

St. Joseph Church | 5050 St. Joseph's Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036 | 610.965.2877 | www.stjoescoopersburg.org

Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P.)

Info Packet for Grade 8

Contents: Welcome & Information Letter; Arrival & Dismissal Information; Registration forms for NEW or RETURNING Students; "Circle of Grace" Letter & Opt-Out Form; 2023-2024 Calendar; Book Pickup and Teacher Meet & Greet Flyer; Confirmation "Dates of Importance"; Confirmation "Information & Requirements"

Welcome to the St. Joseph Church PREP Family! Our volunteer staff at St. Joseph Church looks forward to another year of sharing the teachings of Christ with the children of our Parish Family through our Parish Religious Education Program. Please read through this letter carefully for important information regarding the 2023-2024 school year. PREP Registration forms should be returned to the Rectory as soon as possible, no later than August 27th. This year, we are using two different registration forms – please be sure to utilize the appropriate form for your family.

The PREP Class format will be different for Grade 8 than it is for grades 1-7. Grade 8 will operate on their own schedule, with special events & deadlines that are specific to Confirmation. Enclosed you will find a "Dates of Importance" sheet, as well as information specific to Confirmation requirements. **Grade 8 will meet in person every week, from 10:00 AM to 10:50 AM.** Please read through the enclosed "Arrival & Dismissal" notice for additional information.

Workbooks & supplemental books will be provided, and should accompany your child to each session. We will provide writing utensils. Your child is welcome to bring a water bottle, clearly marked with his or her name. Please, no food or snacks due to potential allergies.

The main source of communication between parents/guardians and teachers will be via email, as well as the class webpages located on our Parish website: <https://www.stjoescoopersburg.org/prep-news/> You will have the opportunity to meet your child(ren)'s teacher(s) at our Book Pickup and Teacher Meet & Greet on September 24th! See the enclosed flyer for further info.

We are aware that the schedule for PREP courses may require families to adjust their activity planning, and our PREP teachers will work with students & families to make accommodations wherever possible. However, regular PREP attendance is still required for your child(ren). Absences may result in students being held back and/or not receiving sacraments when expected. Students in sacramental preparation years must be in regular attendance at all PREP classes and keep up with assigned work in order to receive the anticipated sacrament this school year. If you are concerned this PREP schedule will not work for your family, you do have the option of searching for a PREP program within the Diocese of Allentown that would work better for your family. Please contact Mrs. O'Donnell for more information, if you wish to pursue this option. Please note that a "homeschool" curriculum is not an acceptable option.

Regular Mass attendance is also an essential part of your child(ren)'s PREP experience, as well as a requirement for the reception of Confirmation. Beginning September 24, 2023, all Confirmation students will be required to write their name on a weekly bulletin and hand it in to Fr. Buckley at the end of Mass. Bulletins & pens will be available in the back of the church at the end of Mass. If you attend Mass at a different parish, please collect a bulletin there, sign your name to it, and hand it in to Fr. Buckley at the next Mass you attend. The final bulletins will be collected the weekend of April 7, 2024.

Please remember – We go to Mass not simply because it is an obligation, but rather because it is our loving response to the God Who has loved us first. It is an active choice of the will to give of our time, treasure, and talent –

knowing full well it will never amount to the sacrifice endured by our Savior. We want the children of our Parish Family to know that they have ownership in the celebration of the Mass, whether they have been fully initiated or not, and will once again be hosting Masses throughout the school year. Each grade will have the opportunity to participate in the Mass, as well as sit together as a class. Your child(ren)'s teacher(s) will provide more information on these special events.

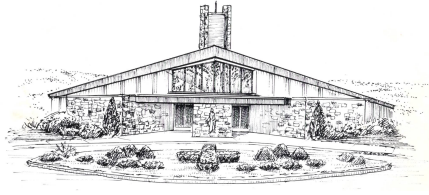
On behalf of Fr. Buckley, Deacon Paulus, our volunteer catechists, and all of our Parish Family, I wish you many blessings in these fleeting summer moments! May the new school year bring us many moments of laughter, love & learning.

