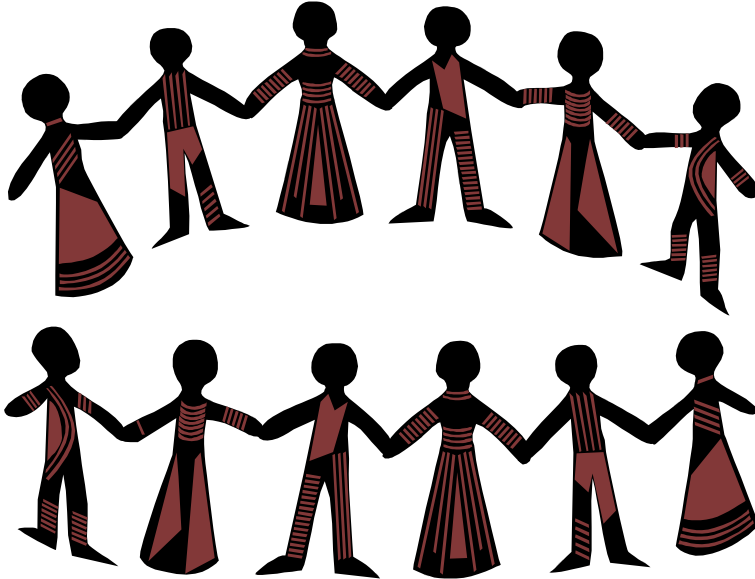


Religious Education 2007 - 2008

9th Grade – Confirmation, Apologetics, & Morality



**ST. ELIZABETH SETON
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PREPARATION for CONFIRMATION
“To Know Him, To Love Him & To Serve Him”

**ST. ELIZABETH SETON
OFFICE of YOUTH MINISTRY
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2007-2008 Confirmation Requirements Checklist
& Steps Toward Confirmation
for Freshman Religious Education Students

Confirmation Requirements Checklist:

Regular attendance at Religious Education (R.E.) Small Group Meetings, Large Group Meetings, and Required Events, as well as regular Mass attendance

- R.E. students may have no more than 3 unexcused absences from R.E. meetings, or events per year. Absences (as long as not excessive) become “excused” absences when a student submits the assigned make-up work to their Small Group Facilitator in a timely fashion or, as in the case of a special Large Group Event (like Stations of the Cross), participates in an equivalent event and notifies the Religious Education Office that this has happened.

- Students should attend Sunday Mass on a regular basis.

**Note: Confirmation preparation is a 2-year process at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish.

Participate in Harvest “Flyer” Sunday and “Food Collection” Sunday (11/4/06 & 11/11/06) and submits documentation of 12 additional hours of Service Ministry (forms due by 12/3/07 & 3/17/08)

All Confirmation students are required to participate in Harvest “Flyer” Sunday and Harvest “Food Collection” Sunday. Each Small Group (class) of students will work together on this food drive. In addition to Harvest Sundays, Confirmations students must do an additional 12 hours of Service Ministry. Service Ministry projects can include year-long ministries at SES or with a service organization in the community. Please see the attached for further details. Service Project Documentation Forms documenting Harvest Sundays (one is sufficient for both) and an additional 6 hours of service must be submitted by 12/3/07 and forms for an additional 6 hours must be submitted by 3/17/07. FORMS ATTACHED

Participation in a Freshmen Retreat (10/14/07, 10/16/07)

The same retreat is offered 2 times in October. The norm is for Confirmation Small Groups to chose one date and go together as a group. If your son or daughter can’t make the Retreat with his/her Small Group, then please inform the Facilitator and call the R.E. Office at 630-416-1992 to reserve a spot as an individual. Reservations are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis because space is limited on each retreat. A permission slip will be mailed home a month prior to the retreat. A completed permission slip is required for participation. Please note that there is a \$30 retreat fee charged each year that should be paid prior to attending the retreat. If this fee or others poses a hardship for your family, then please contact Mike Kuhn, the Director of High School Ministry to request a full or partial scholarship or a payment plan.

Steps Toward Confirmation

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Our spiritual growth is a series of important transitions. In Baptism, our parents and godparents presented us to God, because of their faith. In Confirmation, we are asked to come to the sacrament because of our own faith. Confirmation is the completion of our Baptism.

The timeline of this preparation program extends over the course of two years. Many students will complete this 2 year process and feel ready to consciously and actively receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Some of you may feel the need to continue to explore your faith and seek Confirmation at a later time in your life. Such a choice, to postpone Confirmation until you are ready, is nothing to be ashamed about. God wants our “yes to mean yes” rather than “maybe” or “kind of.” Below is a further explanation of the Steps Toward Confirmation:

Step One: ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

As you would expect from something as important as preparing to confirm your faith, attendance and appropriate participation is important; therefore, You are asked to “make up” every meeting that you miss. When you miss a small group meeting you will complete a Make-Up Assignment that can be obtained from your Teacher (and should be returned to your teacher). If you miss a monthly Large Group, then you will be sent a Make-up Assignment from the R.E. Office to be completed and returned to the R.E. Office in a timely manner. Make-up assignments should be submitted – if possible – within two weeks of the absence.

