# CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2018-2020

##### St. Mary Parish – Hudson, Ohio

##### Important Information and Explanations

This enrollment packet contains the registration form and information on preparing for Confirmation. We confirm teens in the spring of their junior year. The Diocese of Cleveland has recently revised sacramental preparation requirements and has determined that the preparation for Confirmation should be performed over a two year period. Therefore we are now enrolling to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring of 2020.

A meeting for parents of freshman enrolling in Seekers now will be held in the fall immediately following LIFE TEEN Mass to explain further the preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

**Programing Requirements:**

* One of the primary goals of Confirmation preparation is to imitate the RCIA model by getting teens more spiritually active in their own parish through programs fitting for them. LIFE Nights, prayer groups, XLTs, and retreats are the best opportunities for ongoing spiritual growth and involvement. The requirements seek to foster a parish connection that extends throughout their four years of high school, and beyond. Understand that this is not a box to check or a hoop to jump through, but rather an opportunity to connect with larger youth community outside of their confirmation group. For those who are consistent, it has proven to carry over to a long lasting church involvement. Please encourage the weekly involvement of your teen.
1. **Weekly programming requirements**:

**Freshman Year:** All Seekers are expected to attend **selected Life Nights in April** and attend **one spiritual activity per month throughout the year**. Spiritual activities can be selected from the areas listed below to best accommodate your teen’s schedule.

**Sophomore Year**: All Seekers are expected to attend **one spiritual activity per month throughout the year.** Spiritual activities can be selected from areas listed below to best accommodate your teen’s schedule. Additionally, all Seekers will be required to attend **four supersessions on specific dates** (dates to be determined) Attending an additional retreat can serve as make up for missing 3 spiritual activities or a super session.

**Junior Year:** All Seekers are expected to attend the **TWO Mandatory LIFE nights** on specific dates (to be determined.) All Seekers are expected to attend **one spiritual activity per month throughout the year.**  These are flexible dates and can be selected from areas listed below to best accommodate your teen’s schedule. Attending an additional retreat can serve as make up for missing 3 spiritual activities. All Seekers are expected to attend **all nine of their small group sessions October through April.**

1. **Weekly spiritual activities available:** We encourage Seekers to try each of the different options as they may find one they most enjoy or is more suitable.
2. **LIFE Nights** – held once a week on Sundays from 7:00-8:30pm covering catechetical topics and issues and social events. (September through April)
3. **ACTS 2:42** – is a prayer group focused on saints, prayer, and scripture. This is held weekly on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00pm (Usually held at 101 Blackberry)
4. **Wednesday Morning Mass** – on the days that Hudson High has block start, teens meet for 7:30 a.m. Mass followed by breakfast and fellowship. During the summer it is 9:00 a.m. Wednesday mornings.
5. **FIRESIDE CHAT** – is a group that meets on Tuesday evenings during the summer to hear about and discuss Catholic teaching on current issues often presented by St. Mary Seminarians. (Held at 101 Blackberry- the home of Core staff members Joe and Marianne Doman)
6. **PILGRIM DREAMERS** and/or **GIRLS’ &GUYS’ NIGHT OUT** (GGNO) are special outings that will take place on weekends. (Summer event schedule will be available in May)
7. **XLT** (Exalt) – Adoration and worship service usually held once a month at the St. Mary Seminary in Wickliffe and once each semester at St. Mary Hudson.
8. **Retreat Team** - comprised of juniors and seniors that prepare for, pray for, plan, and execute either the fall or spring retreats. They will be responsible for a small group on retreat. Team members should have previously been on a high school overnight retreat and are required to attend at least five of the seven meetings leading up to the retreat, usually held on Tuesday evenings from 7-9pm. This is a great opportunity to be on the giving side (confirmation’s focus) of a retreat, but only if the student is able to commit to all the meetings and the whole retreat. **Discipleship track is expected to be on team for at least one retreat.**
9. **Green Team**  – comprised of freshman and sophomores that support Retreat Planning Team in preparation for spring and/or fall retreat. Meetings are held at St. Mary Church on Tuesday evenings in the six weeks leading to retreat.
10. **Service:** All Seekers are expected to participate in service opportunities whenever possible. It is very important that they attend the **group service project** selected by and together with their small group. Individual volunteer service is also encouraged, especially within the parish.
11. **Retreat Requirement** All Seekers are REQUIRED to attend at **least ONE Retreat during their junior year** and are invited and encouraged to attend all of the retreats listed below. THE RETREAT REQUIREMENT IS NON-NEGOTIABLE. ANY TEEN FAILING TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT WILL HAVE TO POSTPONE CONFIRMATION UNTIL THIS REQUIREMENT CAN BE MET. ONLY EXCEPTIONS would be a serious illness or death of a family member. Moreover, be aware that Confirmation Candidates may not leave the retreat for any reason or their attendance will fail to meet this requirement. *Retreat dates are subject to change*

