

A FEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT CONFIRMATION

WHEN SHOULD A PERSON BE CONFIRMED? At Jesus the Good Shepherd , young people are invited to join the Confirmation Process in the ninth grade; some may choose to wait a while longer. There are no “shoulds” or “automatic ages” for reception of this Sacrament.

WHAT MAKES ME ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION? Baptism -- Readiness, in terms of religious education -- Desire -- Participation in the entire Confirmation process, i.e. weekly Mass, the small and large group activities, retreats and the rites. The process begins with the kickoff on September 11th and lasts through May 2012.

WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE CONFIRMATION GROUP GATHER? Small groups meet every other Sunday evening for two hours in the home of their mentor or at Church. If necessary, a group will be scheduled to meet on a weeknight. All groups meet together for retreats and celebration of rites.

WHAT ABOUT THE SERVICE PROJECT I KEEP HEARING ABOUT? As part of our Catholic Christian faith, we are always called to serve our neighbors in need. Each small group will be asked to come to a general agreement as to how they wish to carry out that call.

WHAT ABOUT SPONSORS? A sponsor must be a practicing Catholic who is mature enough and eager to help you grow in your Catholic faith. They will be provided a sponsor's guide and they must be willing and able to meet with you periodically to discuss your faith journey, as well as participate in service activities and rites. Each candidate must have a sponsor. Begin to think about a confirmed individual (**not your parents**), with whom you would feel comfortable sharing this faith experience. You will need to have chosen someone by October 2, 2011. For now, if you know someone you would like to be your sponsor, you may want to invite her or him to the Kick-off gathering on September 11th.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS? Yes, a Day of Reflection on Sunday in early November at JGS; a retreat in February. In addition, Confirmation Rites are scheduled at the Early November retreat and in February. We have requested that the Confirmation ceremony be held in mid-May and we will await word from the Archdiocese concerning the exact date.

IS THERE A FEE? Yes, we ask that you contribute \$125 towards the cost of the program. (\$150 after June 15th) and the deadline is August 1st. This fee covers all materials and the above-mentioned retreats for the year. This fee is due with the enclosed registration form.

HOW DO I “RSVP?” Use the enclosed “REGISTRATION FORM” to let us know whether or not you are accepting this invitation. Please return your completed registration form and \$125 check, made payable to “Jesus the Good Shepherd” by June 15th. Mail it to: Office of Youth Ministry, Attention: Confirmation 2011, 1601 W. Mt. Harmony Road, Owings, MD 20736.

Note: If you were **not** baptized at JGS, we need a copy of your baptismal certificate. If you were baptized at another parish, please call or write and ask for a copy of your baptismal certificate. **PLEASE DO NOT LET THE LACK OF THE CERTIFICATE HOLD UP SENDING IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM. THE BAPTISMAL INFORMATION IS NOT REQUIRED UNTIL KICK-OFF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011.**