

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: Confirmation Year 1 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 in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade (and again in 10<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Attend two retreats during 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 Initial Interview (Aug.-Oct. in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- 15-minute Pre-Confirmation Interview (Apr-May in 10<sup>th</sup> Grade)
- Saint Report
- Letter of Intent (Details in 10<sup>th</sup> grade)

## 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	✓

## Why a 6-Week Small Group?

- **Community**—by meeting 6 weeks in a row, small group members are able to build trust with one other more easily, thus paving the way for deeper faith conversations throughout the year.
- **Dive In**—go deeper into the core components of the Catholic faith through pray and discussion
- **Prepare** - equip 9<sup>th</sup> graders to proclaim a confident “yes” to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in 10<sup>th</sup> grade

*\*Note: 9<sup>th</sup> graders are not allowed to miss more than one of these 6 meetings.*

## 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: 9<sup>th</sup> graders must attend at least five First Sundays: Oct. 6, Dec. 8, Jan. 5, Feb. 9, Mar. 8, Apr. 5, May 3*

## 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.

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

## 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		✓	

### What is Teen Core Team?

The HNOJ Crew Teen Core Team is a community of high school teens who commit each year to serve as leaders in HNOJ Crew Youth ministry here at Holy Name of Jesus. While Teen Core Team is open to all high schoolers, 9<sup>th</sup> graders who participate will learn the same things (and more) as those who are on the regular track for Confirmation prep.

### As a Teen Core Team member, 9<sup>th</sup> graders will:

- Attend weekly Sunday 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 and dreaming of events, especially for middle schoolers

*\*9<sup>th</sup> graders on Teen Core Team are not allowed to miss more than three Sundays throughout the year.*

### 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 Two Interviews?

It's a lot less scary than it sounds. Think of these interviews 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. The hope is that in 9<sup>th</sup> grade you have the chance to voice questions and faith goals, so that by 10<sup>th</sup> grade you're able to report how your faith has grown and how ready you are for 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!