

Dear Parents,

## CONFIRMATION

Definition: The Sacrament of Christian maturity.

It is the occasion when young people put their personal signature on their parents' decision at baptism.

Goals that parents must help their child attain:

1. Readiness for the day itself – making sure child has sponsor, name, service hours completed, homework and religion lessons completed, meetings are attended.
2. Readiness for life -
  - a.) Do they and you know the meaning of the words on their homework page and religion lessons? It's not just answering a bunch of questions by how do they and you apply them to your life?
  - b.) Why did they choose that particular confirmation sponsor? It should be someone they feel confident would help them and guide them through life.
  - c.) Why did they pick their confirmation name?
  - d.) Why did they choose their particular service hours? What did they learn from those hours? How will it help them in their life?
  - e.) Can they articulate what it means to be a Catholic Christian and does their creed and lifestyle match their words? Do they "practice what they preach? Do you?"

***How to prepare yourself as a parent:***

1. Set the example.
2. Talk to your child about the preparation.
3. Challenge them to be mature and responsible 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**REMEMBER:** age of body does not determine age of soul. If your child is not ready, don't force them to receive the sacrament.

### **WHAT TO LOOK FOR:**

1. Is there a maturity about your child that they seem to be able to make right and sensible choices?
2. Do they have a sense of unity and community with their family, community and large and their church?
3. Do they have a grounded sense of what it means to be a Christian...what their responsibilities are as a baptized Catholic...something you promised for them years ago?
4. Do they have a relationship with God?
5. Are they in a state of grace?
6. Do they have the correct intentions for receiving the sacrament?
7. Are they honestly prepared to assume the role of witness and disciple of Christ? If they don't care, they're not ready.

Your child should be able to say: **YES, THIS IS MY CHURCH. I ACCEPT THE FAITH OF THIS CHURCH AS MY OWN FAITH.**

If it has been longer than three (3) years since you last attended a meeting you will need to attend the first parent/sponsor session on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. If you have had a child go through the program within the past three years you will be attending the advance session on Monday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact me at [dgeason@stmarysandusky.org](mailto:dgeason@stmarysandusky.org) or call 419-621-7456.

In Faith,  
Debbie Geason  
Catechetical Leader