 St. Mary Catholic Church ~ 340 N Main Street ~ Hudson, OH 44246

February 10, 2018

Dear Freshman Parents,

Registration for preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation continues to happen in the spring for receipt of the sacrament in the junior year of high school. The Diocese of Cleveland has recently amended the requirements for preparing for Confirmation. It has been determined that the preparation to receive the Sacrament should take place over a 24 month period (two years) and it is to include a minimum of 12 catechetical teaching meetings. Therefore, all ninth graders who would like to be **confirmed in the spring of 2020, their junior year,** will need to enroll now in the St. Mary Confirmation Preparation Program, known as SEEKERS, which, in conjunction with the LIFE TEEN ministry, prepares them for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We hope all high school teens are strongly encouraged to attend LIFE TEEN LIFE Nights (even if your family attends an earlier Mass) throughout their high school years as it is our catechetical formation process and religious education program. We hope your teen feels welcome and will enjoy this experience. Your feedback is appreciated.

Confirmation is a big step forward in your faith, a step we know you would not want to take lightly. The following small steps will begin the direction.

**Step 1**: Teens and Parents:Review this packet of information. **Please** carefully read ALL pages.

**Step 2:** In order to enroll, you fill out the enclosed enrollment form, and drop it off at the Confirmation Registration table as enrollees attend the **required LIFE Night** on either ***APRIL 8, 2018*** or ***APRIL 15, 2018***, or on ***APRIL 22, 2018.***

1. **Completed Enrollment Form** (Please provide ALL of the requested information.) Placement in one of the study tracks is made **in the fall before the junior year** according to individual needs. Please review the “Important Information and Explanations” form (yellow) in this packet for more details regarding Tracks and Confirmation requirements.
2. A copy of your teen’s Baptismal Certificate **MUST** accompany your Enrollment Form **if** baptized at a church other than St. Mary. We will be happy to make the copy for you if you bring in your original.  *If they were Baptized or received First Communion at St. Mary Church in Hudson, they do NOT need to supply a copy of the baptismal certificate but* ***do need to provide complete information. Date of Baptism is a necessary and very important detail.***
3. A recent photo is **REQUIRED** (does not *have* to be a school photo) A digital copy of a photo can be emailed to [dabood@stmaryhudson.cc](mailto:dabood@stmaryhudson.cc).
4. The fee is $185.00 for all registrants, which **includes the cost of one retreat to be attended in the junior year**. Please submit payment with the registration form. Financial assistance or a payment plan is available – please call or write a request as needed. Checks should be made payable to *St. Mary Church*.

**Step 3:** Freshman Seekers **Attend APRIL LIFE Nights: April 8, April 15, or April 22, 2018**

These are LIFE Nights that tie in nicely with the beginning of our Confirmation program.

**Step 4:** Seekers will meet requirements throughout the two year process (see yellow information and explanation page)

**Step 5**: An **enrollment interview** will be scheduled during the summer between the sophomore and junior year (2019) for each Seeker to help facilitate an assignment to the most appropriate study track. More details about making an appointment for this interview will be sent via email at the end of May 2019 to all those registered.

**The deadline for REGISTRATION / submission of the above information is JUNE 1, 2018.**

During the summer before the junior year, after enrollment interviews are complete, Seeker track/small group will be assigned based on day of the week and times indicated at the entrance interview. S**eeker small group sessions will begin in October of the junior year**. We will hold informational meeting for parents in October of 2019 at which time parents can meet the facilitators of the small groups. This meeting will follow LIFE TEEN Mass at which Seekers-2020 will be asked to sign the Seeker Covenant, a promise to take seriously the requirements of this preparation process.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on a date to be determined in the spring of 2020.**

**The Bishop’s office assigns the date of the Confirmation Liturgy to each parish.**

**As soon as we are notified, we will communicate this information to you.**

Please understand enrollment does NOT obligate your teen, at any point, to actually *receive* the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a time of discerning your formal commitment to the Catholic faith, a time of learning and growing, of **seeking** answers to your questions, and contemplating the answers in a small, informal setting. We look forward to your involvement, and hope that we can make your teen’s preparation for Confirmation a vibrant experience for Seeker and your family.

Thank you very much!

Fr.Patrick Anderson Ron Nowak Diana L. Abood

**Associate Pastor Youth Minister Confirmation Program Coordinator**