

High School Faith Formation and Confirmation Handbook 2009-10

Monday night Track Schedule

7-8:15

in the meeting center

September 28

October 5, 19, and 26

November 2, 16, 23 and 30

December 7 and 14

January 4, 11, and 25

February 1 and 8

March 1, 8, 15, 22

April 5 and 12

KEEP THIS BOOK FOR REFERENCE

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!!!

We try our best to follow the schedules listed.

At times we may be asked to change...
please refer to the parish bulletin for updates.



St Kathryn Parish
4 Dracut Road, Hudson NH 03051

882-7793

www.Stkathryns.org

Director: Susan Levesque

Secretary: Michele McCormack

Pastor: Fr Gary Belliveau

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Most Holy Spirit, I have a mission, the work which Jesus Christ left for me, the purpose for which I was born. But I need your help, your presence in my life to succeed.

Share your wisdom, that I will see the solution to problems and use my energy to solve instead of complain.
Fill me with understanding of God's word and how it applies to my life.
Untangle the confusion of the decisions I face.

Counsel me,
show me the way to Christian living and make me strong against the temptations surrounding me.
Grant me courage, especially when my efforts seem to fail and I feel like giving up.
Give me knowledge to see the truth about my God, myself, my family, my friends, my church and my world.

Make me more loving and reverent, that I will build up rather than tear down, forgive rather than hold grudges, see the value of each person and of your creation,
think of others before myself.

Fill me with awe and wonder so as to help me praise the greatness of God and
His unlimited love through my thoughts, my words, my actions, my life.

Amen



Please take note:

In trying to be good stewards of parish monies, we are no longer mailing class reminders, the youth newsletter (the Mustard Seed) etc. We are asking you to do your part in keeping informed by picking these up at the church and/or office as well as referring to Rel Ed Handbooks, the parish bulletin, making use of the parish website and St Kathryn's Youth Ministry Facebook.

For the safety of our parish youth, all adult volunteers for the religious ed program are screened and have participated in the diocesan workshop "Protecting God's Children".

Important Dates!

High School Fall Meeting & signing up for Fall /Winter courses & other events	Sunday, September 13	7:30
Confirmation retreat <i>for those to be confirmed in Fall 2009</i>	Saturday, September 19	
Rite of Election <i>for those to be confirmed this Fall</i>	Saturday, September 19	4:00 Mass
Workcamp Orientation	Sunday, September 27	7:30
Confirmation rehearsal	tba	
CONFIRMATION	tba	
National Catholic Youth Conference Kansas City, Missouri	November 19-21	
March for Life in DC	January 21-22	
Blessing of New Drivers	January 24	6:30 Mass
High School Winter Meeting and signing up for Spring and Summer courses	Sunday, January 31	7:30
Snowcamp Retreat	February 19-21	
30 Hour Famine Orientation	Sunday, March 21	7:30
Confirmation registration <i>for those who have completed the preparation process</i>	Sunday, April 11	7:30
30 Hour Famine	April 23-24	
Youthfest	Saturday, May 1 st	
Confirmation Interviews <i>for those to be confirmed in Fall 2010</i>	Monday, May 10	
Sharefest Day of service at local schools	tba	
Confirmation Retreat <i>for those finished Year 1</i>	Sunday, May 16	
Rite of Intention <i>for those to be confirmed in Fall 2010</i>	Sunday, May 23	
Blessing of 2010 Graduates	Sunday, June 6	6:30 Mass
Schools Out Blowout at Greeley Park	June ?	
Confirmation retreat <i>for those to be confirmed in Fall 2010</i>	Saturday, September 18	

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Coupon!

Dinner at "Chez Sue"

You and a friend are invited to have dinner
at Sue's house

with her family!

To make reservations
please call 882-7793

or

e-mail Sue at Sue.Levesque@Stkathryns.org

(Transportation is provided)



Office Hours

The parish & religious education office hours are open
Monday-Thursday 8AM - Noon and 1-4PM,

Cancellations

If weather or other unforeseen circumstances causes us
to cancel classes and/or other events, we will leave a
message on Sue's voicemail... call 882-7793, ext 204.

