

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students,

**Welcome back!** I hope your summer was relaxing and you are ready to do some soul searching! Welcome to the St. Denis Confirmation Preparation Program. Whether you are in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, or in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, this program is designed to help you prepare for your journey toward the sacrament of Confirmation and further your commitment to Jesus our Savior. Your Confirmation is neither an end, nor a graduation from your faith, but rather, it is a continuation of your adult faith journey that forever will be in your heart and mind.

In this packet you will find many different option classes that are available to you. Keep in mind that these are optional classes and are not mandatory. The options are meant to give a more hands on approach to your spiritual journey.

**Please keep in mind that only 2 option classes will be permitted per year as you prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.** However, you may attend as many option classes as you wish but only 2 classes will be applied toward your requirements per year.

Please read over forms carefully. Fill out all information requested and write a check made out to St. Denis Religious Education for the total amount. You may drop off or mail the registration form and check to the St. Denis Religious Education office.

**All** tuition fees must be paid in full before registering for options.

Please keep a copy of and keep track of all your classes/option courses and retreats.

Our Confirmation option program cannot continue without the help of our wonderful volunteer parents who **chaperone**. The safety and well being of our students is dependent on adult supervision. A big thank you to those parents who have volunteered in the past, and we welcome any new parents who would like to volunteer.

Due to the popularity of this program, registration is on a **first come, first serve basis**, so drop off or mail your registration forms and all fees ASAP. The office will accept registrations beginning **Sept. 6th@ 12:00pm**.

**REGISTRATION for Options/Retreats BEGINS Tuesday SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> @ 12:00PM.**  
**Registration not accepted over the phone**

**Confession:** for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade-Please take note of dates & time on back page. All students must attend.

**Confirmation Retreat IS required (including St. Denis/St. Columba School students).** All Confirmation candidates **MUST ATTEND** a retreat we are offering. If you do not sign up for a retreat you may **not** be able to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Confirmation Information Night: (including St. Denis/St. Columba School students).** This informal evening is devoted to help the 8<sup>th</sup> grade student get started on the required Confirmation Packet due 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in February. This is a great opportunity for students to begin to explore and research their saint, start the letter to the Bishop, talk about and have a chance to sign-up for community service, as well as, be measured for their Confirmation robes. The packet will not be completed this night. The students will take the packet home to be completed. You should have already signed up for one information night.

**Confirmation Interviews: (including St. Denis/St. Columba School students).** all students are required to have an interview with one of the clergy/staff. An assigned day & time will be mailed home to you. Interviews are held in April.

**Attendance:** Please be aware that the maximum allowance for absences for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade program is 2 per year. If you are absent more than once in a particular course you will be asked to repeat that course. Too many late arrivals and early dismissals will result in an absence.

**Remember Fall classes begin Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Options & Retreats

## 2011-2012

Retreats

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only

Two retreats are offered.

If you are receiving the sacrament of Confirmation this year, you **MUST** sign up for a retreat.

### **Tony Bellizzi**

Saturday March 3, 2012

Time: 8:30am-2:00pm

Fee: \$ 30.00

Place: St. Denis

Spend a few hours with Tony. Through prayer & down to earth relevant presentations you will be challenged about where you are in your relationship with God, the Church and yourself.

Bring a snack for the sharing table. Pizza will be served. Parents are welcomed to join us for the 9:00am Mass.

**This counts as: A Confirmation Retreat**

### **Journey to the Cross and Beyond**

Thursday April 5, 2012 Holy Thursday (Schools are closed)

Time: 4:00-9:30pm

Fee: \$30.00

Come and gather with fellow students preparing for Confirmation. Prepare your hearts, minds, soul and spirits as we journey to the cross on this solemn Holy Thursday night. Find out how this makes us ready to receive the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation. Celebrate The Mass of the Lord's Supper and procession.

Pizza will be served. Bring a snack for sharing.

Adult chaperones needed.

**This counts as: A Confirmation Retreat**



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Options

### **Generation Life**

Sunday November 6, 2011 Time: 10:30-4:30pm Fee: suggested donation \$10.00

Generation Life is a movement of young people committed to building a culture of life by spreading the message of life and love to other young people. These young missionaries are traveling throughout the Archdiocese. Four young missionaries will make a presentation here at St. Denis. Our gifts, talents & personality traits which make us unique, are the expressions of our spirit. Come and learn how the grace and Spirit of God helps us to use our talents to become closer to Him.

