

ST. LEO THE GREAT R. C. PARISH
Confirmation Preparation Program—Level I—2020-21



*Subject to change
due to COVID-19
(Revised 9/16/20)*

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Soon we will begin classes for the 9th grade students of our parish. These students will be in the first year of our two-year Confirmation Preparation Program which will culminate with the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of 2022 for those who are ready to make this commitment.

Below is some important information about the program:

REQUIREMENTS:

Classes: See enclosed calendar. Regular class sessions are Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 PM, or for the At-Home / Sunday program on Sundays from 12:05-1:20 PM.

Absences: If a student has to miss a class, parents should call the Parish Offices (835-8905 x 12) during the day before class or the Religious Education Desk (835-8905 x 34) during the hour just before class. Class attendance is required and is an extremely important part of the religious education program. Please make every effort to have your child attend all sessions.

Homework: Homework will be assigned to students who are absent and should be returned to the Religious Education Desk at the beginning of the next class. Homework assignments for those who are absent will be emailed home. Students are also responsible for completing homework given by their teachers.

Retreat: A yearly Confirmation retreat is part of the curriculum. Additional info is on the back of this page.

Weekly Mass: In order to grow in our faith it is essential to participate in weekly Mass. At Mass we are nourished by the sacraments, the community, and the Word of God. Mass attendance every weekend is a serious responsibility for all Catholics. Confirmation candidates need to remember their role in setting a good example for others, and the life-long commitment to practice their faith that they are preparing to make. Those who do not attend Mass weekly will not be confirmed.

Services Projects: Information on the service project requirement is enclosed. **Each 9th grade Confirmation candidate is required to participate in one long term service project or to complete a total of 20 hours of service in a Catholic setting. Students should email mruszala@stleothegreatamherst.com or call 835-8905 x 12 with their choice of service projects by October 20th.** Service projects should be completed & service project sheets turned in by the end of March.

Parent/Student Meetings: There will be a mandatory meeting for parents and students in September for Religious Education. Those who attend Tuesday classes will have their meeting on Tuesday, September 17th at 7 PM beginning in the church. Those in the At-Home/ Sunday program will have their meeting on Sunday, September 8th at 12:05 PM in the Parish Center. During these meetings you will have the opportunity to meet teachers and learn more about the program.

Mass of Enrollment and Retreat: Sunday, **November 1st, 2020—11 AM Mass.** During this Mass students will sign a pledge indicating their willingness to fulfill all of the requirements of the Confirmation program and to live as Catholic Christians. In making this personal commitment each candidate is promising to attend Mass every week on either Saturday evening or Sunday. For the Mass of Enrollment there will be a reserved section for all students in the 1st year of the Confirmation program and their families. Please arrive to church by 10:45AM. Additional information about this event will be given out at the September meetings.

Special Events including the Parish Retreat: Again this year we will be offering grade level specific programs for parents to attend with their children during the year. Please see the calendar and enclosed flyer regarding these special events.

(Please see other side)

Confirmation Retreat: Sunday, November 1st: The Confirmation retreat, a required part of the curriculum, will be held at St. Leo's. The retreat fee of \$20 is due on the day of the retreat. Lunch and dinner will be served. Students should go to the 11:00 AM Mass at St. Leo's, which is also their Mass of Enrollment, and sit in the reserved section with their families. After Mass we will meet briefly in the church and then will go over to the Holy Family Wing. The retreat will end at 5 PM, at which time students should be picked up by their parents at the Holy Family Wing entrance (door #3). If for some serious reason your child is unable to attend his/ her scheduled retreat, please call 835-8905 x 12 as soon as possible to discuss other retreat options.

Parish Reconciliation Services during Advent and Lent: These opportunities for students to go to Confession are part of the religious education requirements. The Parish Advent Penance Service is scheduled for 7 PM Tues, Dec 1st and the Parish Lenten Penance Service is scheduled for 7 PM Tues, Feb 23rd.

Essays: Tues, March 10th for Tuesday classes and Sun, March 1st for the At-home / Sunday program -- The students are expected to learn certain religious concepts on which they will be tested. Students are also evaluated on attendance, completed homework, class participation, attitude in class, maturity during prayer, and respect for others.

We look forward to working with you and your child as he/she prepares for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please do not hesitate to call 835-8905 x 12 if there is any way that we may assist you in this process.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

Michael Ruszala
Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation & Evangelization

ST. LEO THE GREAT R. C. CHURCH
Confirmation Preparation Program - Level II – 2020-21

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Soon we will begin classes for the 10th grade students of our parish. These students will be in the second year of our two-year Confirmation Preparation Program which will culminate with the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of 2021 for those who are ready to make this commitment.

