



ST. WALTER PARISH

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM LEVEL TWO 2007-2008

FAMILY HANDBOOK & REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Parish Center 630-894-5880

www.stwalterchurch.com

DATES FOR LEVEL TWO CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES 2006-2007

Rite of Confirmation: Session 1- August 25, Saturday or August 28, Tuesday

Due: Christian Service Form

Rite of Confirmation: Session 2- September 25, Tuesday or September 29, Saturday

Due: Saint's Biography

Mandatory Sponsors' Meeting (Scheduled at the same time as the student's session two.)

Rite of Confirmation: Session 3- October 23, Tuesday or October 27, Saturday

Rite of Confirmation: Session 4- January 29, Tuesday or February 2, Saturday

Due: Letter of Intent to the Bishop

Rite of Confirmation: Session 5 February 26, Tuesday or March 1, Saturday

Sacrament of Reconciliation March 12, Wednesday

Retreat: NET Retreat (TBA) February 3, 10, or 17, Sundays

Sponsor Participation during the latter part of the day.

April (Dates to be announced in November)

Confirmation Liturgy

NOTE: Be sure to consult the individual student schedule for the date of your additional workshop, Christian Service (Including the actual service project).

LEVEL TWO: CONFIRMATION

Assuming that all 8 workshops and rally day attendance have been completed, the student will enter the second year of the program, and will be referred to as a Confirmation candidate. Students who have missed Level One workshops are expected to complete them. All requirements must be completed by March 12, 2008. Failure to do so will delay reception of Confirmation by one year. Requirements include the following.

- **Independent Christian Service.** Candidates are required to complete two Christian Service commitments. One service opportunity will be completed on the candidate's own initiative, during the Summer 2007. The opportunity should entail at least 6 hours of service. The Christian Service Form (Appendix 1) is to be completed and submitted at the first Rite of Confirmation workshop. Extensions may be given at the director's discretion, and must be complete by December 2007.
- The second service opportunity is described under the workshop requirements.
- **Workshops**
Christian Service- Candidates will choose one parish sponsored service workshop. **Note that registration for a service workshop requires that the candidate also participate in the actual service project.** Failure to participate will invalidate the workshop attendance. Do not sign up for a service workshop on the same day that you schedule a Rite of Confirmation workshop. Options include:

Service: Abbington House. Students will explore the wisdom of our elderly brothers and sisters. Students will visit the Abbington Retirement Community to develop a rapport with the residents.

Service: Harvest Sunday. Students will discover the effects of unequal global distribution of resources. Students will also complete preparations for Harvest Sunday, and participate in the event.

Service: Humanitarian Service Project. Students will explore issues of poverty, homelessness, and the struggles of regaining self-reliance. Students will prepare and participate in the event.

Service: Love Feast. Students will explore issues of nutrition, senior citizen concerns, and the spirituality of hospitality. Students will prepare and participate in the event.

Intergenerational Experience: Advent. Students will explore the spirituality of Advent. They will also prepare to facilitate this family gathering experience, and participate in the event.

Rite of Confirmation- Candidates will be assigned a class for **five** sequential workshop sessions.

- **Retreat.** Candidates are required to participate in a Confirmation retreat.
- **Reconciliation.** Candidates are required to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

REGISTRATION. Unless specified, each workshop is limited to 14 students. Registration will be honored on a first come, first serve basis. Schedules will be sent in early August.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS. We require parent volunteers for each workshop. Parents may request a specific workshop or leave it to the discretion of the staff. Parents will be informed of their assignment in August.

CURRICULUM. The Director approves all workshops and handouts. The text, *Confirmation Student Journal*, will be used for the Rite of Confirmation workshops.

POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

- Tardiness (beyond five minutes) warrants nonparticipation.
- Early dismissal will not be allowed.
- Failure to report to a workshop requires the parent to request a makeup day.

