

ST. MARY'S VISITATION

Catholic Parish  Elm Grove, WI

May 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you looking forward to the joy, rest and peace of summer! It may seem odd to write in May about next year's formation year, but I wanted to send you some important information regarding the 2019-2020 Confirmation Formation Program.

The Church asks that preparation for a sacrament be two-fold. There is what is called "remote" preparation and then "proximate" preparation. Remote preparation for the reception of a sacrament is that preparation which has been taking place since the moment of Baptism. It is accomplished through regular attendance at Sunday Mass, through the faith-life of the home, and by participation in religious formation in either a religious education program or in a Catholic school. Proximate preparation is the immediate preparation which is given for a specific sacrament, helping the recipient understand the graces and the call that is present in every sacramental encounter with the Lord.

In line with that two-fold preparation process, the Confirmation Formation Program was revamped a few years ago to reflect this call for proximate preparation. The Confirmation Formation Program will be primarily focused on completing an online Confirmation program with a parent or sponsor and attending three small group sessions during the first semester of Junior Year. The second semester of Junior Year is comprised of a retreat and four speaker sessions culminating in the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation at a date determined by the Archdiocese.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the dates and times for the entire Confirmation Formation Process for next year. We are sending them early because it is imperative that the Confirmation Candidates commit and participate in *all* of these formation sessions as well as the retreat. Please mark your calendars now to reserve these dates.

Please be sure to register for the Confirmation program by July 1st. Registration forms can be found on our parish website. We look forward to seeing your teen in August for a pre-program interview and at the parent and teen meeting on Sunday, September 15th at 10:00 AM in the Senior Center!

Live Jesus!

Rev. Peter J. Berger
Pastor