

Youth Confirmation Program Overview

BACKGROUND

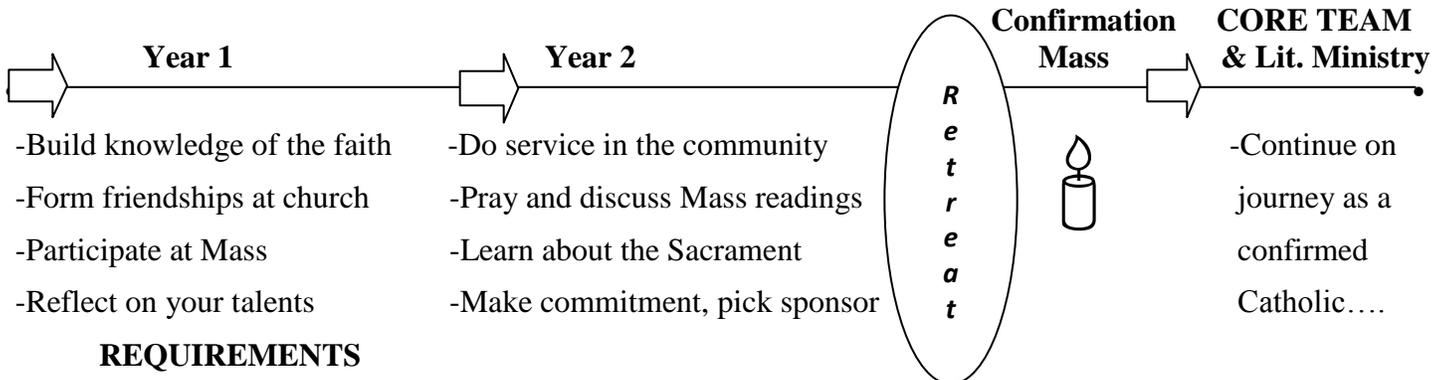
- Young Catholics have prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation in multiple ways. These have included 1-year, 2-year, weekly, monthly, middle-school, high-school, and accelerated programs. Although we will continue to adapt to the special circumstances of the faithful who seek Confirmation, we have developed a solid 2-year plan at St. Dominic's that will help prepare our youth to be conscious of and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, confirmed in the Church community, and committed to be more like Jesus. Parent participation is crucial and required.

AGE and PREVIOUS SACRAMENTS

- Youth Confirmation students begin their 2-year journey no earlier than their 7th Grade year. They must already have received Baptism and First Communion (or be taking those classes during Year 1). Teens in the upper high-school grades should meet with our Director of Youth to determine if they should attend the Youth or Adult classes (the latter meet every Tuesday night).

2-YEAR JOURNEY

- Years 1 and 2 of Confirmation preparation follow a similar schedule, although the nature and content of the journey will intensify in Year 2. Participating at Mass is always central, and some regular involvement in the parish outside of Mass is required, usually through Youth Ministry (YM). The purpose of Year 1 is to reflect on one's natural talents, to review (or build up) one's knowledge of the Catholic faith, and to form a community with the class and parish. As one moves into Year 2, the emphasis on service, prayer, and the meaning of the sacrament will deepen. Year 2 candidates will make a rite of commitment at Mass, go on a retreat with their peers, and pick a sponsor. Finally, in the Spring of their 2nd year, the candidate will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Then, they are ready to be leaders in the Church.



REQUIREMENTS

- **CONFIRMATION CLASS and YOUTH MINISTRY:** Confirmation is a Sacrament celebrated in a community of Christian friendship and support. During Years 1 & 2, students should attend Sunday Mass, attend the monthly Confirmation class, and attend at least TWO Youth Ministry (YM) events per month, or serve as a liturgical minister. *Students who attend a Catholic school where they take religion classes and chapel need* only attend at least ONE YM event per month.
- **PARENTS:** Parents must attend at least one parent session each month. These are offered during each monthly Confirmation class, and often on other weekends as well.
- **MASS ATTENDANCE:** Students must submit two St. Dominic's Sunday Mass programs per month, signed by the presider of that Mass.
- **MASS REPORTS & SERVICE:** In Year 2, candidates must complete 4 reports on Sunday Mass readings, and perform 10 hours of community service, with a signed service-hours sheet.
- **RETREAT:** In Year 2, candidates must attend the Confirmation retreat. In the case of a conflict, an alternate retreat must be discussed with and approved by the Director of Youth Ministry.

- ATTENDANCE POLICY Per year, up to 1 absence from Confirmation class and 2 absences from the monthly YM requirement each are allowed. Absences will have a makeup assignment. Additional absences will require a meeting with Dir. of Youth before continuing.