



# Confirmation 2010-2011

## Mandatory Class Dates:

November	14 <sup>th</sup>
December	12 <sup>th</sup>
January	9 <sup>th</sup>
February	13 <sup>th</sup>
March	13 <sup>th</sup>

These five classes are mandatory and will be held from **5:30pm-8pm** in the **School Cafeteria**.

### Dates of the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation

May	5 <sup>th</sup> 2011	(10 <sup>th</sup> grade)*
May	6 <sup>th</sup> 2011	(11 <sup>th</sup> grade)*

\*Because of the number of Confirmation candidates this year, we will have two separate Masses. For ease of splitting the group we used grade level.

### Why has the confirmation program changed so much this year?

As of July 1, 2010 the Diocese of Richmond brought into effect the new "Diocesan Policy and Guidelines for Preparation of Baptized Adolescents to Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation." Through prayer and discernment, Bishop DiLorenzo and the committee tasked with putting this program together kept two things in mind. The first being that all Sacraments are gifts; never should it enter our minds that we are able to *earn* the Sacraments. The Catechism defines a Sacrament as, "An efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit." Our efforts would be futile to attempt to earn that transfusion of divine life. The Bishop and his committee also kept in mind the reality that in many parishes, the confirmation program was the *only* religious education program being offered. Therefore, by extracting the essential elements of Confirmation, all parishes are encouraged to form **High School Formation** programs which are open to all high school aged youth and thus fulfill that great need for continual spiritual growth and indoctrination of the Faith.

### What if I can't make one of the five mandatory classes?

Should someone be unable to attend one of the mandatory classes for a viable reason, they would need to contact the Youth Coordinator, Aaron Galvez, directly to arrange a make-up class which would take place at another parish. (All parishes in the Diocese are utilizing the same program)

### Will there be a retreat?

YES! Unfortunately because of scheduling conflict we've thus far been able to lock down a retreat date. However, it will *most likely* be held in the beginning of April.

### What is the High School Formation program at St. John the Apostle?

The High School Formation program is an ever-growing combination of Youth Nights, youth events, service projects, leadership training and community building functions. As traditional youth ministry and religious education join forces, we are able to build from the very large platform of dynamic indoctrination of the Faith, which targets the intellectual understanding of Catholicism; and spiritual growth in a positive peer to peer setting. In order to maintain the identity of the youth in the parish we will continue to use the acronym SJAY (St. John the Apostle Youth).

### **Is there still a requirement for community service hours?**

No. However, the call to come out of oneself and serve his brothers and sisters is very real. Therefore, we will be providing numerous opportunities for active service. It is the hope that as one encounters Christ through the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, the desire to serve will be fostered and flourish, and one will step forward maturely of their own accord to alleviate a part of the suffering of our fellow man.

### **What are the sponsor requirements?**

In essence the requirements stay the same, they are as follows:

- A confirmed, practicing Catholic (if married, validly married in the Church)
- An active registered parishioner, not necessarily at St John the Apostle
- At least 16 years of age (same gender is recommended)
- Is NOT the candidate's parent
- Is willing to share their faith personally with the candidate on a consistent basis.

If the chosen sponsor is registered in another parish, we will need a note from the pastor of that parish stating that he/she is in good standing with the Church.

If the sponsor is unable to be present for the ceremony a proxy may be selected to stand-in place of the sponsor. **We will be handing out the sponsor sheets at the first class, which will then need to be turned in at the class in January.**

### **What if two students from the same family are in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade, will they be placed on separate days to receive the Sacrament?**

No. For simplicity sake we divided the candidates by grade, however, families will most certainly be placed on the same date. We will also attempt to accommodate those that have major schedule conflicts if one of the two days works better.

### **Will I have my same small group and Table Mentors as last year?**

Yes. Although there might be some minor changes, we have done our best to keep the integrity of the small-groups in-tact. As last year was spent building bonds of trust, the small-groups will hopefully be able to pick-up where they left off.

### **What is the *Mystagogy* class?**

*After* the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation, we will have one final "follow-up" meeting which will allow us to make the final connection between Confirmation and the *continual* reception of Holy Communion. The date has not yet been set for this meeting.