Below is some important information about the program:

REQUIREMENTS:

Classes: See enclosed calendar. Regular class sessions are Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 PM, or for the At-Home / Sunday program on Sundays from 12:05-1:20 PM.

Absences: If a student has to miss a class, parents should call the Parish Offices (835-8905 x 12) during the day before class or the Religious Education Desk (835-8905 x 34) during the hour just before class. Class attendance is required and is an extremely important part of the religious education program. Please make every effort to have your child attend all sessions.

Homework: Homework will be assigned to students who are absent and should be returned to the Religious Education Desk at the beginning of the next class. Homework assignments for those who are absent will be emailed home. Students are also responsible for completing homework given by their teachers.

Retreat: A yearly Confirmation retreat is part of the curriculum. Additional info is on the back of this page.

Weekly Mass: In order to grow in our faith it is essential to participate in weekly Mass. At Mass we are nourished by the sacraments, the community, and the Word of God. Mass attendance every weekend is a serious responsibility for all Catholics. Confirmation candidates need to remember their role in setting a good example for others, and the life-long commitment to practice their faith that they are preparing to make. Those who do not attend Mass weekly will not be confirmed.

Special Events: Again this year we will be offering grade level specific programs for parents to attend with their children during the year. Please see the calendar and enclosed flyer regarding these special events

Parent/Student Meeting: There will be a mandatory meeting for parents and students in September. Those who attend Tuesday classes will have their meeting on Tuesday, September 22nd at 7 PM beginning in the church. Those in the At-Home / Sunday program will have their meeting on Sunday, September 20th at 10:05 AM in the Parish Center. During these meetings you will have the opportunity to meet teachers and learn more about the program.

Parish Participation Activities: Second year Confirmation candidates are expected to consider how they are going to be involved in the church after Confirmation, and to learn about the various ministries available at St. Leo the Great Parish. We therefore require that they start to be involved in a ministry during this year. The goal of this requirement is to have our young people realize the different ways that they may be involved in our parish and for them to deepen their connection with the church. Information regarding this requirement is on the enclosed pink parish participation sheet. Additional information about these activities will also be discussed at the September meetings.

(Please see other side)

Confirmation Retreat: Sunday, March 21st (moved from 3/14): A retreat is a required part of the curriculum. The retreat will be led by St. Leo's Young Adult Retreat Team. The retreat fee of \$20 is due on the day of the retreat. Brunch and dinner will be served. Students should go to the 9 AM Mass and sit in the reserved section with their families. After Mass we will meet briefly in the St. Monica room and then will go over to the Holy Family Wing. The retreat will end at 5 PM, at which time students should be picked up by their parents at the Holy Family Wing entrance (door #3). Permission slips for this event will be given out closer to the time of the retreat. If for some serious reason your child is unable to attend his/ her scheduled retreat, please call 835-8905 x 12 as soon as possible to discuss other retreat options.

Mass of Commitment and Reception: Sunday, November 22nd from 8:45 AM-11:30 AM—Confirmation candidates, their families and any guests, such as sponsors, should sit in the reserved section at the 9 AM Mass. Please arrive by 8:45. After Mass, there will be a workshop with coffee and donuts in the Parish Center.

Parish Reconciliation Services during Advent and Lent: These opportunities for students to go to Confession are part of the religious education requirements. The Parish Advent Penance Service is scheduled for 7 PM Tues, Dec 1st and the Parish Lenten Penance Service is scheduled for 7 PM Tues, Feb 23rd.

Essays: Tues, March 23rd for Tuesday classes and Sun, March 21st for the At-home / Sunday program -- The students are expected to learn certain religious concepts on which they should show understanding and formation.

OTHER EVENTS:

Thursday, October 29th —7 PM
Sunday, November 22nd – 8:45 AM

Thursday, December 17th – 7 PM
Thursday, February 4th – 7 PM

Sunday, March 21st (moved from 3/14)

TO BE ANNOUNCED
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Fall Sponsor & Candidate Meeting—parish center
Mass of Commitment and Workshop sponsor & candidates, in church
Confirmation Workshop – sponsor & candidates, parish center
Confirmation Workshop – sponsor & candidates, parish center
Retreat—see above
Confirmation Interviews with Monsignor
Confirmation Rehearsal
Confirmation