

Components of Confirmation Preparation Program

1. **Catechesis Modules**– While the teens in Confirmation Prep will also be engaged in ongoing catechesis through regular participation in Mass and either through TGIF, Generations of Faith, FIRE, or home study at St. Katharine Drexel or through their Catholic high school, the sacrament of Confirmation calls for a deeper look into our faith. Confirmation catechesis modules will be held at St. Katharine Drexel and will involve discussions on various topics to prepare teens for adult membership in the Church. They will be held periodically throughout the year and will generally be about two hours in length. Teens will attend all **core modules** once, and attend two **elective modules**.
2. **Community Service** – As disciples we are called to lives of service. As a sign of this commitment our teens will enter into *significant* service in preparation for Confirmation. There are three options within our program. **Option A** is for the teen to design and run their own service project (along the lines of an Eagle Scout Project or a Gold Award Project within the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts). Additional mentorship is available to facilitate this option. **Option B** is for the teen to become involved in a *consistent* manner in existing service activities run through the parish, through their high school, or through the larger community. **Option C** is for the teens to participate in one of our summer service experiences offered through the youth group. For all of these options a **short reflection** on the connection between the community service and our Catholic faith will complete this component.
3. **Parish Ministry** – As the Church not just of tomorrow, but also of today, our teens are welcomed into a number of the ministries that our parish offers. Teens may become ushers, greeters, or lectors at Mass. Teens are welcomed to help with the Children’s Liturgy of the Word, Kate’s Kids, or to mentor younger adolescents in the Middle School Youth Group. Teens are also encouraged to join the various committees that plan and run the many activities that our parish offers. An ongoing commitment to one or more ministries at the parish is an important part of our Confirmation Prep Program.
4. **Pilgrimage** – As a physical sign of their journey of faith our teens will join in the tradition of the Church by undertaking a pilgrimage. Such a pilgrimage is both a physical and a spiritual journey to a site of significance for our faith that serves to connect us in a deeper way with those who have traveled before us. This year Saint Katharine Drexel will be sponsoring three pilgrimages, one in the winter, one in the spring and one in the summer. We encourage teens to participate in one of these events, though they may also undertake a pilgrimage of their own.
5. **Retreat** – Just as Jesus would spend time away from the crowds and his disciples for prayer and meditation, so we are called to step outside of our everyday lives and focus ourselves from time to time. Our teens preparing for Confirmation will participate in a retreat experience in which they will be invited to look a little bit deeper inside themselves, take a look back on their ongoing faith journey, and a look forward to the road ahead. This retreat will be scheduled for the fall of next year and will be the final piece of the preparation process for Confirmation.