



## Church of St. Genevieve

7087 Goiffon Road • Centerville, Minnesota 55038 • (651) 429-7937

Faith Formation Center (651) 426-1818

August 8, 2009

Dear Parents and Confirmation Candidates:

Greetings to all of you. I hope you are having a wonderful summer. In the midst of summer, it is hard to move one's mind toward the fall and the beginnings of formal faith formation classes. However, it is important for you and the young people to make some decisions concerning their upcoming Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the last of the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) and requires the wholehearted participation of the receiver. As the young people prepare for Confirmation - it is their YES! - that we now expect to hear. Although the guidance of parents and sponsors is paramount - through Confirmation and completion of the initiation sacraments, the young person will be a fully initiated member of the Church and as such must participate completely in his or her preparation for the sacrament.

Remember that Confirmation course work and Confirmation is not a lead up to and graduation from the Church, but an opportunity for you to go deeper in your faith, preparing you to commit yourself more deeply to Christ and take an ever-greater part in the life of the Church. So come with questions, challenges, an open heart, and a desire to find how you can be a greater part of the Body of Christ.

Prior to registering in the Confirmation Program young people are expected

- to submit a letter, requesting to enter the preparation program for the sacrament
- to agree to fully participate in the parish program for Confirmation
  - this includes classes, retreats, and other activities,
- to be attending Mass regularly and continue to do so.

***If a young person is not ready to fully participate, Confirmation can be deferred until such time.***

In addition, each young person needs to choose a Confirmation Sponsor.

1. The Confirmation sponsor must be a confirmed catholic at least 16 years of age, who regularly practices the faith.
2. The sponsor will go through confirmation preparation (*attending classes and working on projects*) with the young person preparing for the sacrament.
3. Sponsors should be chosen by the time classes commence in the fall.
4. Parents are not to be sponsors for their child's confirmation, but should be a major support in the learning process.

Each year the Confirmation class has minimum requirements for you to complete, as well as optional activities that you will be invited and encouraged to take part in. Listed below are the required course elements.

**Confirmation Format** --- Unit Studies with Projects. Projects are required and must be completed prior to Confirmation

**The Confirmation Program will be set up as follows:**

- Class sessions
- Parent/Student/Sponsor evening (first class)
- Projects will be part of the class requirements and must be completed prior to confirmation.
- 2 Retreats - Retreat fees not included in tuition
  1. Life in the Spirit Retreat – Weekend Retreat - October 9-11, 2009
  2. To Be Determined
- Interview
- Rite of Sending – April 24, 2010 - 4:30 PM Mass with reception to follow
- Confirmation Ceremony - Monday, May 3, 2010 – 7:00 PM Basilica - Minneapolis

A course syllabus will be received at the first class in September.

Additional faith building experiences –

- "Be Not Afraid" Conference - October 23-24 at St. John the Baptist in New Brighton
- The HUNGER for Catholic Missions (*30 hour fast and retreat experience* - March 12-13, 2010).
- Other optional activities will be introduced when opportunities become available.

**Confirmation Sessions - 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Sunday Evenings**

<i>September 13, 2009</i>	<i>September 27, 2009</i>	<i>October 9-11 Life in the Spirit Retreat</i>
<i>October 25, 2009</i>	<i>November 8, 2009</i>	<i>November 22, 2009</i>
<i>December 13, 2009</i>	<i>January 10, 2010</i>	<i>January 24, 2010</i>
<i>February 14, 2010</i>	<i>February 28, 2010</i>	<i>March 14, 2010</i>
<i>March 28, 2010</i>	<i>April 11, 2010</i>	<i>April 25, 2010</i>

If you have any questions please call me. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

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