Bring your own lunch. Snack for Sharing. Donations accepted for the missionaries.

**This option counts as: Morality**

### **Hello God! Can you Hear Me Now?**

Friday Dec. 16, 2011 (snow date Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 4:30-9:00pm

Fee: \$30.00

Yes, teens can make a difference in the world today. Find out how our prayers ARE heard and very powerful. We can make a difference in the world. Learn the many different forms of prayer. Even singing is a form of prayer. Book assignment. Assignments must be completed and submitted the day of class. Attend concert @ St. Denis Church. Pizza will be served. Bring a snack for sharing.

**This counts as: Prayer**

### **The Ultimate Gift**

Friday January 13, 2012 (snow date Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>)

Time: 4:30-9:00pm

Fee: \$30.00

How can we make a difference in the world today? Why should we even try? Pick up this wonderful book and read about a man who discovered the hard way of God's plan for him. Read the book & complete the assignment before class. We will discuss, share, and wonder about the unique gift that God has given each and every one of us. Pizza will be served. Bring a snack for sharing.

**This counts as: Personal Growth II**

### **Church Through the Ages**

Friday March 23 & March 30. Must attend both days.

Time: 4:30-8:30pm

Fee: \$40.00

Journey with us as we travel through the years and learn about the history of our Catholic faith. Learn how it began, the brave men and women who helped bring this faith to the new world. Learn of the many saints who gave their life for the sake of the gospel. Pizza will be served. Bring a snack for sharing. Book assignment must be completed and submitted the day of class.

Limit 30 students.

**This option counts as: Church History**

### **CYFM(Capuchin Youth & Family Ministry) in Garrison, N.Y.**

#### **"Morality: Making Choices We Can Live With"**

Overnight January 27-28, or January 28-29, 2012

Fee:\$75.00 (checks payable to CYFM)

Grab your sleeping bag and be prepared to become inspired and a true disciple of Christ. Pick up registration form at St. Denis Religious Education Office. Registration and payment is made directly to CYFM.

**This counts as: Morality**

## Calendar of Events 2011-20012

\*Parents have reported that they have missed important meetings or dates because they were not aware of the information. Enclosed is a calendar of events for your convenience.

Sept. 10	Saturday	Classes begin	10:45 am-12:45 pm
Sept.20/21/27	T/W	Confirmation Information Night (students only)	6:30pm-8:30pm
Oct. 8	Saturday	No Classes	
Oct. 19 Wednesday	<b><u>Confirmation Parent &amp; student Meeting (A-K)</u></b>		<b>7:00-9:00 pm</b>
Oct. 20 Thursday	<b><u>Confirmation Parent &amp; student Meeting (L-Z)</u></b>		<b>7:00-9:00 pm</b>
Nov. 5	Saturday	Teaching Mass for 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	<b>12:15pm @ Church</b>
Nov. 22-27	Thanksgiving	No Classes	
Dec. 3	Silver Tea	No Classes	Religious Ed. Fundraiser
Dec. 20-Jan 2	Christmas	No Classes	
Feb.1	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat.	<b>All Confirmation Packets due</b>	<b>**Only completed packets will be accepted**</b>
Feb. 18	Saturday	No Classes	
March 24	Saturday	<b>8<sup>th</sup> grade</b> Confessions (students) *	9:45am @ Church
Apr. 1-9	Easter	No Classes	
April 23/24, May 1	M/T	Confirmation interviews(will be assigned)	6:30pm-8:00pm
May 26-28	Mem.Day	No Classes	
June 4/5/6	W/T/Th	Confirmation practice	4-6pm @ church
June 7/9	Thur/Sat	<b>Confirmation Ceremony</b>	4:00pm/10:00am/1:30pm

Parents &  
Students must  
attend!

**Confirmation Parent and Student Meeting**  
**Wednesday Oct. 19, (A-K) 7:00pm-9:00pm &**  
**Thursday Oct. 20, (L-Z) 7:00pm-9:00pm**

**All Confirmation Students including The St. Denis/St. Columba School are required to attend this meeting with their parents.**

This meeting is vital and informative.

**Special speaker Ray Boswell**