A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE and
"CONSIDER YOURSELF PART OF THE FAMILY"!

In an effort to serve the ministry of presence, and to
promote that faith is to be lived beyond
Sundays and outside of the church
building, we will seek to minister as Jesus
by going to where the people are. It
would be extremely helpful if you would
inform Sue of youth events (games,
recitals, dances, concerts, etc.) so she & other adults
can offer support and encouragement, as
well as attempt to meet youth "on their
own turf", rather than waiting in an office
or at church for them to come.



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Other Youth Opportunities:

Workcamp 2010



Workcamp is a week of repairing homes of the elderly,
handicapped and those with financial difficulties, as well as an
opportunity to share and live our faith with 400-500 other
Christian youth from around the country. During the course of
the year, participants will be involved in servanthood training
sessions, as well as in fund-raising efforts for registration and
transportation costs (about \$500-\$700). The first workcamp meeting is
scheduled for Sunday, September 27th at 7:30. Please understand that
participants are expected to work together and meet as needed to help each
other earn the necessary funds! It's an incredible experience !!! We work with
Group Workcamps out of Loveland Colorado. For more info, their website is
www.groupworkcamps.com

30-Hour Famine: April 23-24, 2010

This international event, sponsored by World Visions, is devoted to saving the
lives of starving children here in our own country, as well as abroad. "Faminers"
find people to sponsor them for the 30 hours they go without food. "Faminers"
gather together to experience, in a small way, third world conditions, become
involved in a local food drive, as well as learn about world hunger and how they
are helping. The Orientation for the famine is scheduled for Sunday, March 21st
after the 6:30 Mass. Participants who attend both the orientation and the famine
will receive a personalized gift!

SOMOS Honduras Mission: Christmas or February break?

This mission trip is open to youth 16 years and older. We will spend the week at
our diocesan mission in San Francisco de la Paz "not so much
bringing Christ to these people as discovering Him among
them". We will serve with Fr Dan St Laurent, a diocesan priest
assigned to the Diocese of Juticalpa in Honduras, as we assist with
an agricultural endeavor "Project Eden", as well as learning first-
hand about the life and struggles of our brothers and sisters in a
third world country.



High School Retreat: tba

Youth in grades 9-12 will spend a weekend together making time to
reflect on their relationship with God and others. The retreat will be
held at the Sacred Hearts Retreat Center in Wareham, Ma and will be
facilitated by Sue and a retreat team made up of adults and youth. This
is NOT the Confirmation retreat.

MUSIC MINISTRY



The music leadership for the 6:30 Sunday evening
Masses consists of youth and adults. The group incorporates
guitars, flute, drums, saxophone, xylophone, tambourine,
keyboard and voice. Youth in grades 7-12 interested in making a
weekly commitment to practice at 5:30 PM on Sundays are
encouraged and welcome to join!

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High School Ministry

High School Youth Group

Each Sunday evening after the 6:30 Mass high school youth are invited to come together in the parish youth room for an hour of faith, food and friendship! The Youth Leadership Team will run these nights which will incorporate opportunities to build a strong sense of mutual care and concern, as well as experience the beliefs, and engage in the practices of our Catholic community.

Once a month Fr Gary will spend an evening with the youth to give them an opportunity to "Talk Back to the Homily"!

We will seek to offer a variety of activities and balancing the areas of worship, education, building community and service, so we can be assured of having a well-rounded ministry and a comprehensive faith formation process.



SKYT: St Kathryn Youth Team:

We have a leadership team of 12 high school youth, representing each high school grade level, who will provide peer witnessing and service to, with and for parish youth. They vow to live lives of hospitality, commitment and chastity, and most importantly to continue to grow in their relationship with God and the church. They meet regularly to organize the weekly youth group events, as well as other opportunities.

The high school years include some landmark events for our teens!

To celebrate and offer our prayerful presence, we will offer a Blessing for those who receive their driver's license.

In June, we will offer a blessing for those who will be graduating!

