

St. James 9th Grade Faith Formation Classes & Confirmation Preparation

Courses:

Public school students are to complete 3 courses while in ninth grade. These courses are:

- ◆ Church
- ◆ Scripture
- ◆ Service

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

Retreat:

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 will be your choice as to which one you attend. The plans for this year's retreat opportunity are still underway. I will notify you as soon as soon as I can.

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. More information will be given to you in the 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.

On the other hand, 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.