Sincerely,

Janessa O'Donnell

PREP Administrator

janessa.odonnell@stjoescoopersburg.org



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Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P.)

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES FOR GRADE 8

In the continued interest of safety for our students and volunteers, we ask that you please look over the following information.

Arrival Info

- **We respectfully ask that the students be on time.** Grade 8 classes will begin at 10:00 AM. Families may arrive at the Parish Center no earlier than 9:50 AM.
- **On days when all grades are present for in person classes, the following rules apply:**
 - 8th Grade students are permitted to walk from the church to the gym themselves, but must follow all traffic rules. We will have volunteers helping to direct traffic, but still need cooperation of the pedestrians in this matter due to the volume of cars leaving the 9AM Mass, as well as arriving for PREP at this time. **Please do not send any younger students with your 8th graders alone.** This is for the safety of your children and all of our Parish Family.
 - Students are to meet in the gym and sit/stand in their class lines according to their grade.
 - Teachers will meet their students in the gym, and they will proceed to the classroom together.
 - Latecomers will be escorted to class by a PREP volunteer.
- **On days when only 8th grade meets, the following rules apply:**
 - Students may be dropped off at the entrance to the Parish Center. We will not have volunteers directing traffic on these days.
 - 8th grade can proceed directly to their classroom on these days.

Parents are not permitted to wait in the hallways during the PREP session. The cafeteria will be open to all parents while the students are in class (every week).

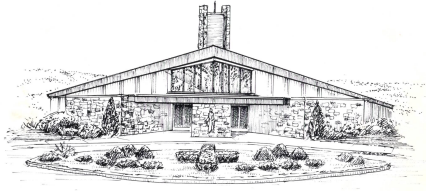
Dismissal Info

- PREP Dismissal for grade 8 is 10:50 AM, unless otherwise instructed. Please be prompt in picking up.
- Students are not permitted to leave class early to go to the 11:00AM Mass, unless prior arrangements have been made with your child's teacher.
- **On days when all grades are present for in person classes, the following rules apply:**
 - Parents must wait in the Parish Center for their students.

- No student or parent may enter or exit the building from any area but the main Parish Center doors.
- **Students in all grades are not permitted** to walk to the parking lot themselves. **Please do not allow your child(ren) to walk by themselves from the gym to the church lot.** We will have volunteers helping to direct traffic, but still need cooperation of the pedestrians in this matter due to the volume of cars arriving for the 11AM Mass, as well as leaving PREP at this time.
- **On days when only 8th grade meets, the following rules apply:**
 - Parents/Guardians are permitted to park in the lower lots on these days.
 - You may wait in the cafeteria for class to finish. OR, you may meet your child at the entrance to the Parish Center when class is dismissed. The doors to the Parish Center will be locked once class begins.
- If a child is to be dismissed early for some reason, they must have a note from the parent and the PREP office must be notified of the early dismissal.
- If a child is to be dismissed with anyone not listed on the emergency form submitted with your registration, you must provide a written note to the teacher at the beginning of class.

Additional Reminder: Weather or other emergency cancellations of PREP will be announced on WFMZ.

Questions/concerns regarding PREP should be addressed with Janessa O'Donnell - Rectory Phone: (610) 965-2877, or email: janessa.odonnell@stjoescoopersburg.org.



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Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P.) REGISTRATION FORM for the 2023-2024 School Year

RETURNING STUDENTS ONLY

Family Name _____ Preferred Email _____

Our information is the same as the 2022-2023 Year: [YES] [NO] If NO, please list changes on the reverse of this sheet.

Parent/Guardian 1 First and Last Name _____

Relationship to Student(s) _____

Parent/Guardian 2 First and Last Name _____

Relationship to Student(s) _____

If parents are separated or divorced, child/ren live(s) with: _____

- Child's Full Name _____ School grade in September 2023 _____
- Child's Full Name _____ School grade in September 2023 _____
- Child's Full Name _____ School grade in September 2023 _____
- Child's Full Name _____ School grade in September 2023 _____

Additional children can be listed on the reverse of this sheet. Please use this same format. First Grade & all other new students should be registered on a NEW STUDENT form, even if you have children returning to the program from last school year.

