected that every 9th grader will participate on this project. Once again I will send home various dates and times available for you to choose from.

It will be the student's responsibility to keep track of their 3 service projects. When you have completed your 3 service projects you will list them and give a reflection of each project. More details on this reflection will be given in your 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 2019

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 reflection**
- **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**