



St. Anthony of Padua Parish

1359 Acushnet Avenue • New Bedford, MA • 02746

Phone: 508.993.1691 • Fax: 508.999.4775

www.saintanthonynewbedford.com

Father Octavio Cortez, Pastor

August 2016

Dear Parents of Students in the Confirmation Program,

Welcome to Confirmation Year! We confirm children in the ninth, rather than the eighth, grade, in order to try to give the students a deeper knowledge and personal commitment to the Catholic faith. The ultimate goal of the program is to help make them strong in their faith — both through the power of the Sacrament of Confirmation as well as by the training we give them this year — so that they may resist the temptations to wander from the Church's faith and moral life during their teenage years and beyond.

This year we're building on what we learned last year utilizing a great new resource that is available from Dynamic Catholic called **Decision Point**. This program is an easy to view video based program accompanied by a workbook which promotes discussion on the main topics of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. There are 12 sessions consisting of 6 short films and discussion questions.

The students are also required, *together with you*, to attend the "full family catechetical sessions" on three Sunday mornings after the 8:30 Mass. Those dates are also on the CCD schedule. In anticipation of the commitments they will make through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the students will be expected, as a requirement of the program, to live as a good Catholic should, by attending Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation, praying daily, confessing regularly, working hard in school and in their religious education, contributing at home and in the parish, and being a faithful son/daughter, sibling and friend. They are also responsible for **20 hours** of Christian service over the course of the year by volunteering to help out at parish activities or by participating in other charitable or volunteer work (which must be approved by Mrs. Marshall or Fr. Murphy).

One of the goals of the program is to help the students grow in a sense of responsibility, to help them in their maturation overall and as a Christian. I ask you to help with this. It's not going to be sufficient for a someone preparing for responsibility in the Church and in life to say, "I forgot we had class," or "my dog ate my homework," or "I didn't feel good and so I didn't come to class" (without any phone call) or any of the other excuses that may pass muster when they're much younger. This program is more demanding than many others, but your kids are worth it. Just as few parents who love their children ever complain when teachers challenge their students to learn more to give them a better chance at life or when sports coaches have kids practice harder in order to help make them more successful on the field, I hope that you will likewise be glad that we are making a greater commitment as a parish to form our young people so that they may truly have a chance to become the people — saints, real holy heroes in this life and in the next — whom God created them to be.

If you have any questions about this year's program, please come to see me.

In Christ,

Mrs. Monique Marshall

2016-2017 Confirmation Programs for Ninth Graders



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Goals

- To help students live according to the Holy Spirit and get them ready not only to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of their Confirmation but to cooperate docilely with the Holy Spirit in life.
- To strengthen the students spiritually, morally and intellectually to withstand some of the typical temptations young people face in the faith during their teenage and young adult years
- To help them become mature and responsible members of the Church Christ founded and collaborators in his mission.
- To prepare and assist them to live their life as a gift for others in imitation of the self-giving love of God.

Expectations

- Live as a good Catholic should.
- Daily Prayer
- Regular Confession (once a month)
- Hard-working student in school and in the faith
- Contributor at home and in the parish
- Faithful son or daughter, sibling and friend

Practical Requirements

- Attendance at all classes. *Unexcused absences may result in needing to repeat the program.*
- Attendance at all three Full-Family Catechesis sessions on Sunday mornings throughout the year.
- Successful completion of all homework assignments and acing the final exam based on the work in the class.
- Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days
- 20 hours of documented Christian service