# **Welcome Back!**

# **9th Grade 2023/24**

I welcome you to the Saint Helen’s Confirmation program! Our innovative approach to the sacrament will include large group sessions with small group break outs, retreats, service opportunities and guest speakers.

During the registration process, you will pick the BEST time for you to attend a large group session. We will assign you to a small group and a team of Peer Ministers.

NEW FOR 23/24 – All class times will be from 7:30 pm to 8:45 pm. We ask that you arrive five minutes early so we can start and finish on time.

All dates/times and locations are subject to change based on state and Archdiocesan regulations.

**Large Group Sessions**

**September – Parent/Candidate session (one parent must attend this night)**

Monday, September 18, 2023, or Wednesday September 20

**October – Large Group 2**

Monday, October 9, 2023, or Wednesday, October 11

**Freshman Retreats!**

All 9th grade students will attend our retreat with Justin Fatica from Hard as Nails Ministry on Sunday, November 5, 2023, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. (Time subject to change)

The retreat is one of the most important events of the 9th grade year. We ask that you work out any conflicts you may have now so that all candidates can experience this important faith formation day with their small group.

In addition to our retreat experience here with Justin, all candidates will sign up and attend one (1) Called Confirmation Rally Day as presented by the Archdioceses of Newark office of Youth and Young Adults. The Called Rallies will bring students together from around our dioceses and features workshops and speakers. We are very excited to attend these rally days with our candidates. There are four (4) dates to choose from. Called Rallies are 9:30 am to 5 pm (time subject to change based on Archdioceses scheduling). Please select the date that works best for you. Candidates only need to attend one rally day.

Called Rally Dates are:

Saturday, 10/7/23 Saturday, 1/27/24, Saturday, 2/24/24 and Saturday 4/27/24

**December – Large Group Session**

Monday, December 11, 2023, and Wednesday, December 13

**January – Large Group Session**

Monday, January 8, 2024, and Wednesday, January 10

**February – Combined with 10th grade. Guest Speaker TBA in the church**

Monday, February 5, 2024, and Wednesday, February 7

**March – Large Group Session**

Monday March 11, 2024, and Wednesday March 20 – Last large Groups of the year

**Requirements for the 9th grade year:**

1. Attend all scheduled large group sessions
2. Attend one Adoration session – the parish holds adoration once a month. Dates will be posted on the website.
3. Service Hours– 8 hours or more of community service. We encourage you to serve here in the parish by assisting with the many programs we have for religious education with grades 1-8, Sundays with our Kids Corner and Children’s Liturgy of the Word programs and service opportunities with our youth ministry program. Service form can be downloaded from our website. Once completed you can submit your form to the online portal on our website.
4. All confirmation candidates are encouraged to attend mass with your family weekly.

Any questions or concerns, please email or call/text me at 908-265-2169.

Michael Fusco

DRE Grades 5-10