

## 2024-2025 CONFIRMATION PREPARATION “**MISSION**” - Student Program Review

The Goal of the Confirmation Program is to help you move from accepting your parents’ faith to learning and confirming that what the Catholic faith teaches is indeed the **Truth** and the **Way** to eternal **Life**.

**Participation in the faith and building skills through active conversation is how we become practicing Catholics.** The Archdiocese of Detroit prescribes **30** hours of learning and engagement for each year of religious formation. At St. Therese, we focus on Confirmation preparation for **two years**, and approach it with a combination of **hands-on-activities, in-class discussions, service opportunities, and a workshop** per year. Attendance at each of these components is expected, since the content builds upon each other.

### **MISSION’S GOALS AND HOPES**

- Build a **RELATIONSHIP** with God, *Father, Son and Holy Spirit*, by reading **Scripture**, and developing a **habit of prayer**.
- What we **BELIEVE**: Learn *facts* about our rich Catholic faith. (Catechism of the Catholic Church.)
- Build a **RELATIONSHIP** with *fellow believers* through meaningful **conversations** about *Who God is and Who We are in relationship to Him*. Together we explore what it means to be human by pondering four big questions:
  - Who am I? Where and who do I belong? (identity)
  - Where do I come from? (origin)
  - What is my life for? (purpose)
  - Where am I going? (destiny)
- **PRACTICE** the faith *in the classroom*, through meaningful conversations, hands-on activities, different forms of prayer, **and in the community** through service opportunities, Mass participation, and events that allow teens to build skills for christian living.

Confirmation preparation requires time and presence with people of your chosen faith community. It is a commitment to live our faith as an active participant in a faith community.

## CONFIRMATION PREPARATION “**MISSION**” QUICK OVERVIEW of STRUCTURE


1. For middle school teens (7th -9th grade).
2. 2-year program that covers the basic concepts of our rich Catholic Faith.
3. It meets **17 times a year**, Sept. through May.
4. Classes are offered Mondays and Tuesdays at 5 pm and 6:30 pm.
  - a. Teens can come to ANY of these classes.
5. During our gatherings we will use the Catholic Youth Bible (St. Mary’s press), Sunday Mass readings, games, guided meditations, small and large group discussions, and a “Thinking Journal” to ponder big questions such as: *What makes me happy? What is the meaning of life? Who is God? Who is Jesus? Why be Catholic?*
6. **The time we spend together is interactive, hands on and introspective. This is how we “practice” our faith, within the community!**
7. We’ll use Pflaum Gospel Weeklies <https://www.gospelweeklies.com/visions/>
8. It includes a **workshop each year**, <https://stol.church/confirmation-retreats/>
9. Engagement in the life of the church through **service** opportunities, 6 hours each year.
10. Confirmation **Name and Patron Saint**: each teen is to learn about how people through history have come to give witness of their faith. Learn more here:
  - a. <https://stol.church/patron-saint-and-confirmation-name/>
11. **30** hours of learning and engagement for each year of religious formation is required

**WHEN YOU MISS A CLASS:** Participation in the faith and building skills through active conversation is how we become practicing Catholics. This communal and interactive component is difficult to replicate in the make-up class homework.

When you miss a class, you will need to work together with a **parent** or your **sponsor** to replicate the type of important discussions about the faith that you would experience in the Confirmation prep gatherings.

In order to meet these requirements, and avoid delaying the sacrament you will need to:

- 1) Do the “make-up homework” with a parent to gain the knowledge of what the Catholic Church professes by the following class.
- 2) If you miss 3 or more classes you will also need to make up the interactive and introspective piece of the classes by participating in faith-filled activities with a parent OR adding a volunteer hour per every two classes missed.

To earn credit for participating in an interactive faith experience OR volunteer service you will need to write a brief report to share what you have learned and how it helps you understand our faith. Here is a template for the report:  **Event Participation Report.pdf**

If you miss more than 4 classes, you will get confirmed once you participate in a total of 54 hours of class/active participation in the life of the church. Once the requirements are met, a date for Confirmation will be set.