

Grade 7 – Pre-Confirmation I Classes

- 1. What is the focus for Grade Seven?** Seventh grade students will focus on “*The Life of Grace*” which is a study on the life of Christ and the meaning of his coming. Understanding the purpose for Christ’s living among us will help the student better define the purpose in his/her own life. We will be studying the essential nature of God’s grace and the importance for each of us to live a *Life of Grace* – a sacramental life lived out in community with the Catholic Church. A year of study on the life of Christ is required for Confirmation.
- 2. What is Pre-Confirmation?** This year we are beginning a new way of approaching catechism for our 7th and 8th grade middle school students. The major portion of Confirmation catechesis will now take place during grades 7 & 8.
- 3. What will be different about this program?** Seventh grade students will not be attending formal classes every week.
 - Some weeks we will have a **speaker** (Wednesday evening students will attend on Mondays those weeks), many of whom will be high school students who have already received the Sacrament of Confirmation and will share their faith experiences with the middle school students.
 - Still other weeks, we will work together on **service projects** (adopted soldiers, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter baskets) -- some during class time. Middle school students will be expected to complete 6 hours of service by the conclusion of both the seventh and eighth grade years; even though many of these hours can be completed within class time, I will also email opportunities for middle school students to participate in service outside of their regular classes.
 - Other weeks, we will attend **Mass** together or participate in a family rosary or even listen to a Christmas Concert!
- 4. Is attendance required?** Not yet! However, since this is the necessary catechesis for Confirmation, attendance is strongly encouraged. Home schooled students are following the same curriculum as grade 7 students attending classes and they will be required to take the same final test at the conclusion of the year.
- 5. Why the change?** Middle school students are both intellectually and emotionally ready to take the challenge of a more mature approach to religious education. They tend to be kinetic learners (they like movement!) and have moved beyond the educational approach for elementary school-aged students. It is our plan to keep them active and engaged!
- 6. What can parents do to help?** Please encourage your child to attend every week and to participate in the planned activities throughout the year. The seventh and eighth grade years, which occur just prior to their Confirmation studies in the 9th and 10th grade years, are formative and essential for your student’s understanding of his/her Catholic faith.