

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PARISH, NORWOOD

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDBOOK

GRADES 9-10
2017 - 2018



Rev. Stephen Donohoe, Pastor
Rev. Jean Pierre Aubin, Parochial Vicar
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Confirmation Program Overview

“Stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

The Confirmation program seeks to develop in its students a life-long relationship with Jesus, the Church, and the parish and wider community. We are aware that to do this requires the work of many people: our parish leaders; our religious education directors and the volunteers who meet our students in the classroom and on their faith journeys; the parish community who prays for and supports our young people; and most importantly, the families of our students who serve as their primary educators.

Today, many people see Confirmation as a “graduation” or the “end” of their religious education but it is our hope that this two year program is just the beginning for our young people.

Through fun, uplifting, and informative group gatherings, classroom meetings, retreats, speakers, and service opportunities, our program works to build the following Gospel values in our young people:

1. See God in Everything.
2. Trust in God Always.
3. Stand up for the Poor and Vulnerable.
4. Be Courageous.
5. Serve Humbly.
6. Share the Faith.

Students in Confirmation I (grade 9) and Confirmation II (grade 10) meet, on average, one to two times a month for 75 minutes. These meetings begin in a large group setting in the gym and then move to a smaller classroom setting for the second half of the afternoon/evening. Both Confirmation I and II meet 10-11 times over the course of the year. These meetings include class time, speaker presentations and activities, the opportunity to attend the sacrament of Reconciliation, and a class retreat or workshop.

Confirmation Program Policies and Procedures

1. Students are expected to attend each class session, speaker, and retreat as applicable to their grade. Because of the limited amount of time we have together it is important that students are prompt in arriving and conscientious about attending classes regularly.
2. Students are to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate, respectful, and mindful of the opinions and beliefs of others both in the large group setting and in the individual classroom.
3. Students should be dressed appropriately. Clothing that is too tight or too loose, tops that are midriff baring or which expose too much skin should not be worn.
4. No hats are to be worn in the gym, cafeteria, classrooms, or church building at any time. Students who are wearing hats will be asked to remove them.
5. Per our new behavioral policy, cell phones should be set to silent and will be turned into the classroom teacher at the start of each class. Each student will receive a Ziploc bag with his/her name labeled on it and the phones will be sealed in the bags and stored in a bin at the front of the room until the end of the class time UNLESS the teacher has given permission for the use of the phone during class. **Should an emergency arise and you need to contact your student, please call Mrs. Ramsdell at 617-733-7889.**
6. Because we are GUESTS of St. Catherine's school it is IMPERATIVE that all students be respectful of the classroom space to which they are assigned. AT NO TIME should students from the Religious Education program be touching classroom supplies, the teacher's desk, bookcases/shelves, student desks, or student property. All trash and materials used by our program should be picked up and dealt with as deemed appropriate by the Religious Education teacher.

Failure to comply with any of these policies will result in a phone call home. Multiple incidents may require further intervention.

Absence Policy

If you know your son or daughter will be absent from class, please contact Leah Ramsdell, Director of Religious Education as soon as possible by either email or phone. Students who are chronically absent will need to meet with the Director of Religious Education to discuss the best course for moving forward.

Early Dismissal

If your child needs to leave a class early for any reason the Director will need to be notified by email or through a phone call. Any student who does not have the necessary permission to leave early will be asked to call home before being allowed to leave.

Inclement Weather Cancellation

Classes cancelled due to inclement weather will be announced on Channels 4, 5, and 7. If a

decision to cancel is reached earlier, an email will be sent home. Please also check the Religious Education phone line at 781-686-7887.

Class Schedules

All classes will be held on Sundays at St. Catherine's. We will begin in the SCS gym.

Grade 9 will meet from 6-7:15 p.m.

Grade 10 will meet from 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Please refer to the specific grade calendar for class dates.

ALL GRADE 9 STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING:

Retreat

Sunday, 2/11, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. @St. Catherine's

ALL GRADE 10 STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING:

Confirmation Workshop/Retreat

Sunday, January 7th, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. @St. Catherine's

Confirmation Information

(For those making their Confirmation in 2018 only)

The date for Confirmation is listed below. **Both the student AND their sponsor are expected to attend the rehearsal.** In the event that the sponsor is unable to attend, a parent should plan to attend in their place.

St. Catherine's Confirmation Date and Times:

Saturday, February 3rd @ 10 a.m. OR 1 p.m.

St. Catherine's Confirmation Rehearsal Dates:

Those being confirmed at 10 a.m.- Rehearsal is on Sunday, January 28th, 4-5:30 p.m. We will begin in the SCS gym.

