

Dear Parents,

This has been an anxious and challenging time and we continue to pray for the good health and safety of your loved ones.

As you know, this past Wednesday, March 25, was our last scheduled day of instruction for grade 7 only. We thank you for helping your child navigate our distance learning program the past couple of weeks, and we would be grateful if you could have your children hold onto the lessons they completed from Dynamic Catholic. We will collect them when they return to our program in the fall, and we will have them staple them into their journals; they will continue to use the same journal books for 8th grade. Please have your child email their Saint Assignment to stjosephreld@optonline.net which was due on March 11 if they have not yet turned it in.

I usually meet with all of our 7th graders before they finish classes in March, so I can discuss with them the requirements for Confirmation. I am saddened that we are not able to meet in person at this time, but I have outlined the requirements for you in this message. While we are out of session, your child should begin working on fulfilling the following:

1. They must complete at least 15-18 hours of community service by January 2021. (Signature verification forms will be available on our website under the sacraments page. One form per organization.) Most service opportunities require interaction with members of the community. While we are mandated to observe social distancing, we do not expect students to perform service that put themselves or others at risk. At this time, we are willing to consider creative forms of “remote service”, such as writing letters of support and gratitude. Hopefully, opportunities for traditional service will be open to all of us very soon. I will e-mail you about opportunities here at St. Joseph’s, as they arise.
2. They must choose a sponsor. Choosing a sponsor is an integral part of this final sacrament of initiation. Our candidates should take the selection of a sponsor seriously. They should look into their hearts and ask themselves: is there a person of true faith who I want to accompany me on this sacramental journey? A sponsor for Confirmation must be an adult, a Catholic in good standing who can verify that they have received all sacraments of initiation. Please see this link, <https://archny.org/ministries-and-offices/youth-faith-formation/catechetical/faq-catechetical/>, detailing the qualifications needed. The sponsor form is available on our website under sacraments. The form must be signed and sealed by a priest in the sponsor’s home parish. The completed form must be handed in at our parents meeting in the fall with the date to be determined.
3. In order for your child to be considered to read at the Confirmation liturgy he/she must volunteer to read at the 9:30am Sunday Family Mass. As you are aware, Sunday masses have been suspended, so we will advise you as to when they may start to participate.

We are planning to have our parent meeting in October, where Fr. Peter and I will discuss the sacrament of Confirmation with you and your child. At the meeting, we will share practical and logistical information, as well as the dates of Confirmation.

Finally, we would like you to know that although classes have ended for your 7th grader, we will continue to update our webpage each week to include additional family resources for activities, movies, videos, etc. Please know that these postings of additional resources are only

suggestions for your family. We know that you are all working very hard with your children as they navigate the world of distance learning for school, and we do not want you to feel pressure; we will simply continue to post as a means of enrichment and enhancement.

Thank you for your kind attention to the many guidelines presented in this e-mail.

If you or your child has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office via e-mail:
stjosephred@optonline.net

You continue to be in our prayers.

God bless,
Mrs. Gilligan