Do any of your children have special needs of which we should be aware? If so, please list the child and his/her need here (e.g., emergency medication*, vision/hearing loss, mobility impairment, etc.).

**If your child requires emergency medication, a parent/guardian must remain in the cafeteria with the medication for the duration of the PREP session.*

2023-2024 PREP FEES

Make checks payable to: St. Joseph Church

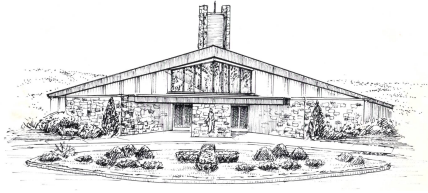
1 Child = \$100.00

2 Children = \$150.00

3 or More Children = \$185.00

PREP registration deadline: August 27, 2023

Please submit payment with registration. If financial assistance or a payment plan is needed, contact the Rectory at 610-965-2877, or janessa.odonnell@stjoescoopersburg.org. **Return form & payment via the collection basket at any Mass, or mail to: St. Joseph Church Rectory, 5050 St. Joseph's Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036**



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Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P.) REGISTRATION FORM for the 2023-2024 School Year

NEW STUDENTS ONLY

Family Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Address City State Zip

Parent/Guardian 1 First and Last Name _____

Relationship to Student(s) _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Parent/Guardian 1 First and Last Name _____

Relationship to Student(s) _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

If parents are separated or divorced, child/ren live(s) with: _____

- Child's Full Name _____ School grade in Sept. 2023 ____

DOB _____ Birth City & State _____

Baptism Date _____ Baptism Church, City & State _____

Sacraments Received (circle): Baptism Reconciliation Eucharist Confirmation

- Child's Full Name _____ School grade in Sept. 2023 ____

DOB _____ Birth City & State _____

Baptism Date _____ Baptism Church, City & State _____

Sacraments Received (circle): Baptism Reconciliation Eucharist Confirmation

Additional children can be listed on the reverse of this sheet. Please use this same format.

Do any of your children have special needs of which we should be aware? If so, please list the child and his/her need here (e.g., emergency medication*, vision/hearing loss, mobility impairment, etc.).

**If your child requires emergency medication, a parent/guardian must remain in the cafeteria with the medication for the duration of the PREP session.*

***** All First Grade Students AND New Registrants Must Submit a Copy of the Child's Baptismal Certificate, if they were not baptized at St. Joseph Church. Additionally, a sacramental record should be provided if your child(ren) have received First Reconciliation and/or First Eucharist. *****

2023-2024 PREP FEES

Make checks payable to: St. Joseph Church

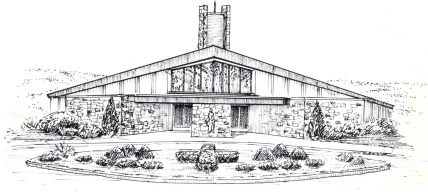
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Diocese of Allentown "Circle of Grace" Program – Grades 1-8 – 2023-2024 PREP School Year

August 1, 2023

Dear Families of St. Joseph Church PREP,

The Diocese of Allentown has once again directed all schools & parish religious education programs to present the "Circle of Grace Program". The program, developed by a team of educators and youth protection professionals in the Archdiocese of Omaha, is rooted in the Catholic faith and emphasizes dignity and respect for one's body, appropriate boundaries, and awareness of child protection topics, including online safety and grooming. Grade-appropriate modules are designed for K - 12 students and include information and resources for parents. If you wish to see what is covered in the modules, please feel free to reach out to me to be sent materials via email.

The PREP teachers will be reviewing the materials in a specified class no later than December 1, 2023. **If any parent does NOT want their child(ren) to participate in the grade-appropriate lesson, please sign and return the bottom of this form to the Rectory no later than August 27, 2023.** Your child's teacher will let you know when the lesson will be taught, and provide your child with an alternative assignment. Completed forms may be placed in the collection basket at any Mass (folded and marked PREP); emailed to the Rectory at the address above; or, PDF versions may be emailed to Mrs. O'Donnell at the email listed below (PDFs MUST contain a signature). The parent opt-out is required to be reported to the Diocese of Allentown.

