

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
- ◆ Scripture

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

Seton Catholic Central students do not need to attend Morality or Scripture. They will join us for Direct Prep beginning in January.

Retreat:

St. James Confirmation students need to attend **one** retreat provided by St. James before they can be confirmed. If you did not attend a retreat last year, the retreat opportunity this year is:

- ◆ Confirmation Retreat at Skylake Retreat Center, Windsor, NY
Saturday October 5, 2019 from 9am-5pm

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, students are encouraged to take his or her baptismal name for their Confirmation Name.

Alternatively, 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.

Whether it is a new name, or your 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/before 10/27/19**. You cannot proceed to Direct Prep without this component completed.

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.

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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 strongly encouraged. They will be asked to maintain contact with the student throughout the tenth grade year, and if possible, attend a Workshop with the student in January, and attend the rehearsal prior to the Confirmation Ceremony. If the sponsor is unable to attend the Workshop and rehearsal, a parent of the student can fill in for them.

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 on January 26, 2020.

Sponsors must be chosen and submitted in writing to Mrs. Davis by 10/27/19. 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 Enrollment Mass, which takes place at 11:45AM on January 26, 2020. It is a ceremony in which the parish community celebrates God’s action in the lives of the candidates and the candidate’s response, expressing their desire to be fully initiated into the Christian community. The parish, in turn, is asked to pledge its example, its prayer, and its support of the candidates. 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 9th and 10th grades (*taking into account the SCC exceptions*):
 - ◆ Church
 - ◆ Sacraments
 - ◆ Service
 - ◆ Morality
 - ◆ Scripture

There will be no less than five weeks of Direct Preparation. These sessions will include but not limited to 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