

SAINT JULIA PARISH

*Weston and Lincoln
Massachusetts*

CONFIRMATION



Guidelines for Confirmation Preparation

2011 - 2012

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WISDOM UNDERSTANDING RIGHT - JUDGMENT COURAGE
KNOWLEDGE REVERENCE WONDER AND AWE

*Do not fear,
for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you,
Do not fear, for I am with you.
Isaiah 43:1, 4, 5*

How often have we heard the words, “Do not be afraid” in our scripture readings at Mass. Do we really believe that God is with us loving us and protecting us? It is sometimes very challenging to recognize that God is calling us by name, whispering in our ear words of encouragement. But, God is. What is our response?

We find ourselves in what Fr. Thomas Massaro, Boston College professor of social ethics, calls “the age of distraction.” We know that our teens are bombarded with digital distractions that sap their attention and creativity. He notes that “adolescents struggle mightily to forge a stable identity, a sense of self that allows them to feel truly comfortable in their own skin and to be open to the transcendent.” Our goal in the Saint Julia Parish Confirmation Preparation Program is to give our high school students some time, mental space, information and tools to hear God’s call.

We, Saint Julia Parish staff, offer our high school students a program which is designed to prepare you to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. But, more importantly, it is inviting you to develop a life-long relationship with God. We encourage you to put away the cell phones, iPods and other “digital distractions” so that you can participate in worship, good works, scripture, prayers and sacraments with an open mind and heart. When God calls you by name, we hope you will hear and respond.

Responding to God’s call can be scary. It may seem that none of those around us have made room for God so why should we? God’s call requires us to make a choice and a commitment. Discipleship, following Jesus, is not a passive activity; it is not about being a spectator; it’s about being an active participant. Students will need to make a conscious choice to participate fully in this program, as they commit to the values and tenets of the Catholic faith. Being a witness for Christ may be a difficult and challenging decision. We are here to assist our adolescents.

Please read this handbook carefully. Review the many sessions, activities and programs we offer this year. Understand the requirements and note important dates. We look forward to working with our students and families throughout this school year.

Never forget that God loves you, calls you by name, and holds you as God’s own. Do not be afraid!

Fr. Evans

Fr. Hennessey

Anne Marie Mahoney

Cathy

Capizzi

Pastor

Parochial Vicar

Pastoral Associate for
Religious Education

Confirmation
Coordinator

"Confirmation grounds us more deeply in our divine adoption, unites us more firmly to Christ, strengthens the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us at Baptism, perfects our relationship with the Church, and grants the special strength of the Holy Spirit for spreading and defending the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ."

Preparing for Confirmation: Resources and Guidelines, Archdiocese of Boston

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation requires intentionality.

Your parents brought you to the other sacraments of initiation - Baptism and Eucharist. We welcome you to the preparation for Confirmation. But, you must be ready and willing to receive this sacrament. It's like sports or music; you have to work hard in the practices or rehearsals to play the game or perform in the concert. This program requires personal commitment and it encourages thoughtful work on your part. It is not a casual, drop-in experience. In consultation with your parents, if you need to defer Confirmation until after high school or college, that's okay. But, we suggest that you begin this program and commit to the preparation.

Confirmation is a parish-based sacrament.

Preparation and reception take place in the parish community because individuals are called to become active participants in that faith community. It is the community-- family, parish staff, parishioners-- who supports you throughout your preparation. This is why students who attend Catholic schools are still required to participate in key aspects of the parish Confirmation preparation program. Confirmation is celebrated annually at Saint Julia Parish in the spring, this year on May 5 at 4:00 pm.

Confirmation preparation follows Archdiocesan guidelines.

All parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston are playing by the same rules. All parish programs require regular Mass attendance; learning in a class setting; service to the parish and the wider Christian community; and a Confirmation focused retreat.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT ST. JULIA PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAM?

Our program is flexible.

The program is ungraded and will take a minimum of two years to complete. Participation can be spread over two, three or four years. Students may begin in 9th, 10th or 11th grade, and those who complete the program requisites can be confirmed in spring of their 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. Within set expectations, it is designed to be completed at your own pace. It offers you many choices that will fit into your already full schedules. This program also accommodates seasonal sports participation and students who are in private or Catholic schools. The program may not work well, however, for those students in distant boarding schools.

Our program is varied.

It consists of learning, praying, reflecting, serving and sharing. The program is comprised of mini-courses, single and double sessions, speakers, movies, field trips, a weekend retreat, along with numerous and varied service opportunities. Most learning time -- mini-courses, single sessions, and speakers -- takes place on Sunday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm. Other events, activities, trips, and service opportunities take place throughout the week and on days off from school.

Our program requires a thoughtful commitment from you.

You form a plan, making choices from the possibilities we provide and taking responsibility for your individual path to discipleship and Confirmation. You are the witness to the Lord. No one can do it for you.



WHAT IS REQUIRED OF ME BEFORE I AM READY TO BE CONFIRMED?

Commit to the journey of faith.

The most important “requirements” are a commitment to the faith; the courage to stand as witness for what you believe; a heart and mind that are open to God’s love

and grace. Only you can decide when you are ready to begin this journey. We provide the tools, but you provide the talent, reflection and desire.

Attend weekend Mass consistently.

Confirmation preparation without regular Mass participation is meaningless. It's like trying to play in the big game of the season or perform in the end-of-year concert without ever having come to practice. Most of our learning opportunities take place after the Sunday 5:00 pm Mass. The music and spirit of this Mass are designed for teenagers. Come with your friends and experience the power of the Eucharist before coming to our preparation sessions at 6:00 pm.

Achieve a minimum of 45 units, over your years of preparation.

Each offering in this handbook is assigned a unit value. Units may be tallied on the personal tally sheet at the end of this handbook. Unit values are indicated for each event by a () before the title. Our regular class times are worth one unit. Off-site activities such as the Boston Tour or Bristol Lodge dinners are worth more units as are our "Movies with a Message."

First Year Student and Parent Orientation: Sunday, September 25, 2011.