We thank you for continuing to place your trust in us as we work with you and your child in partnership. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the email listed below. You are also welcome to contact Kristin Osenbach: kosenbach@allentowndiocese.org (Parishes / PREP program) if you have any questions about the Circle of Grace program or child protection catechesis in the Diocese of Allentown. The safety of our students is always our priority, and we hope you will take advantage of and share the parental resources included with the curriculum.

God Bless,
Janessa O'Donnell
PREP Administrator, Parish Safe Environment Coordinator
janessa.odonnell@stjoescoopersburg.org

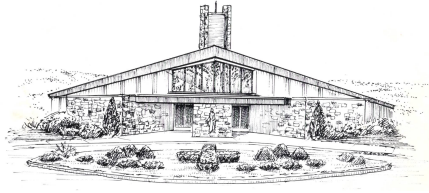
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Only fill out & return this form if you do NOT want your child(ren) to participate in the Circle of Grace Program.

Name of Family: _____

Name of Child(ren) & Grade(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Parish Religious Education Program (P.R.E.P)

Grades 1 through 8 Combined Schedules

Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

All classes will be held on Sunday mornings. Meeting times will vary between in-person and virtual class weeks. Please note: *ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.*

September 2023

- **17th - Gr. 8 ONLY** - Special Mass with Fr. Buckley under the Pavilion & Parent Meeting to follow - 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Dinner & fellowship included!
- **24th - Opening Children's Mass at 9:00AM AND Book Pick Up and Meet & Greet with the Teachers for GRADES 1-8.** Parents remain with the students. Doors to the Parish Center will open following the 9AM Mass; we should be finished between 10:30-11AM.

October 2023

- **1st - Children's Mass at 9AM *Altar Server Investiture***
 - **In-person Class - All Grades - 9:45AM-10:45AM**
- 8th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
- **15th - Confirmation Investiture Mass at 9AM** *Grade 8 will present this Mass & sit together as a class*
 - **- In-person Class - All Grades - "Living Rosary" in the Parish Center**
- 22nd - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
- 29th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
 - ***ALL FAMILIES - Join us at Fr. Buckley's Fall Family Festival from 3PM-5PM!**

November 2023

- **5th - Children's Mass at 9AM** *Grade 7 will present this Mass & sit together as a class.*
 - **In-person Class - All Grades**
- 12th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
- 19th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
- 26th - No Class - Thanksgiving Break

December 2023

- **3rd - Children's Mass at 9AM** *Grade 6 will present this Mass & sit together as a class.*
 - **Advent Reflection - In-person Class - All Grades**
- 10th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8

December 2023 (continued)

- 17th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
 - **ALL FAMILIES - Join us for our Gaudete Sunday Parish Family Christmas Party - 12PM-2PM*
- 24th - No Class – Christmas Break
- 31st - No Class – Happy New Year!

January 2024

- **7th - Children's Mass at 9AM** **Grade 5 will present this Mass & sit together as a class.**
 - **In-person Class - All Grades**
- 14th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
- 21st - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
- 28th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8

February 2024

- **4th - Children's Mass at 9AM** **Grade 4 will present this Mass & sit together as a class.**
 - **In-person Class - All Grades**
- **11th - Mardi Gras Celebration 10AM-12PM** - All PREP families & the parish community are welcome! Drop-in anytime between 10AM-12PM. Parents/Guardians should remain with their students (no class).
- **14th - Ash Wednesday** - All Classes attend 7PM Mass
- 16th - Confessions (6PM) followed by Stations of the Cross (7PM) - Grades 4 through 7. *An online sign-up sheet will be provided to families to sign up for one Friday evening during Lent.*
- 18th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
- 23rd - Confessions (6PM) followed by Stations of the Cross (7PM) - Grades 4 through 7. *An online sign-up sheet will be provided to families to sign up for one Friday evening during Lent.*
- 25th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8

