



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL YEAR I PARENTS:

We have enjoyed working with your students this year as we help prepare them to live as Disciples of Christ and become adult members of the Catholic Church. The curriculum framework for High School age students set by the U.S. Catholic Bishops contains Six Core Courses and we will spend two years completing these courses. At times we have found that some of the optional courses included in the curriculum framework tie right in with our theme, so we have included segments from some of those as well. Our goal is to nurture a mature faith in each person and to build up the body of Christ.

Our High School program requires the completion of these two years, but students have a three year time frame to complete them. That way, if a student has multiple conflicts during one of the years and is unable to commit to the program for whatever reason, they will have another year to try again. Confirmation is based on an individual's readiness, *not* a particular grade.

The two years can be completed in:

- *Grades 9 & 10 with the chance to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the fall of Grade 11*
- *Grades 9 & 11 with the chance to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the fall of Grade 12*
- *Grades 10 & 11 with the chance to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the fall of Grade 12*

Class participation and attendance, weekly worship at Mass, and service to the parish community are requirements for Confirmation. This is the commitment that the students need to make and ***they must make it a point to communicate with the people who are involved in the program.***

Once students enter into the second year, they along with a parent, will receive the Discernment portion of the program. There will be two or three options for the Discernment Orientation date. Both parents and students will learn how discernment is a decision making process which includes prayer and dialogue between the person seeking the sacrament and those immediately concerned with the preparation of the candidate, namely the pastoral staff, catechists, and sponsors. #43 from the Handbook of Religious Education – Diocese of Worcester.

Once the students have completed and turned in the requirements that show their willingness to live a life as Christ's disciple and are eager to pursue the sacrament, they will receive a date to meet with our discernment team. This interview with the discernment committee is an opportunity for students to express their dedication to their faith through worship, prayer and service. When it has been determined that they do in fact exhibit the readiness to receive this Sacrament, they will be given the dates for the Immediate Confirmation Prep (ICP) Program.

The Immediate Confirmation Prep Program will consist of one six hour class plus Mass on a Saturday or Sunday in June and they will have two dates that can choose from. They will attend a one day (Sunday) fall Confirmation Retreat and celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on a Sunday afternoon in the fall at the Cathedral in Worcester.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

- *Continue weekly worship at Mass through-out the summer and all year.*
- *Become involved and provide service to your Parish community at St. Denis Church.*
- *Develop a habit of prayer to grow closer to God.*
- *Celebrate the sacraments regularly (Reconciliation and Eucharist)*
- *Never stop learning about the rich traditions of our Catholic faith.*

Moving through this HS program is totally up to you. We will provide you with the information, requirements and due dates, but we are not going to chase after you for it. This is your commitment to your faith and your decision to live in relationship with Christ. When requirements are met, you will move on to the next step. If you miss the due dates that we've set, or neglect to fulfill any of the requirements, you will have another opportunity next year.