

ST. MARY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Confirmation Program 2016-2017



I. Welcome

Welcome to all parents of new and returning students in the St. Mary of the Annunciation Confirmation Program! My name is Mark Daley, and I am the new Youth Minister & Confirmation Coordinator at St. Mary's. I'm looking forward to meeting you and your son or daughter, and I'm truly excited to begin preparing your child to receive one of God's greatest gifts: the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Having just graduated from college, I was confirmed only six years ago. I remember how difficult it was balancing the demands of schoolwork, sports, and friends during my high school years. Looking back, I know with certainty that it was God who carried me through these challenging years. It is my prayer that God will work through me to do the same for your child during this formative period of their lives. I cannot wait to stand alongside your child in his or her journey of faith throughout the next year.

This year, I am excited to announce that St. Mary's will be starting a monthly 5:00PM Youth Mass. As you will read below, our Confirmation classes will take place before and after this monthly Mass. This liturgy is a wonderful opportunity for our Confirmation candidates to grow deeper in their appreciation of the Catholic faith. All families are welcome to join us!

If you have any questions about this year's Confirmation program, please do not hesitate to email me at mdaley@stmarydanvers.org or call me at 978-774-0340. I look forward to meeting you all soon!

II. Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: What time will the eight monthly formation sessions take place?

A: First year candidates will meet from 3:00 to 4:45 before attending the 5:00 Youth Mass. Second year candidates will attend the 5:00 Youth Mass and then meet from 6:15 to 8:00.

2. Q: Where will the formation sessions take place?

A: The formation sessions will take place in the Father Dorgan Hospitality Room.

3. Q: How many formation sessions is a candidate allowed to miss?

A: Candidates are expected to arrive on time and participate in all eight monthly formation sessions. We understand that illness and family emergencies may occur, and we will work with you to keep your child's formation moving forward. In the case of a potential absence, please notify Mark Daley (mdaley@stmarydanvers.org) prior to the session.

If candidates have multiple unexcused absences, a meeting will be called with the candidate, their parents or guardians, and members of the Confirmation team to discuss the candidate's readiness to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in June, 2016. We will do our best to respect each candidate's time and ask they do the same toward their peers and the Confirmation team.

4. Q: What happens if the monthly formation session is canceled due to inclement weather?

A: In the case of inclement weather, a cancelation message will appear on our parish website. Parents and candidates will be emailed information regarding the date and time of a make-up session.

5. Q: Is weekly Mass attendance required?

A: As members of the Catholic faithful, Confirmation candidates are expected to participate in Sunday Mass every week. We are extremely fortunate that this year we will be celebrating a Youth Mass every month, and the St. Mary's staff will be working hard to plan this new Mass. We welcome and encourage your entire family to join us for this wonderful new opportunity.

6. Q: Does my child have to go on the Confirmation retreat?

A: The Boston Archdiocese requires that second year candidates attend a Confirmation retreat before receiving the Sacrament. The retreat is only for second year candidates. This year, our Confirmation team will be hosting an overnight retreat at the Espousal Retreat House in Waltham, MA from March 10-11. In years past, our candidates have consistently stated that the retreat was their favorite part of the Confirmation program. It will be 24

hours filled with plenty of opportunities for building friendships, having fun, and growing together in the faith.

7. Q: What service requirements are part of the program?

A: Candidates are required to take part in one parish sponsored service trip to the Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence. For more information on Cor Unum, please visit www.corunummealcenter.org.

In addition to this communal service trip, candidates are also required to complete personal service hours. Between October and May, all 9th and 10th grade candidates are required to complete one 4-5 hour service project on their own or in a group. We will discuss this requirement and recommend potential service opportunities during our formation sessions.

Lastly, all candidates will be trained to take part in different ministries (greeter, offertory collection, lectors, music, etc.) during the 5:00PM Youth Mass. Assignments will be made in October.

8. Q: Who can be a confirmation sponsor?

A: A valid Confirmation sponsor is a Catholic, 16 years of age or older, who has received all the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation).

9. Q: What is a parent's role in the Confirmation process?

A: The Church proclaims that parents are the first preachers of the faith to their children. This duty continues during your child's preparation for Confirmation. Please consider witnessing the gospel to your child by participating in Mass and prayer at home. We also invite you to be a steward of your time & talent by volunteering to help with the Confirmation program. Please see the Parent Volunteer Form to see how you can share your faith with your child and the other candidates. Thank you!

III. Program Schedule

Date	Event
Sunday, October 2	Welcome Mass and Pizza Party (5:00-7:00PM)
Tuesday, October 4	Parent Session, First Year (7:00-8:00PM) & Second Year (8:00-9:00PM)
Wednesday, October 12	Parent Session, First Year (7:00-8:00PM) & Second Year (8:00-9:00PM)
Sunday, October 16	Mass & Formation Session
Sunday, November 6	Cor Unum Service Trip (Half of All Second Year Candidates)
Sunday, November 20	Mass & Formation Session
Sunday, December 18	Mass & Formation Session
Sunday, January 15	Mass & Formation Session
Sunday, February 12	Mass & Formation Session
Sunday, March 5	Cor Unum Service Trip (Half of All First Year Candidates)
Fri-Sat, March 10-11	Confirmation Retreat (All Second Year Candidates)
Sunday, March 19	Mass & Formation Session
Sunday, April 2	Cor Unum Service Trip (Half of All Second Year Candidates)
Sunday, April 9	Mass & Formation Session
Sunday, May 7	Cor Unum Service Trip (Half of All First Year Candidates)
Sunday, May 21	Mass & Formation Session
Thursday, June 1	Rehearsal & Dinner, 6:00-8:00PM
Sunday, June 4	Confirmation Mass, 4:00PM

IV. Parent Volunteer Form

We invite you to be a steward of the St. Mary's Confirmation Program. Please fill out this form and return it to Mark Daley at the parish rectory. Thank you!

Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone # _____

- Welcome Pizza Party: Sunday, October 2nd, 5:00-7:30PM
 - Set-Up/Clean-up
 - Beverages
 - Chips
 - Deserts
- Small Group Leaders for the eight monthly sessions*
- Volunteers to bring refreshments to monthly sessions
- Service Trip Chaperones/Drivers*

Please note: all parish volunteers must complete a CORI form.

* According to Boston Archdiocese guidelines, volunteers ministering directly to minors must attend the Virtus: Protecting God's Children training. A training session will take place on the evening on October 5.