Students who are beginning our Confirmation program, mostly Grade 9 students, must attend our opening session for students and at least one parent on Sunday, September 25 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Campion Renewal Center, 319 Concord Rd., Weston. This program is essential and will not be repeated. We are grateful to be able to use Campion Center, just five minutes away from St. Julia Church, while the renovation limits our meeting space. Please park in the lot across the street from the center.

Make a sign of Commitment at the 5:00 Mass on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011

This "Commitment Mass" is an interim step in your growing Catholic witness. We invite students in the first year of the program to attend the 5:00 pm Mass on November 20 to publicly proclaim their desire for the sacrament by signing their names in the Book of Commitment and receiving a special blessing. Some students may not be ready for this step until the second year of their preparation or later. That's okay. This is your choice and we expect you to take it seriously.

Attend Saint Julia Parish Overnight Retreat - March 10-11, 2012.

The retreat is for second-year students or older, including those students who attend Catholic schools. The retreat is led by Anne Marie Mahoney, Director of Religious Education, along with a team of adult and high school leaders. It will take place at Betania II Marian Retreat Center in Medway, Massachusetts. It is a spacious, modern facility on beautiful grounds with comfortable spaces for meeting, sleeping and eating. (Please see the description of the retreat later in this handbook.)

Please understand that it is impossible to find a weekend that is perfect for everyone's schedules. By choosing this March weekend we have attempted to avoid sports, music, drama and academic conflicts as well as the public school vacation

weeks and holiday weekends. Students with an unavoidable conflict can wait for the following year to participate in the retreat or see Mrs. Mahoney about finding a comparable parish-based retreat in another parish.

Balance class sessions, service and other activities.

We encourage you to choose a variety of mini-courses, single sessions, and service projects. The best preparation is a blend of service or field trips with a variety of solid learning experiences. Participating in Youth Group is another good activity in balance with learning time. We have deliberately not defined the balance, thus giving you the responsibility for making varied choices based on your needs and interests. Obviously, a list that is filled with Youth Group and service and few class sessions is not balanced. Classes without any service is not balanced either. The Parish staff reserves the right to determine what constitutes a “reasonable balance” on an individual basis. Check with Mrs. Mahoney, Mrs. Capizzi or Fr. Evans if you have any questions.



Confirmation Paperwork Packet.

Packets passed out on February 12, 2012. Due back on April 2, 2012.

On Sunday evening, February 12, 2012 packets will be available for all students who are ready to be confirmed on May 5. These packets contain forms that must be completed and returned to the Religious Education office no later than 5:00 pm on April 2. On these forms you will identify your Confirmation sponsor and Confirmation name and why you chose each one. Also you will write a “letter” to the Confirming Bishop, Walter Edyvean, explaining your choice of sponsor, name and why you wish to be confirmed. These are very important documents and should be completed thoughtfully and carefully. Please remember - no forms, no Confirmation.

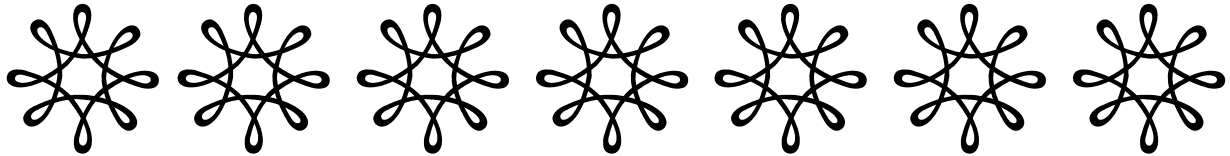
Choose a Confirmation Sponsor.

You should think about who you wish to ask to be your Confirmation sponsor. This person should be a confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. The person should be a role model and a living witness to the Catholic faith. The Church encourages young persons to choose one of their Baptism sponsors if they are available. This reinforces the strong connection between the sacramental initiation of Baptism and Confirmation. Your sponsor may not be your parent but could be your older sibling, cousin, or good friend. “The sponsor should have an ongoing, caring relationship with the candidate” and be able to communicate “the importance of daily prayer, regular reception of the sacraments, Christian service, and all else that pertains to the preparation process” and beyond.

(Preparing for Confirmation: Resources and Guidelines, Archdiocese of Boston)

Confirmation rehearsal and dinner: Friday, May 4, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

All who plan to be confirmed on May 5 must be present at the rehearsal with their sponsor. If a sponsor cannot be present we ask that another adult stand in and take notes for the sponsor. The rehearsal is followed by a dinner for you and your sponsor, and is hosted by the Parish. This is traditionally a very happy and fun occasion. We are giving you plenty of notice for this rehearsal so please do not accept a date to a prom for that evening!



☞ Please Note!

The offerings in this handbook may change as the year unfolds. New things will be added, some things may be dropped. Times and dates, especially for outside speakers, may change. You will be notified of any and all changes by Mrs. Capizzi in her weekly e-mails to you. You must pay attention to these e-mails!

WHAT IF I GO TO A CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL?

We recognize the excellent religious studies and service opportunities that our Catholic high schools offer. However, Archdiocesan Guidelines make it clear that Catholic school students must participate in some of a parish Confirmation preparation program. Before they can be confirmed, our students who attend Catholic schools will participate in the following aspects of the St. Julia Preparation Program:

- Two Mini-courses
- Choose One: Four single sessions
Two single sessions and two Youth Groups
- Commitment Mass - November 20 at the 5:00 pm Mass
- Retreat - March 10-11, 2012
- Confirmation Paperwork Packet - Due April 2, 2012



HOW DO I TALLY MY PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFIRMATION PROGRAM?

Attendance

We have a solid attendance and personal record system in place. Our Confirmation Coordinator, Mrs. Cathy Capizzi, keeps a file for each student, where she records all participation. Please remember, if you come late to class or an activity your attendance may not be recorded. The units are earned for full participation. Also note, there are several times during the year when you have the opportunity to assist at an event. You may wish to be present for the whole event or just part of it. The duration of your participation determines how many units you earn. Signing in and signing out is critical to an accurate record of your participation.

