



Confirmation Program Description

Overview:

Confirmation is a central part to our entire Youth Ministry Program. Confirmation completes the reception of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. It is something students, parents, clergy, the parish, and the youth ministers greatly look forward to. We have set up the program so that students may receive the sacrament at the end of their second year of Sr. High Youth Ministry. The Sacrament is also available to students in 11th and 12th grade who for one reason or another were unable to get confirmed during their sophomore year. While the sacrament of Confirmation is by no means the sole purpose or end goal of youth ministry, it is a central component, and for many is a great concern and initial purpose for entering our youth ministry programs.

Requirements:

Our monthly Sr. High retreats, while helping students learn, grow, and become active in their faith, also encompass a thorough curriculum that prepares students for the sacrament of Confirmation. Students preparing for confirmation also need to be active participants in service outreach, as well as integrated into the parish community through youth mass and social events. Finally, our youth mission trips provide students with a tremendously meaningful and valuable life and faith experience.

In order to be confirmed at Santa Maria, students will have 2 main requirements:

I. To be registered and “active participants*” in the Santa Maria Sr. High Youth Group for 2 years (grades 9&10) *or* for 1 year (grades 10, 11, or 12) of Sr. High Youth Group as well as participate in 1 Sr. High Youth Mission Trip

and

II. To attend all 4 candidate/sponsor sessions, evening retreat, and the rehearsal/dinner preceding the Confirmation Ceremony. (*see reverse side for calendar*)

*The minimum requirements for “active participation” in Sr. High Youth Group are:

- A) attend 6 out of 8 monthly Sr. High Retreats & Youth Masses per year
- B) attend 1 out of 2 off-campus Sr. High Retreats per year
- C) participate in 1 of our outreach projects per year
- D) participate in 1 of our social events per year



Choosing a Sponsor:

Involving a sponsor in the preparation of candidates for the Sacraments of Christian Initiation is one of our most ancient traditions in the Catholic faith. The sponsor serves as a living witness and mentor who represents the Christian community (its values, beliefs, behaviors, and so on) to the candidate. The role of the sponsor is a lifetime commitment, a relationship that lasts throughout the individual's journey of faith.

The sponsor chosen should be involved with the candidate in a significant way, and be able to offer an authentic example of lived Christian faith. The candidate may only have one sponsor to celebrate the Rite of Confirmation. The sponsor must be a confirmed and practicing Catholic. The sponsor can be the candidate's Godparent, but should not be the mother or father.

The sponsor must also be able to attend all 4 candidate/sponsor sessions, evening retreat, and the rehearsal/dinner preceding the Confirmation Ceremony. (*see calendar below*)

Confirmation Calendar:

**Candidate/Sponsor Sessions for 2010 will be held on
Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:30:**

April 13 – “What is Confirmation”

April 20 – “What Does Confirmation Mean to Me”

April 27 – “The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit”

May 4 - “Choosing a Saint name: a friend, a role model, someone who I aspire to”

Tuesday, May 11 – evening retreat (7:00-9:00pm)

Friday, May 14 - rehearsal, and dinner (7:00-9:00pm)

Sat., May 15 – Confirmation Ceremony (9am-12) - Cathedral of Christ the Light