

ST. ELIZABETH'S CHURCH  
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Dear Parents and Eighth Graders,

It's hard to believe that it's summer vacation! It's also time for us to make summer visits to the homes of potential Confirmands and their parents for a personalized chat about Confirmation 2017 and St. Elizabeth's Confirmation Program.

Confirmation is a big deal for our parish family because it's when people—youth or adults—confirm publicly the commitment of themselves to God, a commitment their parents made *for* them at Baptism. This big step in life requires intentional preparation. That's why St. Elizabeth's eighth graders who wish to be confirmed must choose to prepare themselves via our Confirmation Program. The classes and activities of our program give eighth graders nine months of studying, practicing, and experiencing the mature commitment to God to which they were pledged at Baptism.

To help you decide whether or not your child (if you are a parent), or you (if you are an eighth grader), will enter St. Elizabeth's Confirmation Program on September 11<sup>th</sup>, look over the three enclosures that have come with this letter. The first is a draft calendar of our very rewarding, but rigorous program. The second is the program's registration form. And, the third is a description of how a Confirmand in our program is mentored through the program by the sponsor that he or she is asked to choose this summer, and name on the registration form. You will also note, on the registration form, seven "areas of ministry". Each eighth grader entering our program must choose and register on the form, at least one of those areas of ministry that he/she promises to work in during the nine months leading to Confirmation.

**It is our experience with former classes, that those who choose to become candidates for Confirmation and who participate faithfully in the program, are rewarded with many happy times. Plus, they grow greatly in their relationships with God, one another, and the rest of us in their parish family.**

We will be calling you soon to arrange a relaxed, 45-minute summer visit with you. Its purpose is threefold. It will allow us and potential Confirmands to get to know one another better. It will allow for questions about Confirmation and the Confirmation Program to be answered. And it will allow parents and eighth graders to make an educated decision about entering the program leading to Confirmation at St. Elizabeth's. If you already know that your eighth grader/you will enter the program, we will happily collect your registration form when we come.

With warm regards,

Joan Conley and Sandy Sullivan

3 Enclosures