Tally Sheet

In the back of this handbook is a tally sheet for all of this year's offerings. Mark those sessions and activities in which you participate as you do them. Feel free to check with Mrs. Capizzi at any time about the status of your units and choices.

Calendar

Please pull out the single sheet calendar and post it on your refrigerator (near your Red Sox, Bruins, Celtics and Patriots calendars) for easy reference.

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES?

Give us your e-mail address.

E-mail will be our primary means of communicating with you. Sorry, we can't be your bff because we don't tweet, text, twitter, blog, BlackBerry, Facebook or MySpace.

Yes, we're hopelessly backwards and technology-challenged!

Mrs. Capizzi maintains an e-mail account just for the Confirmation program. It is:
confirmationprogramstjulia@gmail.com

Each week you will receive an e-mail from Mrs. Capizzi with the sessions and activities that will take place in the coming weeks. Therefore, you must give us an accurate and current e-mail address. If you change e-mail addresses during the year, you must let us know (immediately!).

Please respond promptly!

With choice comes responsibility. Your timely attention and prompt response is essential to your participation in this program! We want to communicate with you, not your parents. Read the information in our e-mails and respond to Mrs. Capizzi within a day or two. You must sign up for the classes and activities you wish to attend. Signing up is the only way that we can provide enough space, chairs, handouts, materials, etc. for any given activity. While the renovation of the church is in progress our spaces are very limited.

You must sign up for classes, Youth Group, field trips, etc. when we contact you!

Only those students who sign up ahead of time will be allowed into programs with a guest speaker or with space limitations. If you do not sign up, you will likely be placed in a mini-course or session that is not your first choice. Also, be mindful of

those sessions you have already taken. You may not participate in the same mini-course twice.



WHERE CAN I GET SOME HELP?

Parish Staff and Volunteers

Our parish staff and the volunteers who work in the Confirmation Preparation program are ready to assist and serve you at any time. Fr. Evans and Fr. Hennessey participate in the program because they enjoy working with teenagers and are available to you. Anne Marie Mahoney and Cathy Capizzi are happy to work with you and your family to form a good Confirmation preparation plan for you. The Religious Education staff devotes a large portion of their work week to the Confirmation program in order to make this a positive, quality experience for all. Our volunteers, many of whom have no children in the program, happily step forward to share their particular interests, time and talents with you.

Good Internet Sites

There are many good internet sites for Catholic information and inspiration. Check out these in particular:

The Vatican: vatican.va

Information about all things Catholic including the Vatican museums and Vatican II documents.

Archdiocese of Boston: rcab.org

Official website of the Archdiocese, where you may find information on Catholic TV or check out Cardinal Sean's blog.

Sacred Space: sacredspace.ie

Irish Jesuit inspirational daily reflections, meditation, and scripture.

Loyola Press: loyolapress.com

Sign up for the daily "Three Minute Retreat" or research saint names.

America Magazine: americamagazine.org

Catholic news, stories and insights as well as Sunday Mass as well as explanations of the readings for each Sunday Mass.

U.S. Catholic Magazine: uscatholic.org

Check out the September special Young Adult issue as well as the article on spirituality by smartphone, "iPray."



SAINT JULIA PARISH CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM

Sunday, September 18

- (?)* Parish Mass and Picnic: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm off-site
Set up begins early and the picnic and games continue until 1:30.
*Credits given for number of hours of service.

Sunday, September 25 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

- (1) First Year Student and Parent Orientation
Students who are beginning our Confirmation program, mostly Grade 9 students, must attend our opening session for students and at least one parent. Due to the church renovation this session takes place at Campion Renewal Center, 319 Concord Rd., Weston. This program is essential and will not be repeated. We are grateful to be able to use Campion Center, just five minutes away from St. Julia Church. Please park in the lot across the street from the center and enter the main door of the renewal center. The session begins in the Holy Spirit Chapel. A greeter will show you to the chapel.

Parents and students must be present for the entire session which will include :

- A presentation on spirituality for adults and teens by Dr. Timothy Muldoon, Boston College Office of Mission and Ministry and well known author.
- An explanation of the Confirmation Preparation Program and review of the Confirmation Handbook.
- A Holy Spirit Prayer Service

Sunday, October 2

All continuing students- Grade 10, 11, 12: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) Being Catholic in a Hostile World
Fr. William Murphy, former Harvard University Catholic Chaplain will explore with the students the many challenges they will face as Catholics when they go off to college and beyond.

All new students may choose one of the following: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) Jesus- Who do you say that I am?
In this session students will explore the person of Jesus, both human and divine, as seen through the eyes of those who surrounded him on earth.
- (1) The Ten Commandments - Thou shalt ...?
Rather than thinking about the Ten Commandments as a list of “Thou shalt nots” explore the Commandments as guidelines for becoming a better person.
- (1) The New Testament - The Kingdom of God Alive!
Through a look at Scripture, students come to understand what it means to bring about the kingdom of God here on earth, which is a giant task for all of us.

Tuesday, October 4

- (1) The Catholicism Project - God’s Existence: 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm
This multi part video series by Fr. Robert Barron will be hosted by Fr. Evans. The program video-discussion series on the Catholic faith is presented for the adults of the parish but Confirmation students are welcome to participate in any or all of the sessions.

Tuesday, October 11

- (1) The Catholicism Project - Mary, Mother of God: 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm
This multi part video series by Fr. Robert Barron will be hosted by Fr. Evans. The program video-discussion series on the Catholic faith is presented for the adults of the parish but Confirmation students are welcome to participate in any or all of the sessions.

Saturday, October 15

- (5) Boston Tour- This is an all day field trip.
Assemble at St. Julia Parish Center at 8:30 am and return by 4:00 pm.
Take a tour of historic sites in Boston with special significance for the growth and development of the Catholic Church in America and the Archdiocese of Boston in particular. Stops will include the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and earliest Catholic worship sites. The number of students will determine whether transportation is by bus or car.