March 2024

- 1st - Confessions (6PM) followed by Stations of the Cross (7PM) - Grades 4 through 7. *An online sign-up sheet will be provided to families to sign up for one Friday evening during Lent.*
- 2nd - First Reconciliation 10:00AM (grade 2 only)
- **3rd - Children's Mass at 9AM** **Grade 2 will present this Mass and sit together as a class**
 - **In-person Class - All Grades - Stations of the Cross & Lenten Reflection**

March 2024 (continued)

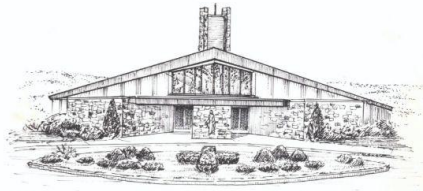
- **8th** - Confessions (6PM) followed by Stations of the Cross (7PM) - Grades 4 through 7.
An online sign-up sheet will be provided to families to sign up for one Friday evening during Lent.
- 10th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
- 15th - Confessions (6PM) followed by Stations of the Cross (7PM) - Grades 4 through 7.
An online sign-up sheet will be provided to families to sign up for one Friday evening during Lent.
- 17th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - In-person Class - Grade 8
- 22nd - Confessions (6PM) followed by Stations of the Cross (7PM) - Grades 4 through 7.
An online sign-up sheet will be provided to families to sign up for one Friday evening during Lent.
- **23rd - ALL FAMILIES - Join us for Fr. Buckley's Annual Egg Hunt - 11AM - Rain or Shine!**
- 24th - Palm Sunday - No Class
- 31st - Easter Sunday - No Class

April 2024

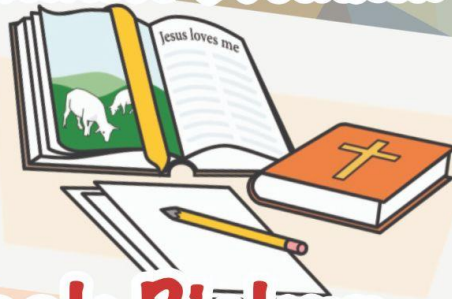
- **7th** - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
 - **Grade 8 ONLY - Confirmation Retreat 11AM-4PM**
- 11th - Confirmation - 4PM (grade 8 only)
- 14th - **Children's Mass at 9AM** *Grade 1 will present this Mass and sit together as a class*
 - **In-person Class - Grades 1-7**
- 21st - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7
- 27th - First Eucharist Retreat 9AM-12PM (3rd grade only)
- 28th - Virtual Class Week - Grades 1-7

May 2024

- 4th - First Eucharist 10:00AM (3rd grade only)
- **5th - Children's Mass at 9:00AM** - May Crowning & Honoring of First Communicants.
Grade 3 will present this Mass & sit together as a class.
 - **End-of-Year Celebration to follow in the Parish Center for all grades!**



St. Joseph Church PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM



Book Pickup and Teacher Meet & Greet

Sunday, September 24, 2023

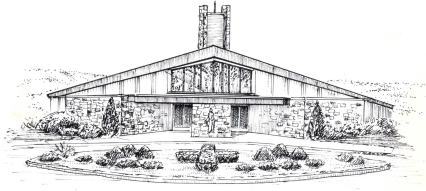
Join us for a Children's Mass at 9:00AM.

**We will gather in the Parish Center immediately following,
approximately 10:00AM.**

**We will be making a few brief announcements before introducing the teachers.
Students will then have the opportunity to say hello and pick up their supplies for
the new year!**

Parent/Guardian must accompany the student and remain for the duration of the event.

Questions? Email janessa.odonnell@stjoescopersburg.org



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CONFIRMATION 2024 -- DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Confirmation will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Please note: This information is applicable to both St. Joe's PREP and St. Mike's students. More information will be given at the meeting on September 3rd and/or when applicable. **All dates & event details are subject to change.** Additionally, should the need arise, all attendees and/or volunteers must comply with all health and safety protocols put forth by the Parish. Thank you for your cooperation!