CODE OF BEHAVIOR. Students are expected to behave in a Christian manner rooted in respect. A student:

- Is expected to respect others, including adults. Inappropriate words and actions will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not restricted to, foul language, bullying, harassment, fighting, threats, disobedience of instructions, or disruptive behavior.
- Will not be allowed to bring in food or drink unless approved by the director.
- Will dress in modest attire appropriate for religious instruction, and will not create a distraction.
- Will respect the parish property, and not vandalize any aspect of the property.
- Will not bring drugs, alcohol, or weapons on the premises. Appropriate legal action will be taken.
- Will not bring entertainment devices or cell phones into the classroom. Cell phone access must be petitioned by the parent to the director, and used solely for the purpose of parent communication.

We reserve the right to inspect a person's personal property when there is reasonable belief that the individual is violating the rules or concealing contraband.

DISMISSAL FROM WORKSHOP. In cases where this code is violated, the candidate will receive a **SINGLE** verbal warning by the catechist. Afterwards, the candidate will be required to make up the workshop. Any destruction of property, the offending child(ren)'s family will be responsible for restitution.

COMMUNICATION. To assure effective communication, the following forms of media will be used.

- Telephone access to the director, 630-894-5880.
- E-mail access to the director, kenortega@sbcglobal.net
- Website access to program events, www.stwalterchurch.com
- Sacramental preparation letters and reminder cards

PARENTAL ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS. The School of Religion abides by the provisions of the Buckley Amendment, namely that both parents have access to the child's records, though physical access to the child is determined by the court decree. Divorced/separated parents must file a **Court Certified Copy of the Custody** section of the divorce decree or separation agreement with the School of Religion office.

CLASS CANCELLATION. In the event that classes are canceled due to weather, an announcement will be made on the following stations: WGN/720 AM or WBBM/780 AM. A listing of closing can also be found on the website, www.Emergencyclosings.com/. Also, call the absentee line, 630-539-3553.

EMERGENCY PREPARATION. Procedures for various emergency drills are established.

- Awareness of tornado safety procedures will be presented to students.
- Adults will be instructed on procedures concerning an intruder alert and on-site disruption.

LOCKDOWN PROCEDURE. In the case of an unforeseen crisis during class sessions, a lockdown procedure will be initiated to assure student safety.

In such a situation, parents must report to the main office where the director will instruct them on the procedure for picking up their children. Full parent cooperation is expected.

HEALTH CONCERNS AND MEDICATION. Health concerns should be brought to the attention of the School of Religion during registration. Parents/ guardians should know that:

1. A catechist **may not** administer medication.
2. No student is allowed to take any medication (including aspirin) into the classroom. Medication should be left at the main office.

3. A confidential appointment with the director should be made to discuss medication or health concerns.

SPECIAL NEEDS. In accordance with canon law, no child is denied religious education. If there is sufficient collaboration with the parent or guardian, and the director, special needs students may participate in the program. Constant assessment will assure the positive experience for all involved. In certain situations, alternatives to the workshop model may be suggested.

CHILD ABUSE. In accordance with diocesan policy, all catechetical ministers to minors, including parish leadership and parish catechists, are “mandated”, or required, by state law to report evidence of reasonable suspicion of abuse and/or neglect of a minor to the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services. Catechists and classroom aides shall be required annually to sign the state form acknowledging they are aware of their status as mandated reporters. The signed copy is to be kept on file in the parish.

OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES AND PERMISSION FORMS. On occasion students may attend one of the following events off the parish premises: Diocesan events Parish- sponsored service projects. These activities will be designated as **parish-sponsored events**. The parish will not recognize other gatherings by parents, catechists, or students. The parish is not liable for any accidents that may occur on non parish-sponsored events.

Whenever minors are participating in a parish-sponsored activity that requires transportation off parish property, a diocesan permission form must be completed and signed by the parent or guardian of the minor. **There are no exceptions to this policy.**

TRANSPORTING MINORS. Driving young people in a personal vehicle with drivers other than their own parents is strongly discouraged. For this reason, catechists **may not** drive students home or to other events.