Sunday, October 16

- (3) Movie with a Message - *Remember the Titans*: 3:00 pm to 7:15 pm
This DVD stars Denzell Washington and Will Patton. It is the real life story of a Virginia high school as it integrates its football team in 1971. The painful struggle among the coaches and the football players provides the backdrop for powerful lessons learned about social change, trust and harmony in a small town.
The movie is shown from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Students attend the 5:00 Mass and return for pizza and discussion of the movie from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. Students must see the movie to participate in the discussion.
- (1) Youth Group - 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
Faith based activities for high school students.

Tuesday, October 18

- (3) St. Andrew Dinner - 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
plus travel time to and from St. John's Seminary, Brighton.
This dinner is hosted by Cardinal Sean O'Malley and the vocation director for the Archdiocese of Boston. It is an opportunity to meet and talk to Cardinal Sean as well as to hear about the priesthood in a setting with other high school young men. Fr. Evans or Fr. Hennessey will accompany the boys to this dinner.

Sunday, October 23

- (1) Service at Sunrise Senior Living - 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
Service Opportunity
Saint Julia Confirmation Program has formed a partnership with Sunrise Senior Living to provide entertainment to residents on selected Sunday afternoons throughout the year. Students will meet at Sunrise Senior Living, 135 North Ave., Weston, to play card games, entertain with music, and participate in seasonal celebrations. Mrs. Mahoney and/or

Mrs. Capizzi will facilitate these visits which the residents are enthusiastically anticipating.

Choose one of these single sessions: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm.

- (1) Speaker from Hearth, Housing Services for the Elderly
Annie Garmey will present a program on the mission of Hearth, a Boston based non-profit that meets the housing needs of the homeless elderly. Learn how you can aid this worthy cause by participating in the annual "Winter Walk" in Weston on December 4.
This session is limited to continuing Confirmation students.
- (1) Sermon on the Mount - You Mean Me?
Seminarian Ruoff will explore the meaning of the Beatitudes for our lives. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is the basis for our understanding of Christian Social Justice.
- (1) The Catholic Church - Where Do I Belong?
Chris Connell will help students to understand the structure of the Catholic Church and the role they are called to play in that one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.
- (1) Sacraments - Close Encounters of a Spiritual Kind
Seminarian Hurley will lead the students in a review of the seven sacraments to discover the many ways we encounter the working of God in our lives through the sacraments.

Sunday, October 30

- (4) Bristol Lodge Cook and Serve Dinner: 2:00 pm to 5:45 pm
Service Opportunity
This vital project serves the clients of Bristol Lodge Soup Kitchen in Waltham. Students will meet at the Lodge (we will provide directions) with ingredients for cooking a complete dinner on site. Mrs. Capizzi will oversee the dinner preparation and serving. Students must be present for the entire task. Pick-up at 5:45 will get students back to St. Julia Parish Center for the evening class session.
- (3) Movie with a Message - *Life is Beautiful*: 3:00 pm to 7:15 pm
This academy award winning DVD is the story of a charming but bumbling waiter who's gifted with a colorful imagination and an irresistible sense of humor. He has won the heart of the woman he loves and created a beautiful life for his young family. But then, that life is threatened by World War II and he must rely on very special strengths to save his beloved wife and son from an unthinkable fate!

The movie is shown from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Students attend the 5:00 Mass and return for pizza and discussion of the movie from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. Students must see the movie to participate in the discussion.

- (1) Youth Group: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
Faith based activities for high school students.
- (1) Service Workshop: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
After a brief lesson on our Christian call to serve others students will engage in activities that will provide support for the ministries of our recent speakers. For example, students may pack boxes of donated socks and snacks for soldiers in Afghanistan or make Thanksgiving cards for children in a homeless shelter. This workshop may be devoted to preparing for the Hearth Winter Walk.

Tuesday, November 1 – All Saints Day

This is a holy day of obligation. Check the bulletin for Masses. For which saint are you named? Which saint might inspire you and become your Confirmation name?

Sunday, November 6

- (?)* Virtual Pancake Breakfast: Before and After Every Mass
Service Opportunity
Due to the renovation of the church we cannot host a real Pancake Breakfast this year but we still need to raise money for the Thanksgiving Basket Project. Students will sell tickets to the virtual breakfast before and after all the Mass this weekend. Students may work at one or more of the Masses. Our new Youth Group leader will coordinate the ticket sales.
*Credits given for number of hours of service.
- (1) Service at Sunrise Senior Living - 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
Service Opportunity
Saint Julia Confirmation Program has formed a partnership with Sunrise Senior Living to provide entertainment to residents on selected Sunday afternoons throughout the year. Students will meet at Sunrise Senior Living, 135 North Ave., Weston, to play card games, entertain with music, and participate in seasonal celebrations. Mrs. Mahoney and/or Mrs. Capizzi will facilitate these visits which the residents are enthusiastically anticipating.
- (3) Movie with a Message - *Jason Evert, Romance without Regret*: 3:00 to 7:15 pm

This DVD is the beginning of Mrs. Mary Gilberto's mini-course on morality and good decision making. Dynamic speaker Jason Evert answers teen's questions about love and relationships: How do I find Love? What about pornography? How far is too far?

The movie is shown from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Students attend the 5:00 Mass and return for pizza and discussion of the movie from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. Students must see the movie to participate in the discussion.

Choose one from these single sessions - 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm:

- (1) What's Love Got to Do with It? (Week #1 of 2)
Mr. Kevin McGinty will take you through Chapter 13 of St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians to better understand the message of love Paul presents. As Christians we are called to do more than just follow the rules, we are called upon to love, as God loves us. "Love is patient, love is kind, ... Love never ends."
- (1) The New Testament - The Kingdom of God Alive!
Through a look at Scripture, students come to understand what it means to bring about the kingdom of God here on earth, which is a giant task for all of us.
- (1) Faith and Politics - How Does Faith Influence Politics?
Regis Political Science Professor Lauren Forcucci explores the relationship between faith and politics. Are they complimentary? Are they mutually exclusive? What influence might faith have on the next presidential election?

Sunday, November 13

- (1) Youth Group - 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
Faith based activities for high school students.

