

## Youth Confirmation Program Overview

### BACKGROUND

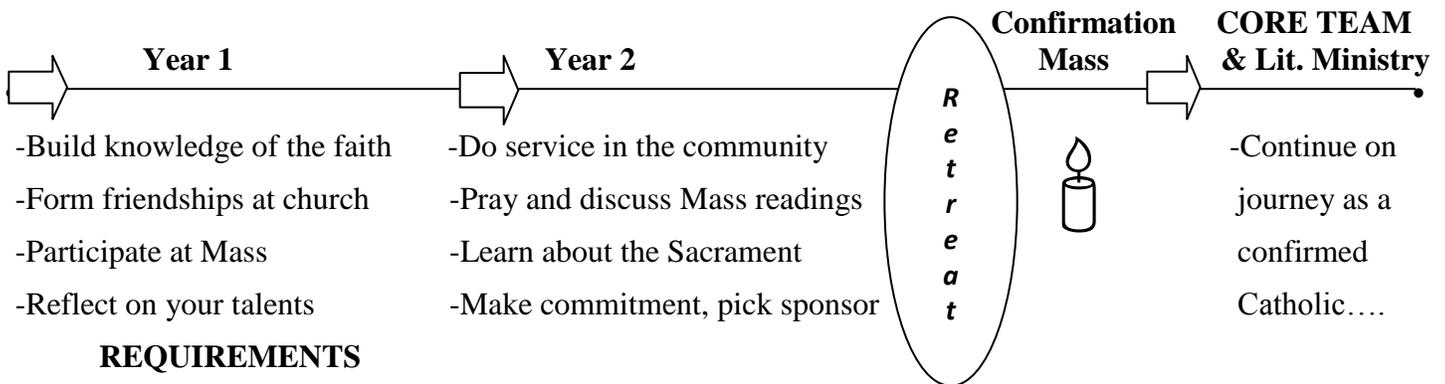
- Young Catholics have prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation in multiple ways. These have included 1-year, 2-year, weekly, monthly, middle-school, high-school, and accelerated programs. Although we will continue to adapt to the special circumstances of the faithful who seek Confirmation, we have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

### AGE and PREVIOUS SACRAMENTS

- Youth Confirmation students begin their 2-year journey no earlier than their 7<sup>th</sup> 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 and pick a sponsor. In the Spring of their 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the candidate will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.



### REQUIREMENTS

- **CONFIRMATION CLASS and YOUTH MINISTRY:** Confirmation is a Sacrament celebrated in a community of Christian friendship and support. During Years 1 & 2, students must attend the monthly Confirmation class, and at least two Youth Ministry (YM)-Parish events per month, or serve as a liturgical minister. *Students who attend a Catholic school where they take religion/chapel need only attend at least one YM event per month.*
- **PARENTS:** Parents must attend at least one formation session each month (offered during each monthly Confirmation class on Sundays) or engage in another monthly spiritual activity.
- **MASS ATTENDANCE:** Students must submit four St. Dominic's Sunday Mass programs per month, signed by the priest or deacon 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.
- **RETREATS:** In Year 1 & 2, candidates must attend a day retreat. In the case of a conflict, an alternate retreat must be discussed with and approved by the Director of Youth Ministry.
- **MAKE-UP POLICY** Per year, up to 1 absence from Confirmation class and the monthly YM requirement each are allowed. Absences will have a makeup assignment.