

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Hello 9<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation families,

Confirmation preparation sessions are just around the corner! As you know, we planned to meet in person 3 times in October and 3 times in February. However, St. Augustin is still in phase 2, meaning that other than public worship, no gatherings of more than 10 people are allowed. Given this situation, we have been praying about the best way to proceed with Confirmation preparation this year. Confirmation prep will be twofold: **(1) at-home preparation with sponsor and family, and (2) monthly small group meetings with peers and an adult table leader.** Please take the time to read through this document.

Although we cannot meet as one large group, this is an opportunity to foster a domestic Church while still meeting with a small group of your peers. Parents and sponsors, because of the style of this new Confirmation preparation, it is essential you walk alongside your teen during this process. A significant amount of prayer, reflection, and discussion will be done at home, meaning that the teen needs people at home to support them!

Confirmation preparation this year will be divided into 6 months. Each month will be centered around a theme:

- September: Faith
- October: The Bible
- November: Saints
- January: Baptism
- February: The Holy Spirit
- March: Moral Decision Making

During each month, Confirmation preparation will be centered around 3 pillars:

1. Prayer
2. Faith Content
3. Reflection and Discussion

For prayer, the 1<sup>st</sup> pillar, **I ask each teen and sponsor (and/or parent) to choose a prayer or devotion that they will commit to together for the duration of the month.** Your devotion can change each month or stay the same. Sponsors and parents, it is your responsibility as faith leaders in the teen's life to pray with them. A list of prayer and devotion suggestions can be found [HERE](#). Consider following the theme of the month in the devotion you choose. For example, commit to regular spiritual reading about the life of your Confirmation saint during the month of November.

For faith content, the 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar, **I will be sending home online resources at the beginning of each month that include short videos and/or articles about the theme of the month.** The resources I send will be short, but meaningful! Consider watching these with your peers, family, and/or sponsor! **Please watch and/or read these resources before coming to small group discussion with your table leader once a month.**

For reflection and discussion, the 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar, I want each of you to **spend 10-15 minutes alone reflecting upon what you have heard or read.** You can take this to prayer in front of the Blessed

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Sacrament, spend time journaling, or find a quiet place to think and pray. Once you have done this, you are required to **have a conversation with your sponsor and your parent(s) about the faith content for the month**. You are welcome to discuss with other family and friends as well, but you must speak to at least your sponsor and parent(s). I will send home some questions along with the videos and/or articles each month to guide your personal reflection and at-home discussion.

**At the beginning of each month I will email and post these at home resources** (videos, articles, reflection/discussion questions) **on the Confirmation page on St. Augustin's website**. This at-home preparation is designed so that you build a support network at home with people you can talk to about your faith: your sponsor, family, and friends.

Again, the 3 pillars outlined above are required for you to complete AT HOME. Parents and sponsors, because our Confirmation program is shifting towards an at-home focus, it is crucial for you to walk alongside your teen throughout this whole preparation process. **Teens, following this at-home preparation, you will meet each month with your table leader and peers from last year for small group discussion. It is expected that you have started a devotion with your sponsor and/or parents, watched/read the faith content, reflected on your own, and discussed with your parents and sponsor BEFORE coming to the monthly meeting with your small group.**

The 9<sup>th</sup> grade monthly small group meetings will take place **once a month on Sunday morning after 8am Mass at St. Augustin** (or by zoom if needed). Please come to 8am Mass! To social distance, **each small group will be assigned a different location around the building. Small groups will meet at their assigned location with their table leader to eat breakfast and discuss**. Although we are all meeting at the same time, we will not gather as one large group at any point. Plan on these meetings taking about 30-45 minutes.

- September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9am (after 8am Mass)
- October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9am (after 8am Mass)
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9am (after 8am Mass)
- January 17<sup>th</sup> at 9am (after 8am Mass)
- February 14<sup>th</sup> at 9am (after 8am Mass)
- March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am (after 8am Mass)

Although we cannot gather as one large group, I hope that this style of Confirmation preparation helps you to grow closer to Christ alongside your sponsor, family, and friends.

As always, please reach out to me with any questions you may have! I am praying for you!

In Jesus and Mary,

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