

# 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: Confirmation Year 2 Overview

## What Is Confirmation? What Is Its Purpose?

Confirmation is a Sacrament that strengthens us and obliges us to witness to, spread and defend the faith (CCC 1303). Confirmation is not graduation from a life of Christian learning a mere cultural passage into maturity or an opportunity to choose whether or not to remain Catholic. Confirmation completes our full initiation as Catholic Christians (CCC 1306) and strengthens our ability to be missionary disciples through the reception of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation, in many ways, is just the beginning.

## HNOJ's Preparation:

- Formation: Choose Track A or B
  - **The requirements are the same for this year's 10<sup>th</sup> grade class as they were presented to you last year. All that has changed is our terminology.** "Track A" simply means that your 10<sup>th</sup> grader will attend 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays as they did in 9<sup>th</sup> grade; "Track B" means they want to be on Teen Core Team, and thus attend every Sunday. See charts below for further clarity.
  - Whether you choose Track A or Track B, all 10<sup>th</sup> graders must attend 4 of 5 Confirmation preparation meetings in the late Winter/early Spring (dates will be posted as soon as the Archdiocese informs us of our Confirmation date)
- Attend two retreats between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:
  - Steubenville Conferences (July)
  - EFC Camper or Prayer Team (June)
  - Christpower Mission Trip (July)
  - Passion Play (Oct.-Mar.)
  - Fall Retreat (Nov.)
  - Spring Retreat (April)
- 15-minute Pre-Confirmation Interview (Apr-May in 10<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Saint Report (Details at parent meeting on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m.)
- Letter of Intent (Details at parent meeting on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m)

Track A: Regular

	Confirmation Year 1	Confirmation Year 2	Post-Confirmation
October and November Small Groups - six weeks. Choose 3:30-5 Sundays, OR 5-6:30 Mondays OR 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesdays	✓		
Five Late winter/early spring Confirmation sessions, Wednesdays 7:30-8:30		✓	
First Sundays	Attend 5 of 7	Attend 6 of 8	Attend as many as desired
Encounter Sundays: small group discussion and hang out time	optional	optional	✓

Track B: Teen Core Team

	Confirmation Year 1	Confirmation Year 2	Post-Confirmation
Weekly Sunday Meetings	✓	✓	✓
Annual Core Team Retreat	✓	✓	✓
Attend three planned middle school events	✓	✓	✓
First Sundays	✓	✓	✓
Encounter Sundays: small group discussion and hang out time	✓	✓	✓
Late winter/early spring Confirmation sessions, Wednesdays 7:30-8:30		✓	

See an explanation of First Sundays, Encounter Sundays, Confirmation prep meetings and more on the next page.

### As a Teen Core Team member, 10<sup>th</sup> graders will:

- Attend weekly Sun. meetings (7-9 p.m. on First Sundays; 7-8:30 on other Sundays), including First Sundays and the Encounter Sundays
  - Attend the annual core team retreat and at least three planned middle school events.
  - Grow in discipleship through regular prayer and study
  - Lead in planning events, especially for middle schoolers
- \*10<sup>th</sup> graders on Teen Core Team are not allowed to miss more than three Sundays throughout the year.*

### **Why First Sundays?**

First Sundays, which are from 7-9 p.m., build on the foundation of faith and community established in the 6-week small group. Featuring some of the best Catholic youth speakers, music by our Lifeteen Band and transformational prayer, the First Sunday of (almost) every month will inspire our teens to have a deeper relationship with Christ and continue building community with their small groups.

*Note: 10<sup>th</sup> graders must attend at least six First Sundays: Oct. 6, Nov. 3\* Dec. 8, Jan. 5, Feb. 9, Mar. 1 Apr. 5, May 3  
\*10<sup>th</sup> graders must attend the Nov. 3 session.*

### **What are Encounter Sundays?**

Encounter Sundays, which are from 7-8:30 p.m., are opportunities for all high schoolers to gather for a talk that dives a little deeper into our faith than the content in First Sunday talks; allows for more small group discussion; and provides a chance to just hang out with other high schoolers. This is a perfect option for those who are unable to commit to Teen Core Team but want to come to more than First Sundays. Encounter Sundays are *optional* for those in Track A, but *required* for those choosing Track B.

*We offer 7 Encounter Sundays for all high schoolers: Oct. 20, Nov. 24, Dec. 22, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 22, May 17*

### **Why Retreats?**

Retreats are one of the most critical components of Confirmation preparation at HNOJ. Life can be a little crazy. Rarely do we take the time we need to get away from it all. Retreat experiences with HNOJ Crew are exactly that, opportunities to take a break, relax, think, talk and pray about who we are, why we are here and what our faith in Jesus has to do with it all. Retreats with the HNOJ community provide the environment for young people to have a personal and transformational encounter with Jesus Christ.

### **Why 5 Confirmation Prep Sessions?**

There will be five Confirmation sessions that explore topics specifically related to preparing for the night of Confirmation, when the Holy Spirit will seal the candidate with the gift of the presence of God. These sessions are an important opportunity for the candidate to continue to develop their relationship with God in the presence of their parents and sponsor. These sessions take place throughout late winter and early spring as the Confirmation date approaches. The dates of these sessions will be posted by Sept. 1.

### **Why an Interview?**

It's a lot less scary than it sounds. Think of this interview as more of a conversation than a test. The Youth Ministry team at HNOJ wants to hear about your relationship with Christ, the questions you have, and how you plan to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ following Confirmation. It's a big parish. This is another opportunity for us to get to know you as an individual.

### **Why A Saint?**

So many times when we think of the saints the first thing we think of is a halo, but the truth is that saints can't be reduced to people who walked around the earth with heads that glowed! Saints were ordinary people, like you and I, that lived extraordinary lives. The Church says that a saint is someone who possessed 'heroic virtue' (CCC 828). Each candidate will be asked to take on the name of a saint at Confirmation. The name chosen should be one whose life will be a model and inspiration for them during their life as a catholic. The saint's name that is chosen should express something of the candidate's inner-self, an ideal or goal they are setting for themselves as a Catholic and should be a reflection of their resolve to live as a disciple of Christ. The name will be the name by which they are addressed by the Archbishop at the Confirmation Mass. Details on how to write the saint report will come in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. For now, keep learning about the saints!

Please contact Ashley with any questions.

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