

2011-12 Youth Confirmation Program

BACKGROUND

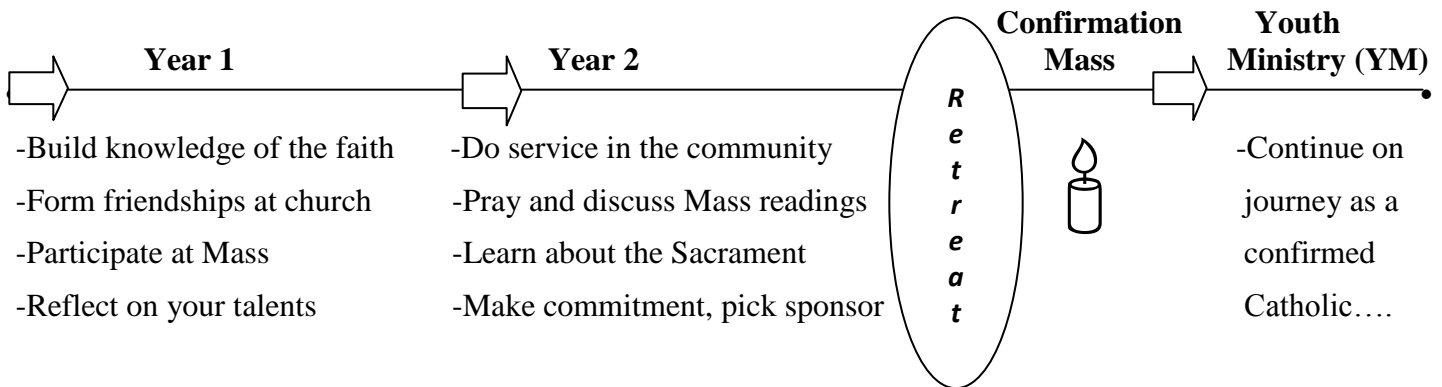
- Young Catholics have prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation in multiple ways. These have included 1-year, 2-year, weekly, monthly, middle-school, high-school, and accelerated programs. Although we will continue to adapt to the special circumstances of the faithful who seek Confirmation, we have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

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. 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 Fall of their freshman year (or later, if they started after 7th grade), the candidate will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Then, they will have the opportunity to take on greater leadership in the Church at liturgy and in Youth Ministry (YM).



REQUIREMENTS

- **CONFIRMATION CLASS and YOUTH MINISTRY:** Confirmation is a Sacrament celebrated in a community of Christian friendship and support. During Years 1 & 2, ALL students must attend the monthly Confirmation sessions and come to at least TWO St. Dominic's Youth Ministry meeting per month. *Students who attend a Catholic school where they take religion classes* must only attend at least ONE Youth Ministry meeting per month.
- **MASS REPORTS and 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.
- **ATTENDANCE POLICY** Per year, up to 1 absence from Confirmation class and 2 absences from the monthly Youth Group requirement each are allowed. Absences will have a makeup assignment. Additional absences will require a meeting with Dir. of Youth before continuing.