

RCIT – Parent Meeting
September 15 and 16, 2019

1. Parents and Catechists gather in the Narthex of the Church
2. Welcome and Introduction/Presentation by Diane K. on Guidelines and Policies
 - a. Information for Faith Formation Policies and Procedures – [Click here](#)
3. Confirmation Overview
 - a. The “Confirmation Overview” is a document provided by the parish that concisely and thoroughly explains the Sacrament of Confirmation located on the website. Parents need to go through the “Confirmation Overview” with their teen, and fill out the final page where there are questions for both the teen and the parent.
 - b. The filled out and signed page is due when your teen comes to session the week of September 29. [Click here](#) to access the Confirmation Overview.
4. Confirmation Date
 - a. Easter Vigil if NOT baptized (April 11)
 - b. If you are baptized, then you will receive your sacraments of initiation including confirmation when the Bishop’s Office announces our confirmation dates which will be no earlier than January 2020.
 - c. Each class will be assigned to a specific day for the Confirmation mass.
 - d. We ask that change requests only be made in the event of a conflict such as wedding, graduation, etc.
5. Typical Class Structure and “Homework”
 - a. GoG, Bible, Read, Video/Discussion (3 Segments), Read, Challenge, Prayer
 - b. Homework: Glimpse of God (GoG); Challenge for the Week
 - c. Parents – Ask about class, ask about their GoG, Ask about challenge for the week, go to Mass every week with your teen
 - d. *Each class may differ in the structure and content but will be expected to complete the Chosen curriculum*
 - e. Each teen will receive a Bible if they do not already own one to be used in the class
6. Mass and Reconciliation:
 - a. Teens are expected to participate regularly in the sacraments (attend Mass on Sundays, going to Reconciliation (monthly), etc.)
 - i. St. Matthew Mass and Reconciliation times can be found on our website.

- ii. To find Mass and Reconciliation times at other parishes here in the Charlotte area or while you're on vacation, masstimes.org is a great resource!
- 7. Review Requirements for Confirmation, including Forms – [See website](#)
 - a. Forms are on the website under Youth Ministry and Sacramental Preparation - Confirmation
 - b. Distribute Parent Letter
 - c. Review Requirements, Forms and Deadlines
 - i. All paperwork can be submitted online, *except the Sponsor Eligibility Form.*
 - ii. Copy of Baptismal Certificate
 - 1. Due November, 1st, 2019
 - 2. If your child was baptized at St. Matthew, we should have record of it. If, however, you receive an email from us saying we need a copy, please let us know and we will
 - iii. Sponsor Agreement and Eligibility Forms
 - 1. Filled out by your teen's chosen sponsor.
 - 2. *Note: The eligibility form must be signed by the sponsor's pastor and has instructions to mail/fax to St. Matthew Church Office ATTN: Youth Ministry Office.*
 - 3. Due January 15th, 2020
 - iv. Confirmation Saint Name Essay
 - 1. Due January 15th, 2020
 - v. Service Project Form (Three total)
 - 1. One form needs to be completed for each project (two individual and 1 class)
 - 2. Due April 1st, 2020
 - d. Retreat – Weekend retreat through Life Teen, Required, Free, Life-Changing (Feb. 14-16, 2020)
- 8. FAQ's
 - a. What are the behavior expectations for my teen?
 - i. Respect teachers and fellow students. Show up for class on time. Be present. Engage. Turn off your cell phones. In the event of cell phones being an issue, the catechist will implement a "collection policy" before the start of class.
 - ii. Disruptive students will not be tolerated. The catechist will address behavior issue with the teen. If issues persist, parents will be contacted by the faith formation office staff (Adrian Quintero) for resolution.

- b. Who can be a sponsor?
 - i. See Sponsor Information and Guidelines on the website under Confirmation Forms
 - ii. Practicing confirmed Catholic 16 or older (but not one of your parents)
 - iii. Often an older sibling, aunt/uncle, grandparent, teacher, family friend

- c. What if my sponsor can't attend confirmation mass?
 - i. Another practicing confirmed Catholic 16 or older (including a parent) can stand for the sponsor at the Confirmation Mass. The paperwork (Forms) are for the official sponsor. No paperwork is required for the person standing in.

- d. What if my child misses class? (Absence policy)
 - i. Teens are expected to attend all classes. The classes build on each other (like a math class) and we are trying to communicate a lot of content in one class year.
 - ii. If a class is missed, the make-up work is to view the videos online, read the material for the chapter in the workbook and demonstrate work by completing the "Watch It" questions in the workbook and writing a paragraph about the "Challenge for the Week" in the space provided in the workbook and showing their workbook to the catechist within two weeks of the missed class. Ask your catechist if you need to know the chapter that was covered during your absence.
 - iii. Late arrival or early dismissal is not permitted.
 - iv. For absences in cases of emergency, contact Adrian Quintero. Sessions missed will have make up work.
 - v. Chronic and consecutive absences will be handled on an individual basis by the Faith Formation staff and may result in delaying Confirmation.

- e. What if my teen can't attend the retreat?
 - i. The retreat has historically been a key turning point in the spiritual life of teens in this class. Therefore, we would ask that you place a very, very high priority on attending the retreat. If they are unable, the parent must contact Adrian as soon as the conflict is known to discuss the issue and determine if there is an alternative experience available for the teen.

- f. What if I have a question about the topic or class discussion?
 - i. Please talk with the catechist before or after class. We are always happy to discuss class material with parents.

- g. Where will my teen attend class?

- i. Room Assignment:
 - 1. Sunday 3:30pm RCIT.A - PC Room 102 (LT Youth Room) – Kuechle/Jasso
 - 2. Sunday 3:30pm RCIT.B - NLC 202 – Painter/Russo
 - 3. Monday 6:00pm RCIT.A - PC Room 102 (LT Youth Room) – Jasso/Mas-Flores

- h. Can my child attend another session if they will miss their class?
 - i. It is important for teens to attend their assigned class as discussion is enhanced when teens know and trust one another. That said, we will allow this on rare occasions but you must contact Adrian Quintero in advance.

- i. Can my teen attend Life Teen before they are confirmed?
 - i. Yes. All high school youth (including those in RCIT) are invited and encouraged to attend the weekly Life Teen Life nights that take place following the 5:30 Youth Mass on most Sunday evenings (6:30pm-8:30pm) and always include dinner and faith sharing. Check the bulletin or website for more information. Most of the teens your child will meet on the retreat attend Life nights regularly.