

Dear Parents and Sponsors of the 2019 Confirmation Class

Just a note to advise of the schedule of events we are planning for those students who are preparing for confirmation on Friday November 1, 2019 at the 7 pm service.

The time when a person begins to question the faith handed down from their families is a special, holy, and precious time. We believe that the Spirit is walking with your child, even though they are full of questions and doubt, especially when they are in the midst of individuation, and becoming differentiated in their identity from their family of origin. They are seeking their own path; as it should be. We also believe that God has only children, not grandchildren. They have their own faith, distinct from yours, yet very “foundationed” by your witness and commitment. We have been made a child of God through Baptism and now is the very right time for these special children of God to come to a fuller appreciation of their own identity. As St Augustine challenges us still: Become what you are! We hold this time with honor and intention.

There are three aspects of our program at CHS, all are important and are being carefully planned.

Sunday Evening Confirmation curriculum: We are dedicated to guiding your children through their challenges and questions regarding faith. Attendance is important and a schedule here follows:

Sept 8 6:30-8:00 pm, At the Bonfire

Sept 22 6:30-8 pm. The Structure of Faith (in the Church)

Sept 29 11:30 am – 3 pm. Faith Walk after Church. See below

October 6 6:30-8 pm Encounter with God - Prayer as Sitting with a Friend. (In the Church)

October 20 6:30-8 pm Sponsor Night - Guided 1 on 1 One conversations sharing experiences & questions.

Confirmation 11/1. Friday 7 pm.

More info to follow. No dinner together ahead – plan to have something special with your family. After worship we will host a gala in the parish hall.

Faith Walk: Please arrive to worship at church for the 10 am service as usual. Student will be walking on a path at nearby Round Valley and meeting people along the way who will share ideas and prayers with them. This should be a surprise. Please have your students dressed for an outdoor activity rain or shine- rain gear and umbrellas a good thing. We will feed them – please advise of dietary concerns. The walk is supervised and secure as one can do in a public venue and having done it for years, we’ve always had a positive outcome.

We'd like to meet with all the parents of the confirmation class on **Sunday September 22 at 11:15 am after church in the parish office.**

This brief meeting will also allow you to ask any questions and understand your expectations regarding you and your child's involvement, and have any questions answered regarding your child's confirmation. Please contact Linda at the church office only if you can NOT attend.

Should you have any question, please feel free to contact me. 908-894-0090

Faithfully, Pat & Phil

Note to Sponsors

As you can see from the schedule above, we are hoping for can attend the Oct 20 meeting. In preparation for this event and for other ideas listed below, let us define expectations of a sponsor for a confirmand.

Purpose: This sponsor/candidate relationship is meaningful for the growth and development of the newly committed Christian, your candidate. At this time, he/she needs to get to know another faithful adult other than their parents. The sponsor/candidate commitment to this process is determined by the mutual time available for each individual.

The time together should not be a burden, but rather a joy. It is also a time for the sponsor to do their own reflection on their own spiritual life. For what we would like you to do is share what your faith journey has been- an autobiography of how you've encounter Jesus and when there have been challenges and how those were or are resolving to this day. Honesty is paramount. You do not have to be a biblical scholar. You do, however, have to be open and honest and kind. If you don't have an answer to a question, please admit it and then say, how about we together ask that of Fr Phil. All of which means you set a time for meeting and sharing your story. We will have advised the students that this is your purpose. And will invited them to report back to the group what most impressed them or what question was most lingering afterward. In that regard, please do not disclose matters that are so personal you would wish them not be shared.

Possible Activities for Sponsor and Candidate:

1. Phone/email/text each other.
2. Go to breakfast or lunch together.
3. Attend Mass together.
4. Plan to attend some faith community activities together.
5. Let your imagination create different opportunities to get to know each other.

Thank you for being there for our young people.