Tuesday, November 15

- (1) The Catholicism Project - Apostles and Disciples: 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm
This multi part video series by Fr. Robert Barron will be hosted by Fr. Evans. The program video-discussion series on the Catholic faith is presented for the adults of the parish but Confirmation students are welcome to participate in any or all of the sessions.

Sunday, November 20

- (1) What Is the Rosary? (Week One) 10:00 am to 11:10 am
Ms. Carol Wells presents the Rosary as both a beautiful prayer and a meditative presentation of the lives of Jesus and Mary, his mother.
- (1) Thanksgiving Baskets - Youth Group Activity: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Service Opportunity
Students will assemble baskets of a complete dinner that will be donated to families in need for Thanksgiving.

☞ **COMMITMENT CEREMONEY AT THE 5:00 MASS.**

First-year students who wish to continue in the Confirmation program will attend the 5:00 Mass as a group where they will step forward to sign the Book of Commitment at the appointed time. Please be seated at the Mass by 4:45 pm to receive instructions for the ceremony. All other students in Confirmation preparation are encouraged to attend.

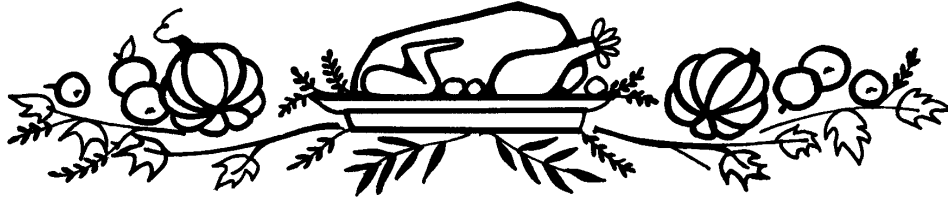
Choose one of the following programs: 6:00 - 7:15 pm

- (1) What's Love Got to Do with It? (Week #2 of 2)
Mr. Kevin McGinty will take you through Chapter 13 of St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians to better understand the message of love Paul presents. As Christians we are called to do more than just follow the rules, we are called upon to love, as God loves us. "Love is patient, love is kind, ... Love never ends."
- (1) Sacraments - Close Encounters of a Spiritual Kind
Seminarman Hurley will lead the students in a review of the seven sacraments to discover the many ways we encounter the working of God in our lives through the sacraments.
- (1) Sermon on the Mount - You Mean Me?
Seminarman Ruoff will explore the meaning of the Beatitudes for our lives. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is the basis for our understanding of Christian Social Justice.

Tuesday, November 22

- (1) The Catholicism Project - The Church: 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm

This multi part video series by Fr. Robert Barron will be hosted by Fr. Evans. The program video-discussion series on the Catholic faith is presented for the adults of the parish but Confirmation students are welcome to participate in any or all of the sessions.



Sunday, November 27 Thanksgiving Weekend, No Class

This is the first week of Advent.

Consider taking time to say an extra prayer or doing a kind deed for someone this week.

Tuesday, November 29

- (1) The Catholicism Project - The Mass: 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm
This multi part video series by Fr. Robert Barron will be hosted by Fr. Evans. The program video-discussion series on the Catholic faith is presented for the adults of the parish but Confirmation students are welcome to participate in any or all of the sessions.

Sunday, December 4

- (1) What Is the Rosary? (Week One) 10:00 am to 11:10 am
Ms. Carol Wells presents the Rosary as both a beautiful prayer and a meditative presentation of the lives of Jesus and Mary, his mother.
- (2) Hearth Winter Walk for Homelessness: 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm
Service Opportunity
The Winter Walk is a joint project sponsored by St. Julia Parish together with the Weston Episcopal and Unitarian congregations. This walk raises both money and awareness of homelessness in the greater Boston area. Walkers assemble at St. Peter Episcopal Church in Weston Center at 12:30. Walk begins at 1:00. The course through Weston is about three miles and should finish by 3:00.

Choose one from the following two week mini-courses: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) Acts of the Apostles: Witness to the Early Church (Week #1)
Ms. Carol Ritter and Ms. Jane Stirling
Read Luke's story of how the followers of Jesus formed the early church, spreading the good news of the coming of Christ. Learn about the

wonderous work of the Holy Spirit who guided the apostles on their mission.

- (1) Moral Decision Making - Are you ready to chose? (Week #1)
Ms. Mary Gilberto
Students will use current topics in the media to explore the formation of a moral conscience and good decision making. This session follows on the Jason Evert movie that was presented on November 6.
- (1) Creed: What Do You Believe? (Week #1)
Mr. Arthur Kluge
Understand the most basic tenets of the Catholic faith by taking apart the Creed, fact by fact. When we stand to recite the Creed, this is what we stand for.
- (1) Celebrate the Mass (Week #1)
Fr. Evans
Go deep into the awesome power of our communal worship - the Mass. Find out why people cherish the Mass, why it is celebrated so often, and what its prayers teach us.



- (1) Service Workshop: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
After a brief lesson on our Christian call to serve others, students will engage in activities that will provide support for the ministries of our recent speakers. For example, students may pack boxes of donated socks and snacks for soldiers in Afghanistan or make Christmas cards for children in a homeless shelter.

Tuesday, December 6

- (1) The Catholicism Project - The Saints: 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm
This multi part video series by Fr. Robert Barron will be hosted by Fr. Evans. The program video-discussion series on the Catholic faith is presented for the adults of the parish but Confirmation students are welcome to participate in any or all of the sessions.

Thursday, December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception

This is one of several Mary feast days. Come to Mass and learn why it is especially important in the United States.

Sunday, December 11

- (1) Service at Sunrise Senior Living - 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Service Opportunity

Saint Julia Confirmation Program has formed a partnership with Sunrise Senior Living to provide entertainment to residents on selected Sunday afternoons throughout the year. Students will meet at Sunrise Senior Living, 135 North Ave., Weston. Mrs. Mahoney and/or Mrs. Capizzi will facilitate this visit when students will decorate Christmas cookies with the residents and lead a holiday sing-a-long.

