Dear St. Mary Springs Academy Families, May 20, 2019

With the academic year coming to a close, this seems an ideal time to provide information on the sacramental preparation process for Confirmation. While ongoing faith formation takes place at SMSA, sacramental preparation and celebration takes place through the faith community, the center of initiation and the place where adult faith is lived out.

Confirmation is the final sacrament of initiation, completing the process which begins in Baptism, and continues with Eucharist. If a young person has not yet been baptized, the parent/guardian should contact Sabina Carter (scarter@hffdl.org). If a young person has been baptized, but has not yet received Eucharist, contact me so that I am able to bring them back in-step with the sacraments prior to Confirmation.

The minimum age of Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is 16 years of age. For many teens this corresponds with preparation in the junior or senior year of high school.

Holy Family Catholic Community has an immediate preparation process for the sacrament; the next session is beginning in the fall of 2019. The process will combine small group sessions on Sundays, a weekend retreat, and sponsor candidate activities.

The first gathered session is a Parent/Guardian and Teen introductory session. There are two options for this meeting. Please pick September 10th at 6 PM or September 15th at 11:15 AM at Holy Family Hall to attend with your teen. There will be additional small group sessions from October to March, prior to the celebration of the sacrament, with one gathering after the celebration of Confirmation. Please see the attached calendar (it is tentative) for more information.

Retreat experiences are a key element of providing concrete experiences of incorporating faith into the ongoing daily life of missionary discipleship. The weekend includes opportunities for fellowship, faith sharing, reflection and prayer. Participants will have a choice of 3 weekend retreats which begin Friday evening at 6 pm, and conclude by noon Sunday. To assist in your planning, the retreat date options are:

* November 1-3, 2019
* November 15-17, 2019
* November 22-24, 2019

Registration for Confirmation preparation will be **available on July 7**. Please note that the last day to register for Confirmation is September 9, 2019. The parish website (hffdl.org) will post this information, in addition to communication directly with registered parish families.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Peace and Blessings,

Amanda Zinthefer

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High School Formation Coordinator amandaz@hffdl.org 920-921-0580 ext. 131