29 June 2023

Dear Parents:

This year, your child is a candidate to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Sacrament of Confirmation for students from the LaSalle Catholic Parishes will take place at **the Cathedral in Peoria on Sunday, October 29th, 2023 at 4:00pm.**  We are asking parents to especially be involved in your child’s preparation as they ready themselves for this important day. Please review the program notes below. More information will be given to your student during the Religious Education classes. But it is certainly not too early to get started! Please contact the parish office if you have any questions or concerns. I pray this year is one of tremendous blessing for your whole family!

In the joy of Our Risen Savior,

A picture containing shape

Description automatically generated

**Confirmation Program 2023**

* **Sunday Mass Attendance.** Just like our bodies, our souls also need to be fed and nourished. Sunday Mass is the primary way that God nourishes us with the Scriptures and the Eucharist. Also, worshiping God together as a parish family gives us new strength and joy. Those preparing for Confirmation need to keep Sunday as a day of rest and prayer. We also need to be consistent. *Those not regularly attending Mass make themselves ineligible for Confirmation.*
* **Application for Confirmation** and the **Sponsor Form. (DUE August 31st)**  These forms need to be completed and returned to the parish office. Additional copies of these forms are available on the parish website. They are important for adding the necessary annotations to your child’s baptism certificate. Please fill them out completely. Remember, the sponsor must be an actively practicing Catholic who has received Confirmation. Consult the sponsor form very carefully before choosing a sponsor. The specific requirements for sponsors are set by Canon Law and we cannot make exceptions. Sponsors are guides; they cannot lead our young Catholics if they are not themselves walking the path.
* **Service Program. (DUE 2 weeks before the Confirmation date)** Rather than requiring a set number of hours, we will focus especially on the spiritual works of service that we can do for people in our community. Please see the Service Program sheet for information and requirements for the project and reflection paper.
* **Confirmation Retreat.** Our retreat will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 24th. Attendance is required and takes precedence over sports and other activities, which makes for a good teaching moment to help our students order their priorities and their lives in a healthy way. More details will be shared as the retreat date approaches.
* **Catechetical Program.** Classes will be on Wednesdays at 4pm beginning on August 23. Because this course is abbreviated in length, full attendance is required. (TCA students receive this instruction in regular class.)
  + The program includes writing a **Saint report, DUE September 30th.**
* **Confirmation Day. T**he students should ride to the Cathedral in Peoria with their families, arriving 45 minutes early (by 3:15pm). There will be a group photo with the Bishop. After the ceremony, our newly confirmed will be available for more photos and then released to celebrate with their families and will return home with them.