

# **St. James 9<sup>th</sup> 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

*9<sup>th</sup> 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. I.e..each session has 5 classes in it, so the student must attend at least 3 out of the 5 classes.*

#### **Retreat:**

Along with taking classes, all Confirmation students are required to participate in one retreat. You will be offered retreat opportunities in both 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. It is your choice to attend the one retreat either as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader or a 10<sup>th</sup> grader. The retreat opportunity provided this year:

- ◆ Confirmation Retreat at Skylake Retreat Center Windsor, NY – Saturday October 13, 2018 from **9am-5pm** (\*please note time change from Religious Ed Calendar).

#### **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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 the St. Ambrose Soup Kitchen. I will send home various dates/times for you to choose.
- ◆ One **large Group project**- this year’s 9<sup>th</sup> Grade students will work together as a group on our Thanksgiving Food Collection. It is expected that every 9<sup>th</sup> grader will participate on this project. Once again I will send home various dates and times available for you to choose.

**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 of 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 Rite of Acceptance Mass and Sponsor/Student Workshop in 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 (if possible) prior to the Confirmation Ceremony.

## **What You will need to be Confirmed in the Spring of 2020**

### **9<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **10<sup>th</sup> 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.**