



ST. JOHN'S FAITH FORMATION

Dear 9th Grade Families,

Greetings from St. John's Confirmation team, and **welcome** to the first year of our Confirmation Preparation process. As Catholics, we believe the reception of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation complete our initiation into the church. Our goal as a parish is to help our candidates accept the gift of faith and express it in their daily lives. The three components of the confirmation process are apprenticeship, faith sharing, and faith formation. Through these components, candidates are invited to see the person of Jesus actively present in their daily lives.

In the 9th grade year we focus on faith formation. Of course this includes elements of faith sharing and apprenticeship as well, even though they are not the primary focus.

Loyola 9th Graders fulfill the faith formation requirement with their religion classes and campus ministry program at school. They are NOT required to attend the monthly classes at St. John's. Loyola families are welcome and encouraged to attend Generations of Faith each month with their families.

Public School 9th Graders fulfill the faith formation requirement by attending 2 sessions each month. Students attend Generations of Faith each month *with their families*. The Parish Curriculum this year is Christ Leads Us to the Moral Life, and how our faith helps us do that in the world today. Students also attend one other class each month focusing on *Living Catholic Values*. **See enclosed Calendar for details on dates and times. NOTE: The first class in Living Catholic Values is September 24th.**

Both of the above options for 9th graders help form them and their families in the faith, so they are ready to say "yes" to being confirmed in the Catholic Faith in their 10th grade year.

In addition to the faith formation requirement above, we remind 9th graders and their families to attend mass weekly, participate in parish activities and service opportunities, and continue or begin to develop a personal prayer life. (Many of you got a jump start on that last year at GOF!)

In September of 2009 there will be an Orientation Session that will begin the formal preparation for being Confirmed in the spring of the 10th grade year. At this time you will learn more about the theology of the sacrament, role of the sponsor & parent, retreats, and other things specific to the celebration of the Confirmation Mass.

We look forward to working with your families, are keeping you in our prayers, and encourage you to call if you have any questions about what is expected.

God's Blessing on your Families,