

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 2010 Formation registration is here!

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 29, 2009 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 - 9 PM 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** with their parents and sponsor/proxy on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009 from 1-3 PM or 7-9 PM or Sept. 22, 2009 from 7-9 PM. Youth, along with their sponsor/proxy must also attend **6 sessions (2 hours each)** of confirmation preparation classes. The same session is offered at 3 different times to easily work into your busy schedule. The session times are on Sundays at either 1-3 PM or 7-9 PM or on Tuesdays from 7-9 PM. Furthermore, Confirmation students are required to attend a retreat. The Orientation and the 6 Confirmation classes will be spread out September through February, possibly March. We will offer two different retreats through our parish. **The Confirmation Overnight Retreat** at Bishop Lane Retreat Center in Rockford will be on the weekend of January 8- 9, 2010. **The Confirmation Day Retreat** will be Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 9 AM-8PM. The retreats will be an additional cost. There may be other options for retreats but the costs will vary. Finally, you will be required to attend the Confirmation Rehearsal with your sponsor/proxy and the Confirmation Mass (date to be announced.) The class schedule will be sent out to you towards the end of summer in our fall newsletter.

To register, fill out the enclosed registration form **completely** and return it to the Youth Ministry or Parish Office with your baptismal certificate no later than **Sept. 1, 2009**. The registration fee is \$75.00. However, if you register before June 30, 2009, you will receive a \$10.00 discount. The fee includes materials for the sessions. If there are any financial concerns, please let us know, no one will be denied because of an inability to pay. **Registration will only be accepted with a Baptismal Certificate, if your child was baptized at St. Margaret Mary, please indicate the date on the registration form.**

"Speak, Lord, here I am", a guide to choosing your confirmation sponsor (pink sheet) is enclosed in this mailing. Please start thinking whom to choose as your sponsor now. 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.

Confirmation Check list:

- 1. Registration Form – *filled out completely***
- 2. Copy of child's baptismal certificate**
- 3. Fee of \$75.00, make checks payable to St. Margaret Mary YM (\$10 reduced fee if paid by June 30, 2009)**

Incoming freshman can take advantage of all the High School and Jr. High activities during the summer to help with the transition. That is why we have prepared a special edition newsletter for eighth graders. 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.

Remember, Confirmation Formation starts on September 20 or 22. Please get your registration in as soon as possible.

Yours in Christ,

Teresa Chiappone