

RaDiCal Truth

Parents Guide to Confirmation – 2013-2014

Introduction

One of the greatest challenges we face as Christians is the faith development of the next generation. The gift of faith received at baptism must be nurtured in order for our students to grow into mature believers and followers of Christ. Additionally, students must learn to apply this faith in a world that continues to grow in complexity and secularism. Many of the issues that students deal with in Middle School today could not have been imagined by previous generations. Lifelong commitments of following Christ are often made during these formidable years, and we have a responsibility to create the environment that best allows this to happen.

Opportunity

Despite this challenge, Confirmation provides a wonderful opportunity. Confirmation is a time in which we can make sure that our students are given a clear presentation of what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. We can also insure that they are given the Christian perspective on how to deal with the difficult issues they face. Finally, we can help nurture each student's personal relationship with Christ and spiritual journey. In order to accomplish this we need strong support from the parents and the congregation.

Goal

A Confirmation ministry that impacts and ministers to the whole student by teaching them what it means to be a Christian and equipping them with tools that help them grow in and better live out that faith.

Instruction - *RaDiCal Truth*

Confirmation at Holy Cross is a two-year program. Students successfully completing the program will be confirmed at the end of their 2nd year. First Communion is given at the end of their first year. April 27th is the date scheduled for this year's Confirmation Service and First Communion will be on April 17th, Maundy Thursday. This year Confirmation class for all students will be during the Sunday School hour 9:30-10:30am. The curriculum is based on a two-year teaching cycle that covers an Overview of the Bible in one year and Luther's Small Catechism namely; the Ten Commandments, Apostles Creed, Lord's Prayer and Sacraments. This year we will be doing the Bible overview

Lessons

Three components make up the *RaDiCal Truth* lesson each week, each engaging the student in a unique manner. The first part consists of a lesson taught primarily by Vicar Chris Holder. After the teaching time is over the students' will break into gender based discussion groups or teams where

they learn to apply the lessons to their lives and pray for each other. These teams are lead by an adult member of the congregation who is designated as the team's coach for the year. Finally, the student takes home the last part of the lesson to be completed with his or her parents. This is a continuation of the material covered in class and keeps parents active in the Confirmation process. Remember, Luther originally wrote the Catechism for parents to teach their children. Parents also review the student's memory work.

Faith in Action –

In addition to learning God's word, it is important that students learn how to live out their faith and make an impact on the world around them. Therefore, each student will participate in Christian service this year. These activities will help the students grow spiritually by showing them the importance of serving others and living out their faith. Each student will need 10 service points or hours per Semester, and at least 5 must come from church sponsored group service projects. There will be at least one group service opportunity per month. Students will also help participate in worship with as an Acolyte on a rotating basis. Students also have the opportunity to assist in worship as ushers or even the Altar Guild. The student may choose the remaining individual service opportunities, but the service must be approved. Any group service projects attended after 5 will automatically count as individual.

Materials Needed

The students will need a *Concordia Self Study Bible* and *Luther's Small Catechism*. It is important that all students use the same biblical text, because portions of the lessons are often drawn from the notes in the Bible. This is a Bible that they should be able to use throughout their Middle, High School and College years. We have some on hand, cost is \$40 for both (Check made out to Holy Cross Youth) or you can provide your own. A notebook to keep lessons and other handouts in, and any other materials they might need will be provided as well. It is expected that the students will bring their Bible, Catechism notebook and a pen to class with them weekly.

The Plan

- I. Class Participation
 - A. Regular attendance
 - B. Complete work as assigned
 - C. Participate in Team Time discussions / ask questions
 - D. Pass "tests" as assigned

- II. Church Attendance
 - A. Regular Attendance,
 - B. Family Participation
 - C. Advent, Lent, Contemporary, "out of town"

- III. Sermon Summaries
 - A. 5 per semester
 - B. Emphasis is on application

- IV. Parental responsibility
 - A. Practice Memory Work: 5 verses per Semester
 - B. Family Fitness
 - C. Help with Youth activities
 - D. First Communion Prep.

- V. Radical IMPACT
 - A. Fall Retreat (Recess) and Spring Campout
 - B. Service Projects: Group and Individual. 1 point per hour, minimum 20, 10 September-December, 10 January-April
 - C. Individual Service = 1 point per activity
Acolyte, usher, worship help counts as 1 per week served.

- VI. Final Preparations
 - A. Essay of Faith
 - B. Elder Interviews

Conclusion

I am very excited about this opportunity to minister together to these awesome students during their Confirmation instruction time. God has assembled an awesome team to help this year and I know that He is going to do some incredible things in all our lives. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 214-535-1894 or cholder@hcdallas.org. I would love to talk to you more and answer any question you might have.

Vicar Chris Holder