

Saint Rita Church

1008 Maple Drive
Webster, NY 14580
(585) 671-1100



June 20, 2016

Parents of Confirmation Candidates

Re: Confirmation registration and information

Dear Parent:

I am sending you this letter because:

- Your youth attended Year 1 of the Confirmation program last year and you are eagerly awaiting information about the startup of this year's program; or
- Your youth is entering 8th Grade or above and is ready to start preparing for Confirmation; or
- You have sent requests for information about Confirmation.

Your youth is ready to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation if they are in 8th grade or above, have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confession and Communion and your family is registered in the parish. I am also enclosing a registration form. **Please complete this form even if your youth attended last year's program.**

The program will start on **Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016**, with a parent/youth information meeting. It will be held in the Church from 6:15-7:30PM. All parents and youth are expected to attend. We will discuss this year's program, the different options available and the requirements for completion at the end of the two years of preparation. Materials and calendars will also be distributed. Our Youth Minister, Elizabeth Kwiatkowski, will also be available that evening to discuss the **Youth program** and invite your youth to take part in the parish program.

The **cost** of the program has been reduced! It will be \$60 per youth for the full two years of the program. For those youth who are starting the second year of the program, you need only remit \$10 per youth for this second year. All others are requested to remit only one payment of \$60 at the beginning of the program for each youth attending. There will be no charge next year. This amount is the same regardless of which type of program your youth(s) attends.

There are three types of programs available for the youth:

- The **traditional** program consists of biweekly classes on Monday evenings from 6:15-7:30PM, two Saturday afternoon workshops, a full day retreat and another parent/youth information meeting at the end of the year. The youth will be expected to keep up with reading assignments in the textbook over the course of both years.

- The **Home Study** program consists of two Saturday afternoon workshops, a full day retreat, and another parent/youth information meeting at the end of the year. The youth will also be expected to keep up with reading assignments in the textbook and submit written responses for each assignment. These will be due at stated dates over the course of the year. Those dates will be listed in the calendar.
- Those students who attend **Diocesan-approved Catholic Schools**, must attend the two Saturday afternoon workshops, a full day retreat and another parent/youth information meeting at the end of the year. There are no assignments, as the schools approved by the Diocese have agreed to include the Confirmation curriculum over the course of the religious education courses offered in 8th through 9th grade. Not all Catholic schools have been approved by the Diocese. Please contact me if your youth is attending a Catholic school to determine whether it is on the approved list.

At the parent/youth meeting for **second year youth**, scheduled for March 12, 2017, sponsors are encouraged to attend. This program will include a discussion of **what to anticipate** at the time of Confirmation and a **readiness conference** with each of the youth to determine readiness to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Every youth is also expected to perform **service hours** each year as part of their preparation for the Sacrament. These hours may come from service programs overseen by their school or a community organization. If your youth does take part in a school or community program, please let me know about that service. Otherwise, we will make opportunities for service hours available through the parish. For example, this past year, some of the candidates volunteered at the Breakfast Club and the Fiesta.

I have not included a calendar within this mailing. That is because **I need your help!** Whether or not the youth will all prepare together or be divided into separate groups meeting on alternate Monday evenings is dependent upon the number registering. All youth will be following the Year 2 curriculum, whether they are first or second year students. So, even if two separate classes are necessary, each group will be covering the same curriculum. However, if the number of students is too large for meaningful discussion, it will be necessary to divide the group. **Please have mercy on me and register asap** so that I can determine what will work best for your youth and be able to send out a calendar in advance of the parent/youth information meeting of September 25. I know that your calendars are busy, too, and want to be able to give you ample notice of the dates and substance of the program. Remember, attendance on those dates are **mandatory**.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and prompt response. It is truly appreciated. Forms are also available on the internet and you can submit the forms and remit payment by going to the parish website. (www.saintritawebster.org). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is mmarton@dor.org and my phone number is 671-1100x17.

God bless you,

Marie Marton