

Saint Margaret Mary Parish

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Dear Eighth Graders and Parents:

It is really amazing that the year is almost over. The beginning of your freshman year will be here soon. It is a new beginning with lots of changes and challenges. The ninth grade year of religious education for all youth is an important one. It is a new beginning of a lifelong process of learning and growing in our faith. Confirmation 2012 Formation registration is here! Confirmation 2011 will be celebrated May 1, at 4:00 PM. Please pray for all of them.

To kick off the Confirmation Formation year, we are happy to have a special event for you eighth graders. A Confirmation Rally, "On a Mission from God," is set up to help you get excited about Confirmation and the new challenge of high school. The rally will be on **Wednesday, April 27, 2011 and is part of your preparation**. You are expected to attend (no sponsors or parents need to attend.) The rally is also here to give you a better understanding of Confirmation, to pump you up spiritually for the next step, and for you to meet other youth from at least 5 schools that will be walking this journey with you. Please mark your calendar and set the time aside to join us from 6-9PM at St. Margaret Mary in McDonnell Hall. **Dinner will be provided**, and there is no cost for this spiritually charged evening.

The Confirmation Formation process will then proceed over the next 9-10 months as follows: Youth are **required to attend Confirmation Orientation** (starting September 25th or 27th) with their parents and sponsor, **6 sessions** (2 hours each) with your sponsor/proxy, a **retreat** and **rehearsal** with your sponsor/proxy. The same session is offered at 3 different times to easily work into your busy schedule. The sessions times on Sundays will be (2-4 PM or 7-9 PM) or on Tuesdays (7-9 PM). Fill out the registration form completely and return it to the Youth Ministry or Parish Office with your baptismal certificate and \$80.00 fee, at any time during the Spring or Summer months. Registration needs to be turned in no later than Sept. 1, 2011. Registration will only be accepted with a Baptismal Certificate, even if your child was baptized at St. Margaret Mary. The fee includes materials for the sessions.

A retreat for confirmation will be at an extra cost. The **Confirmation Overnight Retreat (COR)** at Bishop Lane Retreat Center in Rockford will be on the weekend of January 7-8, 2012. The **Confirmation Day Retreat** will be Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 9AM-8PM at St. Margaret Mary. A **third option** will be available tentatively on Saturday March 3 from 8AM- 5:30PM with a sponsor at the Hear I am Lord Conference in St. Charles. The information for these will be available at orientation.

"Speak, Lord, here I am," a sponsor requirement form has also been included (pink sheet). Please choose your sponsor (**a practicing Catholic**) carefully. Sponsors are expected to come with you to the sessions (or a proxy if sponsor is from out of town) and make a life long commitment of support to you. Just a reminder at registration turn in:

- 1. Registration Form**
- 2. Copy of child's baptismal certificate**
- 3. Fee of \$80.00, make checks payable to St. Margaret Mary YM**

Incoming freshman can take advantage of all the High School and Jr. High activities during the summer to help with the transition. For the summer months you will be receiving a special 8th grade mailer. Please feel free to participate in any or all the activities that are available or simply pick what looks interesting. Bring a friend and enjoy yourself. Much of faith can **not** be taught in a class but is experienced through all the different activities we offer. It is an amazing thing to love your faith and feel your faith in everything you do. Please feel free to call me at the Youth Ministry Office at 847-658-7881 with any questions.

Yours in Christ,

Teresa Chiappone