

Welcome to our Faith Formation Program for Grades 9 through Confirmation

We are excited to share with you the details of our faith formation program for youth in grades 9 (Confirmation 1) through grade 10/Confirmation (Confirmation 2). With careful consideration of the health and safety mandates pertaining to COVID-19, we have developed a primarily **home-based, on-line** curriculum that will allow our youth to receive a comprehensive faith-filled experience as they prepare for their Confirmation sacrament.

Leadership Team: Fr. Lambert Nieme, Associate Pastor of our collaborative parishes, serves as the Director of our Faith Formation for Youth. As a former professor, Fr. Lambert brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our program. He will be joined by our dedicated catechist teachers who also bring enthusiasm and commitment to the faith formation process. Providing administrative support will be St. Martha parishioner/St. Mary secretary Linda Olsen who can be reached with questions at: lolsen@pwc.church.

Curriculum: We will use *Chosen: Your Journey Toward Confirmation* as our program resource. This series of captivating videos, complemented by a workbook and engaging discussions led by our catechists, will show the students how the sacraments, prayer, and discipleship are so important in our Christian life. Guest lectures will be included and the opportunity for church and community service will complete the experience.

Schedule: The grade 10/Confirmation 2 students will participate in the fall semester of on-line classes (October 4 - January 3) whereas the grade 9 students (Confirmation 1) will attend their on-line program from January 24th - April 25th. The seven, one hour Zoom classes will occur from 7:00 - 8:00 pm and are generally scheduled on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the designated months. A special family Mass will be held on the first day of classes to invite the Holy Spirit into the lives of our youth as they begin their journey towards Confirmation. A Mass of Thanksgiving will occur at the conclusion of their semester of faith-filled study.

Class Dates for Confirmation 2 (generally grade 10 students):

October 4, 12:00 pm Mass of the Holy Spirit at St. Mary Church to open the Confirmation year. All students of the Confirmation 2 program and their families are encouraged to attend. Please sign-up that week on our website to register for Mass at: pwc.church. Students will pick up their *Chosen* curriculum books after Mass.

On-line classes (7:00-8:00 pm): October 4 & 18; November 1 & 15, December 6 & 20; January 3. The final class on January 3rd will include a 5:00 pm *Mass of Thanksgiving* at St. Mary Church as the program comes to an end. Students will return home following Mass and participate in their last on-line class at 7:00 pm.

In addition, on Sunday, May 2nd (time to be determined) the students will attend *Mercy Night*, an evening of reflection and Reconciliation.

Class Dates for Confirmation 1 (grade 9 students):

January 24, 2021, 12:00 pm Mass of the Holy Spirit at St. Mary Church to open the pre-Confirmation year. All students of the Confirmation 1 program and their families are encouraged to attend. Please sign-up that week on our website to register for Mass at: pwc.church. Students will pick up their *Chosen* curriculum books after Mass.

Tentative Dates for On-line classes (7:00-8:00 pm): January 24; February 7 (4:00-5:00 pm; earlier time due to Super Bowl Sunday), February 21; March 7 & 21; April 11 & 25. The final class on April 25 will include a 5:00 *Mass of Thanksgiving* at St. Mary Church as the program comes to an end. Students will return home following Mass and participate in their last on-line class at 7:00 pm.

On Sunday, May 2nd (time to be determined) the students will be invited to attend *Mercy Night*, an evening of reflection and Reconciliation.

Service: As Christians, it is important to share the love of Jesus Christ with those who are in need or less fortunate. Our students are asked to perform one act of service that is church focused and one that serves the larger community. Recording forms will be made available on our website and service opportunities will be shared throughout the year. We will continue to evaluate the ability to offer retreats and mission trips as the year unfolds.

Family Support: The journey of Christian faith begins in the home where parents and caretakers are the primary educators and examples of Christian values. We encourage our families to pray together in the home, incorporate works of charity and mercy, and attend Mass regularly. Together we can help our youth to live faith-filled lives that glorify God and make a difference in the lives of others and the world.

Registration: If you have not yet registered your child for Faith Formation, please do so immediately by contacting Michelle DeLorenzo at: mdelorenzo@pwc.church. Future emails will only be sent to those registered.

Questions: If you have any questions about the Faith Formation program for grades 7-Confirmation, please contact Linda Olsen at: lolsen@pwc.church or call the Faith Formation for Youth office at: 508-384-3373 extension 116.

We look forward to bringing the joy of Christ into the hearts of our youth as we journey together in their formation of Faith.

God Bless You All,

Reverend Lambert Nieme and the Catechists