Those being confirmed at 1 p.m.- Rehearsal is on Sunday, January 28^t, 6-7:30 p.m.. We will begin in the SCS gym.

Students MUST attend the rehearsal which corresponds with the time they are being Confirmed.

Confirmation Dress Code

Young men are expected to wear dress pants, a dress shirt, a tie, and dress shoes (**NO** sneakers). Jackets are optional though many choose to wear them.

Young ladies are expected to wear skirts or dresses that hit at the knee because you will be bowing before the altar when you enter. Spaghetti straps or strapless tops **MUST** be covered by a sweater. We encourage young ladies to wear shoes with a low/lower heel to prevent tripping or slipping as you will be walking down the aisle and getting up several times during the course of Confirmation.

Necessary Paperwork and Other Requirements

Grade 9

**Baptismal Certificate-*

If you were baptized at St. Catherine of Siena in Norwood you do not need to provide this. If you were baptized at another parish, particularly one not in this country, it is your responsibility to provide us with this information. Without a record of a child's baptism we are unable to confirm the student.

**Confirmation Sponsor Information Sheet-*

A sheet requesting this information will be sent home in October. Students should complete the form and return it to their teacher or to the DRE by no later than January 2018. Sponsors **MUST** be Confirmed Catholics. They may be a grandparent but cannot be a student's parent/legal guardian. While many students choose someone of the same gender, it is not a rule that the person selected must be of the same gender.

**Service Hours Sheet-*

Students will need to keep track of the projects they have completed and will need to have a supervisor's signature. These are due in by the last class unless permission has been received to turn it in later. Sheets **MAY NOT** be signed by a Religious Education teacher unless the work/project was completed with them.

Grade 10

**Confirmation Name Sheet-*

Students will be given a sheet in November asking them for their chosen Confirmation name. The name must be the name of a Catholic saint and the student should have a justifiable reason for why they are selecting that name. These are due in by December 17th, 2017.

**Service Hours Sheet*

Students will need to keep track of the projects they have completed and will need to have a supervisor's signature. These are due in by the last class unless permission has been received to turn it in later. Sheets **MAY NOT** be signed by a Religious Education teacher unless the work/project was completed with them.

**Letter to the Bishop-*

All students preparing for Confirmation will be asked to write a short introductory letter to the Bishop presiding at their Confirmation. A format for what this letter should look like will be distributed to all students and letters will be due into the YFM Office by mid-December.

Service Philosophy and Requirements

It is our hope that through participation in regular service/volunteer work that our students will come to understand more fully the gospel message of Matthew 25.

“Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me” (Matthew 25: 34-36).

While we are aware that many students participate in various volunteer opportunities through their schools, their hometown, or with their families, we also ask that students participate in service work as part of their preparation for Confirmation Students in BOTH grades 9 and 10 are asked to complete the following:

A minimum of 15 hours of service for each year of the program.

All students will be asked to submit a service log which will indicate what projects they have done, when they completed the project(s) and will also include a signature of the student’s supervisor. We will offer various opportunities throughout the year but please be aware that our projects usually have a limit to the number of people who can attend or help (sometimes based on space, sometimes based on the rules of the organization we are working with). Students should not rely solely on our opportunities to complete their service work. Projects completed over the summer of 2017 or for school MAY count towards this requirement.

The following pages are a list of various opportunities students may already be participating in that would count towards their requirement or opportunities that may be available for students to take part in. Please understand that this list is not exhaustive and other opportunities may become available throughout the year.

Parish Specific Opportunities

St. Catherine’s

Altar serving

Lectoring (Reading) at one of the Sunday Masses (or Saturday evenings)

Assisting in the 1-5 religious education program -contact Leah Ramsdell at

ymindirector@gmail.com

Volunteering for the Family Stations of the Cross on Good Friday (March 30th @12 p.m.)

Additional Suggestions/Ideas

Please note that these positions must be UNPAID in order for them to be considered **volunteer** work and that these are just suggestions. If you are uncertain if a particular project qualifies, please contact the Director.

Coaching a youth sports team (soccer, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, dance, gymnastics).

Volunteering for a local youth organization/sports program (ticket sales, concessions, scorekeeping, time keeping etc.)

Tutoring in an after school program

Volunteering at an animal shelter or hospital

Volunteering at a local hospital or nursing home

Volunteering at a local food pantry or food bank

Volunteer work/hours completed through scouting (Girl Scouts, Eagle Scouts)

Participating in a walk for a specific cause (Walk for Hunger, Walk for Breast Cancer etc.)