1. **Servants 4 Christ**, *S4C*, (Sunday-Thursday in July) This is a service retreat giving both service hours and a retreat experience during the **summer**. This is the “most fun” and diverse retreat option.

1. St. Mary LIFE TEEN **Fall Retreat** (mid November each year).
2. St. Mary LIFE TEEN **Spring Retreat** held in March or April each year.

**With the process of freshman registration, Seekers have more opportunities to go deeper into their faith. Retreats are the most impactful part of Confirmation preparation and Seekers are encouraged to attend as many retreats as they can.**

**The cost of one retreat during the JUNIOR YEAR is included in the**

**$185 Confirmation Registration Fee.**

**Each of the students preparing for Confirmation will be known as a SEEKER. SEEKERS are then divided into STUDY TRACKS. These tracks will be assigned to Seekers over the summer before junior year based on teen schedule preference and enrollment interview. Small group meetings for this Seeker class will begin in October of 2019 to receive Confirmation in the spring of 2020.**

* ***One8* (Acts1:8) Track** in which teens participate in small faith sharing groups that meet regularly. They prepare for Confirmation through study of the Sacraments, morality, and the scriptures. It will include several catechesis sessions and hands-on experiences. The various catechetical components of the Catholic faith will be presented and discussed. Sessions will be facilitated by adult catechists or “Facilitator”, and supported by an adult “Option Coordinator.” This group meets separately 8-9 times over the course of the year.
* ***Discipleship* Track** is designed for teens already active in LIFE TEEN and/or in their faith. This track will go deeper into faith topics and deeper in prayer. It is more of a time commitment, but very rewarding. Students that are relatively active find this track to be engaging. Instead of meeting 8 times over the course of the year, this group meets separately 12-13 times.

**Current Catholic High School students who have a firm foundation of faith are encouraged to participate in the Discipleship track as this track goes deeper into the topics and it will be more conducive to your preparation for the Sacrament. For a more basic prep, please consider the One8 track. Should there be any concerns regarding these options, they can be discussed at the enrollment interview.**

##### Confirmation Location and Alternative Sacramental Preparation Policy

##### St. Mary Parish – Hudson, Ohio

In the past years some families have sought to have their son or daughter prepared and/or confirmed at other parishes (for various reasons).  If a family feels this is something they need to do, they must request permission from their pastor for a student to be confirmed elsewhere (which is a requirement of the Diocese and the USCCB) and the circumstances under which permission can be granted.  The purpose of this policy comes out of the Church's teaching on confirmation found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1309) as well as the Code of Canon Law (c. 519).

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**ENROLLMENT FORMS MAY BE SUBMITTED AT THE LIFE NIGHT**

**SEEKER REGISTRATION TABLE ON**

**APRIL 8, APRIL 15, OR APRIL 22, 2018**

**The confirmation registration fee is $185.00 for Seekers-2020.**

**This fee includes the price of one retreat during the junior year.**

**Financial assistance is available**

 **Should a scholarship or payment plan be necessary,**

**please contact the LIFE TEEN office -** dabood@stmaryhudson.cc

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