Choose one from the following two week mini-courses: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) Acts of the Apostles: Witness to the Early Church (Week #2)

Ms. Carol Ritter and Ms. Jane Stirling

Read Luke's story of how the followers of Jesus formed the early church, spreading the good news of the coming of Christ. Learn about the wonderous work of the Holy Spirit who guided the apostles on their mission.

- (1) Moral Decision Making - Are you ready to chose? (Week #2)

Ms. Mary Gilberto

Students will use current topics in the media to explore the formation of a moral conscience and good decision making. This session follows on the Jason Evert movie that was presented on November 6.

- (1) Creed: What Do You Believe? (Week #2)

Mr. Arthur Kluge

Understand the most basic tenets of the Catholic faith by taking apart the Creed, fact by fact. When we stand to recite the Creed, this is what we declare.

- (1) Celebrate the Mass (Week #2)

Fr. Evans

Go deep into the awesome power of our communal worship - the Mass. Find out why people cherish the Mass, why it is celebrated so often, and what its prayers teach us.

- (1) Service Workshop: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

After a brief lesson on our Christian call to serve others students will engage in activities that will provide support for the ministries of our recent speakers. Students will organize and package the hats and mittens that the 7th and 8th graders have donated for St. Mary Parish in Lynn as well as making Christmas cards for nursing home residents.

Tuesday, December 13

- (1) The Catholicism Project - Prayer: 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm

This multi part video series by Fr. Robert Barron will be hosted by Fr. Evans. The program video-discussion series on the Catholic faith is presented for the adults of the parish but Confirmation students are welcome to participate in any or all of the sessions.

Tuesday, December 20

- (1) The Catholicism Project - World without End: 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm
This multi part video series by Fr. Robert Barron will be hosted by Fr. Evans. The program video-discussion series on the Catholic faith is presented for the adults of the parish but Confirmation students are welcome to participate in any or all of the sessions.

Sundays, December 18, 25, and January 1 – No Class

Don't forget to come to Mass! It's the season of Christ's birth.

Monday, December 26

- (3) Witness the Faith at Epoch Nursing Home: 8:00 am to 11:00 am
Ms. Carol Ritter
Service Opportunity
Students will meet with Ms. Ritter at the Parish Center for a brief orientation, and then visit and pray with the residents of Epoch Nursing Home in Weston. Students will conclude with a brief sharing of reflections.

Sunday, January 8

Choose one from the following programs: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) Speaker: John Mark on Mission Trips to Africa and Peru
Mr. Mark is a campus minister at Boston College High School who regularly leads mission trips to Nairobi and Peru. He will share his unique experiences of Christian discipleship in these distant lands.
- (1) Jesus- Who do you say that I am?
In this session students will explore the person of Jesus, both human and divine, as seen through the eyes of those who surrounded him on earth.
- (1) The Ten Commandments - Thou shalt ...?
Rather than thinking about the Ten Commandments as a list of "Thou shalt nots" explore the Commandments as guidelines for becoming a better person.
- (1) The Power of Divine Mercy (Week #1 of two)
Ms. Carol Wells will teach the story of St. Faustina and the miracles attributed to the Divine Mercy devotion.

- (1) Service Workshop: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
After a brief lesson on our Christian call to serve others students will engage in activities that will provide support for the ministries of our recent speakers. For example, students may pack boxes of donated socks and snacks for soldiers in Afghanistan or assemble winter care packages for residents of a homeless shelter.

Sunday, January 15 No Class

On this holiday weekend, consider the social justice themes espoused by Martin Luther King and his non-violent protests of the discrimination against African-Americans in America.

Monday, January 16

- (3) Witness the faith at Epoch Nursing Home: 8:00 am to 11:00 am
Ms. Carol Ritter
Service Opportunity
Students will meet with Ms. Ritter at the Parish Center for a brief orientation, and then visit and pray with the residents of Epoch Nursing Home in Weston. Students will conclude with a brief sharing of reflections.

Tuesday, January 17

- (3) St. Andrew Dinner - 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
plus travel time to and from St. John's Seminary, Brighton.
This dinner is hosted by Cardinal Sean O'Malley and the vocation director for the Archdiocese of Boston. It is an opportunity to meet and talk to Cardinal Sean as well as to hear about the priesthood in a setting with other high school young men. Fr. Evans or Fr. Hennessey will accompany the boys to this dinner.

Saturday, January 21

- (?)* First Reconciliation Workshop: 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Service Opportunity
Help set up, distribute handouts, assist with craft project, and work with second graders and their families during this workshop.
*Credit will be given for each hour of assistance.

Sunday, January 22

Choose one from the following sessions: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) Speaker TBA
Information on this speaker will be e-mailed prior to the session.
- (1) Sacraments - Close Encounters of a Spiritual Kind
Seminarian Hurley will lead the students in a review of the seven sacraments to discover the many ways we encounter the working of God in our lives through the sacraments.
- (1) Sermon on the Mount - You Mean Me?
Seminarian Ruoff will explore the meaning of the Beatitudes for our lives. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is the basis for our understanding of Christian Social Justice.
- (1) The Catholic Church - Where Do I Belong?
Chris Connell will help students to understand the structure of the Catholic Church and the role they are called to play in that one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.
- (1) The Power of Divine Mercy (Week of #2 of two)
Ms. Carol Wells will teach the story of St. Faustina and the miracles attributed to the Divine Mercy devotion.
- (1) Youth Group - 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
Faith based activities for high school students.

Saturday, January 28

- (?)* First Reconciliation Workshop: 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Service Opportunity
Help set up, distribute handouts, assist with craft project, and work with second graders and their families during this workshop.
*Credit will be given for each hour of assistance.

