

St. Rose Catholic Church
398 Tenth Street
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(707) 542-6448 ■ FAX (707) 542-3359

Dear Parents,

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is a big step in your child's life. It is the time that they deepen their journey of faith and say they are taking responsibility for their own spiritual life. As with all new phases of a child's life, parents play a vital role in this process. This letter will give an over-view of our program and the requirements for Confirmation. It is a lot of information, so please bear with us. Keeping this letter as a reference for the year is a good idea. We are very excited about the Confirmation Program at Saint Rose this year. This will be a time of enlightenment and grace for the Confirmandi. Our program will provide a deeper understanding of your child's faith and what it means to be Catholic. The activities in the program will help them to understand the responsibilities of a Child of God. It is our hope and expectation that it will lead to a very deep, meaningful and close relationship with God. The preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will take many forms. **All of these different phases of preparation are required:**

Class: The Confirmandi must attend weekly classes of instruction in which we not only teach, but also celebrates our faith. Here they will be taught about Holy Scripture in which the Catholic faith finds its basis. They will see how Scripture relates to them and the world in which they live. They will learn how to live their faith, how to communicate with God through prayer and worship. They will reach a deeper understanding of the Mass and the Sacraments. Only six absences will be allowed for the whole year. (See calendar for times and dates). Youth need to arrive on time and remain for the entire class. If a youth misses more than 30 minutes of a class, it is considered an absence.

GOF: Students are required to attend the parish program Generations of Faith the first Sunday of the month 9am –11am which will replace class for that week (except for December). Absences from GOF count as an absence from Class, so please pay attention to the Calendar.

Mass: Each youth will be required to attend the Rite of Entrance Mass, Rite of Enrollment Mass and Day of Prayer and Community **with their sponsor**. If the sponsor cannot attend, a parent or other designated adult may attend. Please notify the child's sponsor well in advance of these dates. (See calendar for dates and times). Each candidate for Confirmation is expected to attend weekly Sunday Mass.

Letters: In addition to the classes, the Confirmandi will write three letters. These papers are meant to help them sort through their thoughts and feelings on important issues of Confirmation: The due dates of these assignments are on the calendar. The assignments will be given out a month in advance of the due date. If a paper is late, an additional assignment will be given for each week that the paper is late.

Retreats and Activities: Each candidate for Confirmation will participate in a retreat to reflect on their faith. This retreat includes discussions lead by our Confirmation team, and will include discussions and active participation by the Confirmandi. It is a celebration of faith as well. Our faith is joyful. Here they will experience the joy and comfort that our faith provides.

Accountability: Each candidate will be expected to live their faith through prayer and service to others. To monitor this and to provide a variety of opportunities, and to remain mindful of everyone's busy schedule, a point system is being implemented. Different opportunities earn different numbers of points. A total of 35 points is required before the Sacrament of Confirmation is conferred. These points are comprised of 20 required points and 15 flexible points. These points include participation in: Service projects; Youth Liturgy Participation; Taize Prayer Services. For those of you that have not had the privilege of attending a Taize prayer service, I suggest that you give it a try. The services are reflective, include musical and vocal adoration and are very moving.

Events	Point Value per Event
Service Projects (half day)	5 pts
Service Projects (full day)	10 pts
Taizé Prayer	5 pts
Youth Liturgy Participation	5 pts

Required Points

Events	# of Required Events	Point Value	Total
Service Projects (half day)	2	x 5 pts	10 pts (1 full day or 2 half days)
Or			
Service Projects (full day)	1	x 10 pts	
Taizé Prayer	1	x 5 pts	5 pts
Youth Liturgy Participation	1	x 5 pts	5 pts

20 pts

The **15 Flexible points** can be earned in anyway as long as the total equals 15. Below you will find a chart that illustrates how these points can be earned.

Flexible Points

Events	# of Chosen Events	Point Value	Total
Service Projects (half day)	(fill in completed events)	x 5 pts	=
Service Projects (full day)	(fill in completed events)	x 10 pts	=
Taizé Prayer	(fill in completed events)	x 5 pts	=
Youth Liturgy Participation	(fill in completed events)	x 5 pts	=

15 pts

Parents also have a role to play in the preparation of their child for this Sacrament. In addition to making sure that your child arrives in a timely fashion for each activity, parents must attend the Parent/ Teen Orientation Meeting. It will be held on Tues. 9-23 and 9-28. It is mandatory that one parent attend with each Confirmandi. Parents will also be asked to fill out a short questionnaire. We thank you for your participation in and support in this year's program. We look forward to walking this journey of faith with you and your child. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 542-3182 or Mconley@sonic.net.

In Christ's Love,

Matt Conley
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
St. Rose Catholic Church