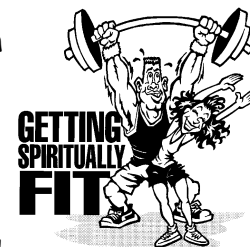


Goals and Challenges

As commissioned by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, we will pay special attention to the characteristics and needs of our youth individually and collectively in striving to serve the three goals of youth ministry as outlined in their document *Renewing the Vision*:

- † To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today!
- † To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.
- † To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

The high school program is here to assist parents in nurturing their son/daughter's faith development as they promised at his/her baptism. We cannot do it for families for "children learn what they live". How we respond to the needs of others, whether we pray or not, how we talk to and treat each other, whether we make time each week to gather as the family of God or not, etc. speaks a very profound and clear message to our children. If we are striving to live our faith authentically, then the religious ed program will be supporting us and our children/teens will not be receiving a mixed message. Together we are responsible to serve the 3 goals outlined by the NCCB. May we see each other as partners and to each do our parts, then will we be furthering the "Kin-dom" of God!!!



Revised High School Program

Just over a year ago a group of parishioners came together to revamp the high school program. It is our prayerful hope that this newly designed program will more adequately serve the variety of needs and schedules of youth and their families!

Within the high school youth ministry program youth are offered the opportunity to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation, which will complete their initiation into the Catholic Faith Community.

Confirmation is to be seen as part of a life-long process of becoming a committed Catholic Christian... Not an end.

Confirmation, as described in the Essential Catholic Handbook is "One of the seven sacraments described by the Church... it impresses a character and by it the baptized, continuing on their path of Christian Initiation, become enriched by the gift of the Holy Spirit and are thus bound more perfectly to the Church; it straightens them and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses to Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith". (Canon 879)

To empower us to authentically and vibrantly live as disciples of Jesus, the Spirit gifts us at Confirmation with WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, RIGHT JUDGEMENT, COURAGE, REVERENCE, and WONDER AND AWE ON GOD'S PRESENCE.

The high school program will take great care that these seven gifts are woven throughout all that we offer: courses, community-building activities prayer and service opportunities.

EXPECTATIONS before registering for Confirmation over the course of 2 years

6 Core classes, 2 retreat days, 4 electives and 2 large group events
1 Day of Enrichment: God's Plan for Love and Life
Triduum celebrations of 1 year
service activities: 1 major project and 2 minor ones

Catholic School and Home School Youth:

to be seen as exempt from a core class,
must show proof that a specific core class was studied

Teachers offer classes with a wide variety of scheduling options... in the Summer the schedule of classes for the Fall & Winter will be available so families can view them before the sign-up meeting in September. For those who prefer the same night throughout the year, we will offer a Monday night track where core & elective classes will be offered from 7-8:15.

When the requirements described on page 4 have been fulfilled, youth may then register for the final phase of preparation of the sacrament of Confirmation.

What final preparation for Confirmation 2010 looks like:

The Confirmation Orientation and Registration meeting
is scheduled for

April 11th after the 6:30 Mass

and is to be attended by both the youth and their parents.

Details:

- **An interview with a parish staff person, May 10**
- **Rite of Intention: May 23, 2010 at the 6:30 Liturgy**
- **Candidate & sponsor gatherings to discuss faith topics**
(scheduled between themselves though the summer)
- **Confirmation Retreat: September 18, 2010**
- **Rite of Election: September 18, 2010 at 4pm Liturgy**
- **Confirmation Rehearsal and Celebration (to be announced)**

**We give you these dates early
for your consideration and
scheduling purposes so that other activities
could be properly prioritized**



CORE COURSES

Year 1:

Scripture
Spirituality and Prayer
Morality

Year 2:

The Creed/Theology of Church
Liturgy and Sacraments
Catholic Identity

ELECTIVES

mix and match the following opportunities to fulfill the 4 elective requirement

3-week Courses

such as:

Church History
Gifts of the Spirit
Life Issues
Old Testament
Peace and Justice
Discipleship
Mary and Saints
Vocations
Scripture Study:
Who is God?
Paul's Letters
Parables
Revelation
Suffering

activities that count as 2

March for Life* **
Over-night retreat
Steubenville East **
30-Hour Famine*
Workcamp* **
* also counts as major service project
** also counts as 1 large group event

One-nighters

2 of these are equivalent to 1 elective

Church Tour
Prayer and the Mass
Proud 2 B Catholic night
Question/Discussion Nights with Fr Gary
Sights/Sounds of Holy Week
Witness Night

Large group events (multi parish events)

(choose 2)

Youthfest: day of music, keynote speakers, workshops at St. Anselm's,
March for Life, Soulfest, Proud 2 B Catholic nights, Steubenville East,
Workcamp, National Catholic Youth Conference, Snowcamp

Courses and electives will be offered at a variety of times so as to offer flexibility in scheduling... our goal is to have the details of the courses, their schedules & their teachers available in August.

