



st. monica catholic community TEEN CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Confirmation is part of the Catholic Church's rite of initiation into the faith community (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist).

Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit – his actions, his gifts, and his biddings – in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.

To this end, catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church # 1309)

Maturing in Christian faith is a life-long journey. Confirmation preparation is a process in Christian growth based on the belief that adolescents are at a significant point in their faith journey where they are beginning to establish a personal faith identity. Through sharing their own journey and interaction with others, the candidates are assisted in identifying and understanding how God is working in their lives, and come to a new realization of faith within the context of the whole parish community.

(Confirmation Preparation Process Guidelines – Archdiocese of Los Angeles)

The Teen Confirmation Program prepares youth in grades 9-12 who are actively participating in the faith community or who have this desire, to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation. The preparation is a 2 year process. The first year (Pre-Confirmation) invites teens to gain a better understanding of the mission of the Catholic Church by participating and involving themselves in life of the faith community. The second year (Confirmation Sacramental Preparation) guides the teens to deeply reflect upon the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and discern how they will respond as disciples of Jesus in our world today.

PRE-CONFIRMATION PROGRAM (YEAR 1)

For high school freshmen and sophomores, this component of the program is designed to empower teens to share in the life and mission of our faith community. Teens choose one of five options – High School Religious Education Classes, Theological Reflection Group, 1:15 Youth Liturgy Team, Homeless Outreach or Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick, Elderly and Shut In. All options will consist of the following elements with varying degrees: catechesis, prayer, community and service. In addition, all teens are required to participate on the Confirmation Year 1 Retreat. We understand that teens begin the confirmation preparation process coming from different formation backgrounds, are interested in different aspects of faith and are keen to different learning methods. We provide the following options to meet our young people where they are and to help them grow.

Option 1: High School Religious Education Classes

Sundays 12:00-2:45PM; Class Size: 6-10 Teens

For teens who have had limited formal religious education or who prefer more structured instructions, this option will provide a foundational understanding of our Catholic tradition. Teens that have not been baptized or have not received first communion are also welcome to attend these classes to prepare for these sacraments. We will discuss faith & religion, scripture, liturgy & prayer, sacraments, Christology, moral theology and Catholic social teachings. Teens will attend the 1:15 liturgy together on meeting dates.

Meeting Location: Spirituality Center 2nd Floor

Meeting Dates for 2009-10: October 11, 25, November 8, 22, December 6, January 10, 24, February 14, 28, March 14, 28, April 11, May 2, 16

Option 2: Theological Reflection Group

Sundays 1:00-3:45PM or Tuesdays 7:00-8:30PM; Group Size: 6-10 Teens

This option is for teens that are currently attending a Catholic high school, have previously attended a Catholic elementary school or have extensively participated in a religious education program. As a young faith community, teens will engage in dialogue and be reflective of the teachings of the Catholic Church. Guest speakers will be invited to present on contemporary pastoral concerns and teens will have the opportunity to exchange ideas in light of the Gospel. Teens participating in the Sunday group will attend the 1:15 liturgy together on meeting dates.

Meeting Location: Spirituality Center 2nd Floor

Meeting Dates for 2009-10 (Sunday Group): October 11, 25, November 8, 22, December 6, January 24, February 28, March 28, April 11, May 2, 16

Meeting Dates for 2009-10 (Tuesday Group): October 6, 20, November 3, 17, December 1, January 5, 19, February 2, 16, March 2, 16, April 13, 27, May 11

Option 3: 1:15 Youth Liturgy Team

Sundays 11:45-2:45PM

Teens meet once a month to plan for next month's mass by reflecting on the readings and coming up with a theme. The goal is to create prayer and worship at the 1:15 liturgy that touches the lives of young people. In addition, teens will choose to serve in one of the following liturgical ministries during mass: hospitality, lector or choir.

Meeting Location: Duval Center 2nd Floor

Meeting Dates for 2009-10: October 25, November 8, December 6, January 24, February 28, March 28, April 11, May 16

Option 4: Homeless Outreach

Sundays 1:00-3:45PM

Teens commit to participating in 5 homeless outreaches from October to May and 3 meetings. Teens can choose from the following events and places: Covenant House Candlelight Vigil, Parish Thanksgiving Dinner, Upward Bound House, Samoshel, P.A.T.H., Turning Point, St. Robert's Center, St. Joseph's Center, Union Rescue Mission and other projects with youth ministry. After each outreach event, teens will need to complete a reflection paper. On meeting dates, teens will attend the 1:15 liturgy together.

Meeting Location: Trepp Center 2nd Floor

Meeting Dates for 2009-10: October 11, January 24, May 16

Option 5: Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick, Elderly and Shut-In

Sundays 9:00-11:00AM

Accompany Eucharistic ministers from our parish to visit the sick, elderly and shut in. Teens may be asked to help lead communion services. This is a monthly commitment. Teens meet for extended discussion afterwards until 12:30PM on * dates.

Dates for 2009-10: October 18*, November 1, December 13, January 3, February 7, March 7, April 11, May 2*

CONFIRMATION SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION SESSIONS (YEAR 2)

For high school sophomores, juniors and seniors continuing on, these teens will have the option to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation by attending sessions in the Fall (October – December) or in the Winter (January – March). The sessions meet for 8 consecutive weeks (Sundays 2:45-4:15PM, 7:00-8:30PM or Tuesdays 7:00-8:30PM). Teens are also required to participate on a Confirmation Year 2 Retreat. The celebration of the Rite of Confirmation generally will occur during the Easter season in the month of April or May.

DETERMINING A CANDIDATE'S READINESS FOR CONFIRMATION

- An expression of desire by the candidate to receive the sacrament
- An understanding of the sacrament as a personal commitment to assume responsibility in the community and in the ministry and service aspect of parish life
- A sense of unity with the faith community as evidenced by participation in the liturgy of the Eucharist, with awareness of what is taking place
- A basic understanding of Christianity, including a deepened awareness of Jesus, his teachings, and role of the church in continuing his mission
- An ability to express his or her faith in ways that others can understand and appreciate
- A witnessing in the way the candidate lives a Christian life



Parents should encourage and guide their teens to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, but teens should never feel pressured or obligated. The conferring of the sacrament of Confirmation is always based on the readiness of the candidate. It is okay for teens to express that they are not ready to be confirmed and that they want to hold off until they are an adult or when a more opportune time comes along. Teens are always welcome to participate in other aspects of youth ministry and parish life as well as come and seek guidance in exploring alternative faith traditions.

TEEN & PARENT ORIENTATION

Location: Trepp Center 2nd Floor

Sunday, September 13th 10:45-11:45AM **or** Sunday, September 20th 2:30-3:30PM

All teens, accompanied by a parent, will be required to make an appointment for an entrance interview before participating in the Teen Confirmation Program. Entrance interviews will take place from September 14-30th in the Pastoral Center.

CONFIRMATION YEAR 1 RETREAT

Location: TBD

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2009 (Tentative Date)

REGISTRATION

To register, please send in the following items to the Coordinator of Youth Ministry:

- I. Teen Confirmation Registration Form
- II. Youth Ministry Medical Release Form
- III. Safe Environment Program Permission Form
- IV. Copy of Baptismal Certificate (**not** necessary if teen was baptized here at St. Monica)
- V. Registration Fee: \$100

Please make check payable to: **St. Monica Catholic Church**

Registration Deadline – September 30, 2009

For more information contact:

Quang Luu | Coordinator of Youth Ministry
(310) 566-1508 | quang@stmonica.net
725 California Avenue | Santa Monica, CA 90403