

# **St. James Religious Education Ninth Grade Classes for Confirmation Preparation**

## **Courses:**

Students are to complete 4 courses while in ninth grade. Three of the courses run in five –week sessions. Service, the fourth course, has classes scheduled periodically throughout the entire schedule. The four courses are:

- ◆ Church
- ◆ Old Testament
- ◆ Sacraments
- ◆ Service

*An exception is made for Seton Catholic Central (SCC) students. They are only required to take Church and Service.*

## **Retreats:**

Along with taking classes, all Confirmation students are required to participate in a total of two retreats. Preferably, one retreat in ninth grade and one retreat in tenth grade. The retreat opportunities provided by St. James are:

- ◆ “It Starts Tonight” Retreat (Fall-October 7, 2010)
- ◆ Seminarian Team Retreat (Winter-week of December 26, 2010- TBA)
- ◆ “Race for the Cross Rally” (Spring-March 5, 2011)
- ◆ Notre Dame Trip “ND Vision” (Summer – July 2011)

We are open to other retreat possibilities, for one of the two retreats, if the student is unable to participate in one of the four options offered with their classmates. However, any other option must have the approval of Mrs. Davis the Confirmation Coordinator **prior** to participating in it.

## **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. (Even helping a neighbor etc.)
- ◆ One parish activity- e.g. helping at Breakfast with St. Nicholas or the Thanksgiving Baskets etc.
- ◆ One Group project- it is our goal for this year’s 9<sup>th</sup> Grade students to work together as a group on a campus project. (In the past years the 9<sup>th</sup> grades have completed projects such as the renovation of the Nursery and the Chow Pantry.) At this time, such a project has not been determined. I will keep you posted. If such a project does not occur- each student will be asked to participate in another parish activity.

Your experience of the 3 projects will be discussed in class and a reflection paper of 400-500 words is to be submitted as to the role of service. The details of the paper will be given in 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 a student is 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 other 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 direct Confirmation preparation at the end of 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 last rehearsal prior to the Confirmation Ceremony.

## **What I will need to be Confirmed in 2012**

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

- **Complete Courses**
  - Church**
  - Old Testament**
  - Sacraments**
  - Service****(Exception- SCC students need only Church & Service)**
- **Attend first Retreat**
- **Participate in service projects-complete service report**
- **Weekend Mass attendance**

### **10<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- **Complete Courses**
  - Morality**
  - New Testament****(Exception- SCC students need only Morality)**
- **Attend second Retreat**
- **Choose Confirmation Name**
- **Choose Sponsor**
- **Write Saints Report**
- **Attend Student/Sponsor Workshop**
- **Complete Direct Preparation**
- **Weekend Mass attendance**
- **Go to confession prior to being Confirmed.**