Sunday, January 29

- (4) Bristol Lodge Cook and Serve Dinner: 2:00 pm to 5:45 pm
Service Opportunity
This vital project serves the clients of Bristol Lodge Soup Kitchen in Waltham. Students will meet at the Lodge (we will provide directions) with ingredients for cooking a complete dinner on site. Mrs. Capizzi will oversee the dinner preparation and serving. Students must be present for the entire task. Pick-up at 5:45 will get students back to St. Julia Parish Center for the evening class session.
- (3) Movie with a Message: *The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3*

In this thrilling DVD Denzel Washington is a New York City subway dispatcher whose ordinary day is thrown into chaos by an audacious crime: the hijacking of a subway train. John Travolta plays the criminal mastermind behind the hijacking and leader of a highly-armed gang of four, threatens to execute the train's passengers unless a large ransom is paid within one hour. As the tension mounts beneath his feet, Washington employs his vast knowledge of the subway system in a battle to outwit Travolta and save the hostages. Discuss the many moral decisions that the characters make throughout the movie and the ramifications of each.

The movie is shown from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Students attend the 5:00 Mass and return for pizza and discussion of the movie from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. Students must see the movie to participate in the discussion.

- (1) Youth Group - 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
Faith based activities for high school students.

- (1) Service Workshop: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm
After a brief lesson on our Christian call to serve others students will engage in activities that will provide support for the ministries of our recent speakers. For example, students may pack boxes of donated socks and snacks for soldiers in Afghanistan or assemble winter care packages for residents of a homeless shelter.

Sunday, February 5 No Class, Super Bowl Sunday

Can you name any football players who practice their faith on a regular basis?

Sunday, February 12

- ☞ CONFIRMATION PAPERWORK PACKETS
All continuing students who intend to be confirmed on May 5, 2012 must pick up a packet of paperwork in the Religious Education office beginning February 12. These packets contain forms and documents which must be completed and returned to the office no later than Monday, April 2 at 5:00 p.m. Students must sign for their individual packet in the Religious Education office. Receiving a packet does NOT guarantee you will be confirmed on May 5.
- (1) Service at Sunrise Senior Living - 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
Service Opportunity
Saint Julia Confirmation Program has formed a partnership with Sunrise Senior Living to provide entertainment to residents on selected Sunday afternoons throughout the year. Students will meet at Sunrise Senior

Living, 135 North Ave., Weston. Mrs. Mahoney and/or Mrs. Capizzi will facilitate this visit when students will decorate Valentine cookies and make Valentines with the residents.

- (3) **Movie with a Message - *Jason Evert, Romance without Regret*: 3:00 to 7:15 pm**
This DVD is the beginning of Mrs. Mary Gilberto's mini-course on morality and good decision making. Dynamic speaker Jason Evert answers teen's questions about love and relationships: How do I find Love? What about pornography? How far is too far?
The movie is shown from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Students attend the 5:00 Mass and return for pizza and discussion of the movie from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm. Students must see the movie to participate in the discussion.

Choose from one of the following sessions: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) **Capital Punishment: What is the Catholic Response?**
Fr. Evans
Explore the moral dimensions of the highly charged political and social question of capital punishment.
- (1) **Prayer: It's Not Just the Our Father!**
Seminarian Hurley
Prayer can be exciting, fun, quiet, and reflective. Which kind of prayer best suits your style of talking to God?
- (1) **Digital Discipleship**
Seminarian Ruoff
Can Jesus' exhortation to "Go, and make disciples of all nations" be done on Facebook? How can you follow Pope Benedict's invitation to lead the way in the "evangelization of the "digital continent?"

Sundays, February 19 and 26 No Classes, School Vacation Week

Monday, February 20

- (3) **Witness the faith at Epoch Nursing Home: 8:00 am to 11:00 am**
Mrs. Carol Ritter
Service Opportunity
Students will meet with Mrs. Ritter at the Parish Center for a brief orientation and then visit and pray with the residents of Epoch Nursing Home in Weston. Students will conclude with a brief sharing of reflections.

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday

Attend Mass today or receive ashes at a prayer service. Decide what you will put aside and what you will take on during Lent. You have six weeks. Make it work!



Sunday, March 4

- (1) Service at Sunrise Senior Living - 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Service Opportunity

Saint Julia Confirmation Program has formed a partnership with Sunrise Senior Living to provide entertainment to residents on selected Sunday afternoons throughout the year. Students will meet at Sunrise Senior Living, 135 North Ave., Weston. Mrs. Mahoney and/or Mrs. Capizzi will facilitate this visit when students will play card games with the residents.

Choose one of the following two part Mini-Courses: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) Moral Decision Making - Are you ready to chose? (Week #1)

Ms. Mary Gilberto

Students will use current topics in the media to explore the formation of a moral conscience and good decision making. This session follows on the Jason Evert movie that was presented on February 12.

- (1) Celebrate the Mass (Week #1)

Deacon Guy St. Sauveur

Go deep into the awesome power of our communal worship - the Mass. Find out why people cherish the Mass, why it is celebrated so often, and what its prayers teach us.

- (1) Gospel of Mark: The Good News (Week #1)

Ms. Carol Ritter and Ms. Jane Stirling

Through Mark's gospel we come to know Jesus, his life, works and the good news he brings us.

- (1) Are You Ready for a Mass Ministry? (Week #1)

Mr. Arthur Kluge

Sunday Mass is not a spectator experience, it is for active participants. Learn how you can be a full and active witness through the ministries of lector, Eucharistic minister and musician.

Friday, March 9

- (1) Soup and Stations 6:00 pm
Service Opportunity

Join parishioners for the Stations of the Cross followed by supper of homemade soups. Students may assist with the meal or simply participate in the stations and supper. This is a thoughtful and delicious Lent activity.

Saturday, March 10 to Sunday, March 11

Confirmation Retreat at Betania II Marian Retreat Center in Medway, Massachusetts Busses depart from and return to St. Julia Parish Center parking lot. Departure time on Saturday and return time on Sunday will be announced.

All students who intend to be confirmed in Saint Julia Parish must participate in the overnight, Confirmation retreat. This includes Catholic school students, who may not substitute a Catholic school retreat.

The retreat is planned and led by Anne Marie Mahoney, Pastoral Associate for Religious Education with support from our new Youth Group Leader. We have a team of experienced adult and young adult leaders. The retreat is an opportunity for the students to explore the three questions: Who am I? Who ought I to become? and How do I get there? in a quiet, prayerful, and supportive environment. We present the themes of personal identity and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit through games, activities, group discussion, personal witness, and journal writing. We celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist during the weekend. This is a unique, Confirmation centered retreat that may change your life.