**** Regular attendance at Mass is a normal part of the life of a Catholic, so it is also expected.**

Step Two: SERVICE PROJECTS

True service is a response to the love God has shown us. Service is putting our faith into action. Each student in the 9th Grade Year of the Confirmation Preparation program will be required to participate in the Harvest Sundays and perform a minimum of 12 additional hours of service. **The intention of having Confirmation students engage in service is to invite you “go beyond your self” and “reach out” to help meet the needs of other people. If you look closely with “spiritual eyes” you will see the “face of Jesus” reflected in the faces of the needy and hurting.**

Harvest Sundays:

All Confirmation students are required to participate with their class in Harvest “Flyer” Sunday (11/4/07) and Harvest “Food Collection” Sunday (11/11/07). Harvest Sundays are two parts of one of the biggest events at St. Elizabeth Seton. It is truly a rich experience of “pooling” together the efforts of approximately 1000 people to make an important difference in the lives of many people that depend on the four food pantries that benefit from our donated food. If your son or daughter cannot serve at Harvest “Flyer” Sunday, then they will need to do 2 hours of service (in addition to the 12

required) to make up for their absence. If your son or daughter cannot serve at Harvest "Food Collection" Sunday, then they will need to do 3 hours of service (in addition to the 12 required) to make up for their absence. Students doing make up service for missing one or both Harvest Sundays should use the Service Project Documentation Forms to describe their make up work.

Year Long Service Ministries:

One great way to serve and fulfill your service hours is to engage in a Year Long Service Ministry, or in other words, an ongoing service or volunteer activity. When doing an ongoing ministry you are expected to participate in all required training sessions and/or practice sessions. Part of doing a year long service project is taking responsibility to know the schedule for the ministry and to show-up when scheduled and to participate appropriately.

Here are some ideas of ongoing ministries and volunteer activities:

- 1) **Serving in the Nursery for the 8:30 or 10:00am Mass or for the RCIA program (usually held on at week-day evening).**
- 2) **Serving in one of the Music Ministries of the parish.**
- 3) **Serving as a Greeter at mass.**
- 4) **Serving as a Lector at Life Teen Mass.**
- 5) **Serving as a helper in the Jr. High EDGE program.**
- 6) **Serving with the Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) program at either the 8:30am or the 10am Masses.**
- 7) **Stuffing Bulletins each month with the Growing in Faith newsletter.**

Individual Service Projects:

Another great way to do service is to choose individual service projects throughout the year. One nice benefit of doing several different projects is that you will get a variety of experiences, which may open your eyes to new areas of ministry. One important criteria for choosing service projects is that Confirmation service needs to benefit needy people either in a direct or indirect manner. An example of "direct" service would be singing Christmas carols at a nursing home. An example of indirect service to the needy would be participating in a clothing drive for St. Vincent DePaul Society (you aren't directly clothing the needy, but helping an organization that does). Some may ask "What is wrong with helping at the animal shelter?" Let's be clear that nothing is wrong with helping animals. On the contrary, much is right with serving the needs of God's creatures. Nevertheless, for Confirmation service hours you are asked to focus on needy people. Further, you will not be able to claim service hours for activities for which you are paid, such as babysitting or for which you get a discount on fees owed to an organization, such as selling popcorn for Scouts or coupon books for Softball.

Please note: As long as the service work is non-paid and benefiting needy people, it is fine to take "double coupons" for your service. What I mean by this statement is that any service that you do to meet a requirement at School or with the Scouts or for National Honor Society can be used to fulfill the requirement for Confirmation (as long as it meets our criteria).

Here are some ideas of Individual Service Projects:

- 1) P.A.D.S. – helping at the homeless shelter or making food for the shelter
- 2) Serving at the Special Olympics
- 3) Participating in the Walk for Diabetes
- 4) Collecting food for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
- 5) Helping with the Care Packages for College Students at SES
- 6) Helping with activities at a Nursing Home
- 7) Providing childcare for a single parent family

Service Hours Documentation Forms

ATTACHED YOU WILL FIND TWO SERVICE HOUR DOCUMENTATION FORMS, which need to be completed by the student and submitted to the Religious Education Office according to the following schedule: 1) Forms documenting the Harvest Sundays (one form is fine for both Sundays) and forms for at least 6 hours of service by December 3rd, 2007; and 2) Forms documenting an additional 6 hours of service by March 17th, 2008.

Please note the following FYI's: 1) While it is preferable to have a Project Supervisor sign the form, a parent/guardian's signature will be accepted on the Service Hours Documentation Form; and 2) Even if a service project or ministry is done with an RE Small Group, it is still necessary for individual students to submit their own forms to the R.E. Office.

Step Three: RETREAT PARTICIPATION

In order to help you more fully prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation, students enrolled in the Freshmen year of Confirmation preparation are asked to make one retreat. The same retreat is repeated 2 times, so students need to register for one of the following: Sunday, October 14 from 1:00 – 4:00pm or Tuesday, October 16th from 5:30 – 8:30pm. We ask that a whole Small Group (class) sign up for the same retreat day. If the date your Small Group choose does not work for your schedule, then feel free to call the R.E. Office to sign up as an individual for the other date. Space is limited at each retreat, so registration will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students are expected to attend the **entire** retreat. If the Student CANNOT attend the entire day, then please take the initiative and choose the other retreat day.

Please remember that Confirmation is a serious step. As a student enrolled in Confirmation preparation, you are responsible for meeting deadlines, getting to places on time, getting answers to your questions, and being respectful to ALL small group leaders, parents, and fellow teens. If you take your responsibility seriously and fulfill it to the best of your ability, you will learn and grow a lot in the coming year. If you have a concern about your ability to fulfill the above requirements or feel confused about program expectations, then please contact Mr. Mike Kuhn, Director of High School Ministry at 416-1992 ext. 225 or at mike_kuhn@sbcglobal.net (there is an underscore between mike and Kuhn).