

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish
Lancaster, New York

Confirmation Orientation Meeting
April 29, 2018

Opening Prayer / Ice breaker

Time of preparation is a time of praying, reflecting on life, getting a sense of where you are in your life with God and with the Catholic Church. Weekly attendance at Mass is encouraged.

Program components:

- 1. Enrollment form** Indicates your desire to be part of the program
Enrollment forms can be found on the parish website. (Due: June 1, 2018)

- 2. Enrollment Mass** June 24, 2018 at the 10 am Mass for candidates, sponsors and/or parents

- 3. Retreat** June 24, 2018 10 a.m. -5 p.m. (begins with 10 am Mass at St. Mary's)
Villa Maria Convent, 600 Doat St. (entrance is on Pine Ridge Rd.)
Permission slips are on the parish website. (Due: June 1, 2018)

4. Service opportunities:

A. Three community service experiences among the economically poor

Possibilities include:

- Response to Love Center (To make arrangements, call Elaine Driscoll directly at 683-8611.)
- St. Luke's Mission of Mercy
- St. Vincent DePaul Soup kitchen
- Little Portion Friary
- Service opportunity with the economically poor can be done through the Lancaster Youth Bureau (To make arrangements, call Mindy Muench, volunteer coordinator, at 683-4444 ext. 208)
- If you have a particular charity for which you would like to volunteer, such as Hospice or a nursing home, you may substitute one of these for one service experience among the economically poor.

B. Parish service experience

Vacation Bible School, July 23 – 27 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. A VBS Teen Volunteer form will soon be available on the parish website. There are a variety of areas for which you may sign up. Set-up the weekend before and clean up on July 30 are also possibilities.

Helping at the St. Vincent DePaul household items and clothing collection, altar serving, ushering at Mass, setting up for parish feast in August, helping with summer coffee hour, outdoor work on parish grounds – including the cemetery – are some of the possibilities for parish service.

5. Mentoring Sessions: You will be asked to sign up for a small group that will meet five times in the course of the summer. Your leader, who will be your mentor, will guide you through the preparation process. During the five meetings, you will spend time:

- Praying and reflecting on life in general and your life in particular
- Coming to understand the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Discussing progress on names chosen and service being performed
- Discussing what it means to be confirmed
- Preparing for the ceremony itself

This year's Confirmation Mentors – so far – are:

Ms. Veronica Knittel

Mr. Joe Kugler

After we list the meeting days and times, you will be asked – via email - to sign up for the person whose schedule best fits your summer plans. We will contact you by email and also post information on St. Mary's Parish website.

6. Letter to the Bishop: An important part of your preparation process is writing a letter to the Confirming Bishop, which will also be read by Father Paul. This letter will give them a sense of who you are as a person (within your family, as a student, your interests, talents, etc.), where you are in your faith, what service you experienced and what you learned from it, why you chose your Confirmation name and which saint you chose, and why you chose your sponsor. Components of the letter will be given to you during the summer. Your mentor will assist you.

7. Other – will take place in September/October

- Interactive meeting with sponsors and candidates
- Interview with parish member or parish staff regarding readiness
- Celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation (parents and sponsors are also invited)
- Rehearsal for candidates and sponsors

The actual celebration – FALL 2018

The date will be forwarded to you after we receive it from the Bishop's Office.

If there are any questions about the program requirements, please contact Sister Therese at 683-8564 or theresec@stmarysonthehill.org

Due by June 1, 2018:

_____ Confirmation Enrollment Form and fee (for retreat, supplies, and celebration)

_____ Confirmation Retreat Permission slip