


9th Grade Checklist:

- ___ Complete 4 Sermon Notes (due Dec. 14)
- ___ Attend retreat at Camp Friendship Oct. 9 & receive bible
- ___ Parent and Teen Body of Christ retreat Mar. 7
- ___ Complete first 5 chapters in Basic Beliefs Journal (due Dec. 14)
- ___ Attend small and large group sessions
- ___ Participate in two Service projects—Trick or Canning, and Shoebox Project
- ___ Small groups sing at one 11:00 a.m. Spirit Alive Mass during year

10th Grade Checklist:

- ___ Select a Confirmation name from Archdiocesan list & a Sponsor (both names goes on Information Form)
- ___ Confirmation Information Form (due Nov. 9)
- ___ Attend Parent & Teen Take up your Cross Retreat Nov. 9
- ___ Attend Sponsor/Candidate Evening Dec. 7
- ___ Finish last 5 chapters in the Basic Beliefs Booklet due Dec. 14
- ___ Meet 4 times with your sponsor to complete your Sponsor/Candidate Booklet & write letter to Archbishop together—due in March
- ___ Complete 4 Sermon Notes (total of 8 due for the two years of Confirmation: due in March)
- ___ Attend 1 overnight retreat Jan. 7-8 or Feb. 18-19
- ___ Attend small and large group sessions
- ___ Participate in one group service project: Loaves & Fishes or Fair Trade event
- ___ Small groups sing at one 11:00 a.m. Spirit Alive Mass during year

2011	Followers of the Way Confirmation Program Overview
	
<p><i>St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church</i> <i>Fr. Mark Underdahl—Pastor</i> <i>Denise Walsh—Confirmation Coordinator</i> <i>651-784-3015 ext. 110</i> <i>DeniseW@saintjosephsparish.org</i></p>	

Grades 9-10

Confirmation as a Lifestyle

Our Confirmation preparation focuses on integrating the basic teachings, traditions, and prayer life of our Catholic faith as a clearly defined lifestyle. It asks for a commitment during preparation for Confirmation and after to a 'way' of living that reflects the life and teachings of Jesus. The Confirmation process begins in Ninth Grade, with students celebrating the Sacrament in the spring of Tenth Grade and completes their initiation into the Great Mysteries of our Catholic faith.

- The Reign of God is here. I am a co-creator with God.
- I am going to die. I am going live forever!
- I am not in control. God is in control.
- Life is hard. Struggle, when faced honestly, brings joy.
- I am not that important. I am priceless to God.
- My life is not about me. My life is about God and my neighbor.
- I am primarily a spiritual being. I am destined for eternity.

Retreats

Ninth graders and their catechists begin the year with our fall kickoff retreat at Camp Friendship Sunday, Oct. 9. We'll start the day by attending the 11:00 Mass here at St. Joe's with your families and then head to the woods for a challenge course that encourages teamwork and community building before we meet in our small groups this fall. Please see retreat permission form enclosed or check the website for more information.

Your teen's 10th grade small group will be assigned to an overnight retreat on one of two dates. The dates this year are January 7-8 and February 27-28. If they cannot make the assigned date with their group, they can switch to the other date if enough notice is given by calling Denise or Mary in the office. Please see the retreat handout for a few alternatives. Please note there is a Solo Desert camping retreat offered in the fall of the year.

Service Opportunitites

Service is part of our Baptismal call and we want each candidate to experience the joy of serving in our community and beyond. In 9th Grade we are involved in two projects: Trick or Canning and The Shoebox Project. In 10th Grade we have each pair of small group leaders choose one of our projects for their teens to participate in—either Loaves and Fishes or at one of our 'Fair Trade' events. Of course, you are always encouraged to serve more than that but this way they are scheduled to do a small group project.

Sermon Notes

How many are required?

We ask for four sermon notes in ninth grade and four in tenth grade for a total of eight in two years. They can turn them in as they write them or turn all of them in during the spring of their Confirmation year.

Where?

Any Catholic church, during any word and communion service or Mass throughout the year.

Why?

Our liturgy is the source and summit of our community experience each week. It is important our teens are readying themselves for this sacrament by attending Mass on a regular basis. This also helps them focus and pay attention to the liturgy. It also benefits the family. As you pray and worship together we know your family bond grows stronger and teens have a stronger sense of their purpose in God's world and a strong foundation for a faith life. Please remember to put your name on them or we won't know who to credit for them.

Where do I find blank Sermon notes?

They are located at the Information Desk in the Gathering Space. We also have them online.

Where do I turn them in?

There is a basket at the Information Desk to return them or you can drop them off at the parish office.

Small Groups

Confirmation groups consist of two leaders (catechists) and about 12 teens. This is a year round program where we meet for discussion, to gather for large group events and discussions, and to work on service projects together.

10th Grade Confirmation Information Form

Where do we find the form?

Inserted in this packet is the form; you can pick additional ones at the parish office, or you download one from our website www.saintjosephsparish.org

When is it due?

At the 10th Grade Parent/Teen Retreat held November 9. We need to know the sponsor's name for our records. Teens are also asked to choose a confirmation name based on a saint's name. The list of saints names approved by the Archbishop is attached to the form, found online or at the office.

We need this form returned in order for you to be confirmed.

Basic Beliefs Journals

When & how do teens complete it?

9th Grade (Year 1): Complete Chapters 1-5 at home with your parents and show your catechist the completed chapters at Dec. 14 session (due date).

10th Grade (Year 2): Complete Chapters 6-10 at home with your parents and return to the parish office by December 14.

The answers are fairly easy to complete; all the answers are inside the booklet. Parents are asked to complete the booklet with their teen.

Where can we get a copy?

We give them to 9th graders/parents at the kickoff in the fall or you can also download them from our website:

www.saintjosephsparish.org

We have extra copies available from the office for \$1.00.

Sponsors

Choosing a Sponsor:

- A. Sponsors must be sufficiently mature for the role, belong to the Catholic Church, have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, plus be actively practicing their faith.
- B. Ideally, the sponsors should be the Godparents (baptismal sponsors) of the Candidate. This helps to retain the connection with the initiation of the student through baptism and his/her initiation into a fuller Christian life through Confirmation.
- C. The choice of a sponsor ought to consider the influence of that person on the student's life of faith. It is best when the sponsor would be someone whom the student regards highly and who sets a good example of Catholic behavior.

Sponsor's Role in 10th Grade:

- A. To attend the Sponsor/Candidate night Dec. 7.
- B. To meet 4 times for at least 30 minutes between now and the Confirmation Sending Rite Mass (discussion booklet for meetings is provided).
- C. Attend Mass once a month with candidate.
- D. Pray for the young person you are being asked to sponsor.
- E. Work together on a letter to Archbishop Nienstedt.
- F. To attend the Confirmation Ceremony with your candidate.