Even after Confirmation, several teens have expressed a desire to continue learning! The electives courses are also available for them!

Service Component

Since Jesus spent his life in service so as to reveal God's love and concern, the diocesan policy requires that preparation for Confirmation includes a service component. The Church, the Body of Christ on earth, is to continue Jesus' mission of caring for each other's basic physical and spiritual needs.

1 major project and 2 minor ones are to be completed over the course of the 2 years to illustrate the desire to be a true disciple of Jesus.

Major projects:

March for Life
30-Hour Famine
Workcamp
year-long assistance with Little Church
year-long assistance with JH youth group
commitment to visit nursing home

Minor Projects:

Ann Marie House
Soup Kitchen
Church grounds clean-up
assist with blood drive
Upper Room Ministries
Birthright
care package for those away at college
coffee and donuts
care package for troops
feel free to suggest your own



GIFTS of the SPIRIT

CORE COURSES

Year 1:	Date completed	Year 2:	Date completed
Scripture	_____	The Creed	_____
Spirituality & Prayer	_____	Liturgy/Sacraments	_____
Morality	_____	Catholic Identity	_____

1 Day of Enrichment: God's Plan for Love & Life Date completed _____
 Year 1 Retreat Date completed _____
 Year 2 Retreat Date completed _____
 Triduum Date completed _____

ELECTIVES

mix and match opportunities to fulfill the 4 elective requirement

<p>3-week courses</p> <p>list what was successfully completed:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>activities that count as 2 electives</p> <p>list what was successfully completed:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>One-nighters</p> <p>2 of these = 1 elective</p> <p>list what was successfully completed:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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LARGE GROUP EVENTS

list what was successfully completed:

1. _____ Date _____ 2. _____ Date _____

Service Component

Major project _____ Minor projects _____



Wisdom is like a special pair of glasses that we need to see reality from God's perspective. Without wisdom we tend to only see from our point of view. Wisdom helps us to straighten out our priorities, to know what is really important, to remember that people are more important than things and that God's love is more important than everything else

The gift of **Understanding** helps us to accept others as they are and to care for those no one else notices. Understanding guides us to listen to, encourage, challenge, forgive and love others ... leading us to become more aware of God's presence in our lives.

Knowledge, the ability to think and to know, is one of God's greatest gifts to us. It is the gift that helps us to discover this incredible world God has created. Human knowledge can be used for bad ends as well as good ones. We need the Spirit's gift of knowledge to help us to know and use our personal and collective stores of human knowledge for the good of all.

God took a big risk giving us free will; the Spirit's gift of **Right Judgement** (counsel) helps us to use our freedom wisely. This gift helps us to see a situation clearly, to look at all the options open to us, to analyze the possible ramifications of each option, and then to make a clear and decisive choice. The Spirit often works through others, our Church teachings and prayer in giving us this gift, so it's important to seek advice, educate ourselves and to pray.

Courage is the gift the Spirit gives us to help us follow through on our good decisions once we have made them. Courage is the strength to do the right thing in spite of the obstacles and difficulties that make it hard to do so.

Reverence (piety) is respect with a capital R. The Spirit's gift of reverence helps us to see the true value of every person and of all created things. Reverence shows itself in gentleness, tenderness, protectiveness and concern. We need reverence for life, truth, nature, the unborn, the elderly, those who are different than us... we need reverence for God.

Wonder and Awe in God's Presence (Fear of the Lord) is the gift by which we are given a sense of who God really is, and who we are as creatures of God. This gift helps us to realize how far above us God is, great and wonderful and awesome; and yet how near God is to us, gentle and loving and tender and forgiving.