Sunday, March 11

Choose one from the following: 6:00 pm and 7:15 pm.

- (1) Saints as Witnesses

Fr. Evans

Fr. Evans will share insights on saints and how they can be models for us. This reflection can help you understand why Catholics choose saints' names for Baptism and Confirmation.

- (1) Youth Group - 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

Faith based activities for high school students.

Saturday, March 17

- (?)* Assist at First Eucharist Workshop: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Service Opportunity

Help to set up, prepare handouts, work on crafts with second graders and their families, serve lunch, and clean-up for this sacrament workshop. Number of units depends on hours of active participation.

*Credit given for number of hours of assistance.

Sunday, March 18

Choose one of the following two part Mini-Courses: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) Moral Decision Making - Are you ready to chose? (Week #2)
Ms. Mary Gilberto
Students will use current topics in the media to explore the formation of a moral conscience and good decision making. This session follows on the Jason Evert movie that was presented on February 12.

- (1) Celebrate the Mass (Week #2)
Deacon Guy St. Sauveur
Go deep into the awesome power of our communal worship - the Mass. Find out why people cherish the Mass, why it is celebrated so often, and what its prayers teach us.

- (1) Gospel of Mark: The Good News (Week #2)
Ms. Carol Ritter and Ms. Jane Stirling
Through Mark's gospel we come to know Jesus, his life, works and the good news he brings us.

- (1) Are You Ready for a Mass Ministry? (Week #2)
Mr. Arthur Kluge
Sunday Mass is not a spectator experience, it is for active participants. Learn how you can be a full and active witness through the ministries of lector, Eucharistic minister and musician.

- (1) Be Not Afraid (Week #1)
Mr. Kevin McGinty
Throughout the gospels Jesus reassures us to "Be not afraid." We tend to fear the wrong things in life like failure, unpopularity, loss of wealth, illness or death. These fears lead us to sin and doubt. How can we live without being afraid?

- (1) Healthy Friendships
Seminarians Ruoff and Hurley

Are your friendships and relationships centered in faith? A healthy self can improve your relationships with your parents, friends, and classmates?

Sunday, March 25

- (3) **Movie with a Message - *Paradise Road*: 3:00 to 7:15 pm**
In a time of war, an extraordinary group of women turned a song of hope into a symphony of triumph. This true story of courage, triumph, friendship and strength stars Glenn Close, Frances McDormand and Julianna Margulies. This compelling drama reveals the heroic actions of a group of women held prisoner by the Japanese during World War II. These diverse women from different countries, speaking different languages, unite to form a vocal orchestra-creating a life affirming symphony of human voices.

The movie is shown from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Students attend the 5:00 Mass and return for pizza and discussion of the movie from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. Students must see the movie to participate in the discussion.

Choose one of the following activities: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) **Teen Baggage - A Modern Day Parable on the Need for Reconciliation**
Guest actors present a funny, thoughtful, musical look at teenage relationships and all the pitfalls that could lead to a need for reconciliation.
- (1) **Youth Group**
Faith based activities for high school students.
- (1) **Believing**
Fr. Evans
What do you believe? How does your faith inform how you live your life? Should there be a connection?

Tuesday, March 27

- (3) **St. Andrew Dinner - 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**
plus travel time to and from St. John's Seminary, Brighton.
This dinner is hosted by Cardinal Sean O'Malley and the vocation director for the Archdiocese of Boston. It is an opportunity to meet and talk to Cardinal Sean as well as to hear about the priesthood in a setting with other high school young men. Fr. Evans or Fr. Hennessey will accompany the boys to this dinner.

Saturday, March 31

- (?)* First Eucharist Workshop: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Service Opportunity
Help to set-up, prepare handouts, work on crafts with second graders and their families, serve lunch, and clean-up for this sacrament workshop. Number of units depends on hours of active participation.
*Credit given for number of hours of assistance.

Sunday, April 1

- (1) Service at Sunrise Senior Living - 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm
Service Opportunity
Saint Julia Confirmation Program has formed a partnership with Sunrise Senior Living to provide entertainment to residents on selected Sunday afternoons throughout the year. Students will meet at Sunrise Senior Living, 135 North Ave., Weston. Mrs. Mahoney and/or Mrs. Capizzi will facilitate this visit when students will play card games with the residents or make spring decorations.

Choose one from the following: 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm

- (1) Speaker TBA
Students will receive speaker information prior to the class session.
- (1) Be Not Afraid (Week #2)
Mr. Kevin McGinty
Throughout the gospels Jesus reassures us to “Be not afraid.” We tend to fear the wrong things in life like failure, unpopularity, loss of wealth, illness or death. These fears lead us to sin and doubt. How can we live without being afraid?
- (1) Healthy Friendships
Seminarians Ruoff and Hurley
Are your friendships and relationships centered in faith? A healthy self can improve your relationships with your parents, friends, and classmates?

Thursday, April 5 Holy Thursday

Attend the Holy Thursday Mass and remembrance of the Last Supper.

Friday, April 6 Good Friday

- (1) Easter Basket Project - 11:00 am

Service Project

Assist with assembling Easter Baskets for children in need. Meet in the lower foyer of the Parish Center for this Youth Group project.

Saturday, April 7 Holy Saturday

Attend the joyous Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday evening.

Sunday, April 8

Easter Sunday. Attend Mass with your family.

Friday, May 4

Confirmation Rehearsal and Dinner: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

All students who are being confirmed must attend this rehearsal with their sponsors. Another adult may stand in for a sponsor who is not available. Dinner for Confirmation candidates and their sponsors follows the rehearsal.

Saturday, May 5

Confirmation Ceremony at a the parish 4:00 pm Mass.

Candidates and their sponsors must be in place in the Parish Center by 3:15 pm to meet with Bishop Edyvean.

(1) Serve as an usher or greeter at the Confirmation Mass.

Service Opportunity

Students who are not being confirmed may serve at the Mass. Be in the church by 3:30 pm.