

Saint Mary of the Hills Parish
Confirmation Preparation Program

***“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.”***

Spring 2018

To all families of prospective Confirmation candidates,

As we look forward to next fall we are excited for the opportunity to begin preparing your teen in earnest for the Sacrament of Confirmation and full initiation into the Catholic Church. Below is a brief outline of the program with guidelines and expectations for Catechumens (teens) as well as parents and families.

The centerpiece of the preparation program is twofold: first and most important is weekly Mass attendance and the second is comprised of four retreat days and the overnight retreat in fall of 2019. **Attendance at Mass and all retreat sessions is crucial for proper catechesis and faith formation.** Due to the communal nature of the Sacrament of Confirmation there is no amount of home work or “make up” classes that can replace these two components. The Catechism of the Catholic Church instructs us, *“catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community.”* Without Mass and retreat days this sense of belonging is impossible to fully realize.

We are now in the process of registering students for the Confirmation program which will open with a parent/teen orientation on **Sunday, October 14 from 2:00 – 4:30** in the SMH lower church or school hall. As stated above, the Confirmation program is a two-year program consisting of 4 six-hour retreat days scheduled on Saturdays throughout the two years, a Sponsor/teen class, scheduled monthly Mass service for the Noon Mass and a mandatory overnight retreat. To further complement the building of community for the teens we ask that each teen attend the 2 scheduled Large Group Service Projects and four Youth Group meetings throughout the two- year preparation. Please see the attached calendar.

We look forward to working with your teen in preparation of this sacrament and thank you in advance for your attention to the registration of your child in the Confirmation Preparation Program. **If your child has not been enrolled in religious education or attended a Catholic school, your child may have to attend extra classes to catch up to his/her peers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Religious Education Office.** See you on **Sunday afternoon October 14 @ 2:00 for the Parent/Teen Orientation.**

Peace & joy,

Joan Regan & Frank Connell
Confirmation Coordinators

**SAINT MARY OF THE HILLS
CONFIRMATION PROGRAM CALENDAR 2018 – 2020**

Sunday **10/14/18** **Orientation - Scheduled for all first-year students and parents** on
afternoon at 2:00 - 4:30 pm - place TBD

Saturday **10/27/18** **Retreat Day 1– Jesus Christ Revealed**

Sunday **1/6/19** **Called to Witness* - Commitment Mass – Sponsor Attendance**

*Class will meet after the Noon Mass. Sponsor attendance is required. Families provide luncheon that day.

NB: These dates listed below are subject to change before September.

Saturday **1/26/19** **Retreat Day 2 – The Mission of Jesus Christ**

Saturday **3/23/19** **Retreat Day 3 – Encountering Jesus in the Sacraments**

****Classes cancelled due to snow will be rescheduled for the following year.**

2nd Tuesday at Youth Group - Teens choose 4 from list below

2018 November 13 December 11

2019 January 8 February 12 March 12 April 9 May 14

2019 October 8 November 12 December 10

2020 January 14 February 11 March 10 April 14*

*Possible date only if before Confirmation date

2019-20

November Large Group Service Project

**Confirmation *Overnight* Retreat – Weekend in late fall 2019 at Betania II Retreat House in
Medway - Date TBA**

Winter 2020 Retreat Day 4 – Life in Jesus Christ

Spring 2020 Confirmation

Mass: Each candidate will choose to serve as a lector or greeter/usher for the teen Mass at Noon on Sundays and will serve in that capacity about once a month for a year, January thru December, which will gain 18 service hours (includes one hour of training) for each candidate if all time has been completed for the year. This will be scheduled service and the candidate will be trained at a scheduled time.

St. Mary of the Hills Confirmation Program Registration 2018-2020

Father: _____ Catholic Y N
Last First

Mother: _____ Catholic Y N
Last First

M. Maiden: _____ Guardian (if not parent): _____

Address: _____
Street City Zip Code

Telephone: _____
Home Cell Emergency

Family Email required - please PRINT clearly: _____

NB: Copy of Baptismal certificate required for students who did not receive either their Baptism or First Eucharist at the SMH parish.

Student Information

Student Name	Birth date	Sex	School 2018/19
_____	_____	_____	_____

_____ Special Needs: medical, learning disabilities, physical; Allergies

Baptismal Church - City

Tuition Information – Confirmation Program

\$100 per year or \$190 for 2-year program

Cash _____ Check # _____ Amount _____

Photo/Video/Name Release

I, _____ give my consent for St Mary of the Hills Parish to take pictures/ videos of my registered children during Religious Ed sessions to post with his/her name/s on the smhmilton.org website or the SMH Rel Ed Facebook page or for local newspapers. Yes _____ No _____

Volunteer Opportunities

I can help with one or more of the following (please circle): Service Projects Leader - Small Group Facilitator on Retreat days - Overnight Retreat Chaperone