Contact Mrs. Janessa O'Donnell with any questions or concerns – janessa.odonnell@stjoescoopersburg.org.

Sunday, September 17, 2023

- **Special Mass with Fr. Buckley and Student & Parent Information Meeting**
 - 5PM-7PM under the Pavilion (or in the Parish Center).
 - **Attendance is required.** RSVP is due by 9/3/2023. If your family has an emergency or prepaid expense, you will be asked to attend a Zoom meeting on a different date & time.

Sunday, October 15, 2023

- **Investiture Ceremony**
 - You will be given a "Rite of Enrollment" form at the meeting on Sept. 17th. Once completed, it is submitted to Father Buckley at the Investiture Ceremony, which will be held, during the 9:00 AM Mass.
 - **Attendance is required.** If your family has an emergency or prepaid expense, please let Mrs. O'Donnell know ASAP.

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

- **Submission of Sponsor Letter**
 - You will be given more information at the meeting on Sept. 17th. The Sponsor Letter form must be submitted no later than November 1, 2023. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Sunday, December 3, 2023

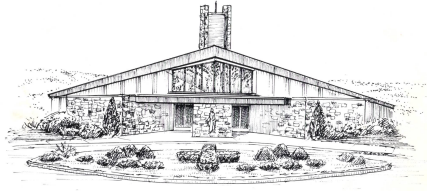
- **Service Hours Log Due**
 - See enclosed letter for more details. Service activities may take place between August 1, 2023, & December 2, 2023 - no earlier. See enclosed letter for more details.
 - Service logs are due to Fr. Buckley no later than December 3, 2023. **NO EXCEPTIONS to this date!**

Sunday, April 7, 2024

- **Confirmation Retreat & Rehearsal**
 - Held on the Sunday prior to Confirmation from 11AM to approx. 4PM. More information will be provided at the Sept. 17th meeting.
 - **Attendance is mandatory.** Sponsors (or an adult stand-in) also attends the practice portion of the event.

Thursday, April 11, 2024

- **Confirmation**
 - Confirmation will take place at 4:30PM in the church. Students must arrive by 4PM.
 - Further information will be released at the meeting on Sept. 17th, as well as when the date approaches.



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CONFIRMATION 2024 -- INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

Confirmation will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Please note: This information is applicable to both St. Joe's PREP and St. Mike's students. All dates & event details are subject to change. Additionally, should the need arise, all attendees and/or volunteers must comply with all health and safety protocols put forth by the Parish. Thank you for your cooperation!

Contact Mrs. Janessa O'Donnell with any questions or concerns – janessa.odonnell@stjoescoopersburg.org.

- **Special Mass with Fr. Buckley and Student & Parent Information Meeting**
 - **Sunday, September 17, 2023**
 - **5PM-7PM under the Pavilion (or in the Parish Center)**
 - A light meal will be provided - Please RSVP by September 1st with the number attending.
 - Students will receive their Confirmation folder, which contains all relevant paperwork, at this meeting. Attendance is mandatory.
 - At least one parent/guardian is asked to attend this meeting.
 - *Satisfies regular Mass requirement.*
- **Mass Attendance & Weekly Collection of Signed Bulletins**
 - Regular Mass attendance is a requirement for the reception of Confirmation. **Beginning September 24, 2023, all Confirmation students will be required to write their name on a weekly bulletin and hand it in to Fr. Buckley at the end of Mass.** Bulletins & pens will be available in the back of the church at the end of Mass. If you attend Mass at a different parish, please collect a bulletin there, sign your name to it, and hand it in to Fr. Buckley at the next Mass you attend. The final bulletins will be collected the weekend of April 7, 2024.
- **The Rite of Enrollment Form & Investiture Ceremony**
 - The Rite of Enrollment form is signed by the candidate (student), parents, sponsor and PREP teacher. The form details the expectations of students in preparation for Confirmation. **This form is submitted to Father Buckley at the Investiture Ceremony, which will be held on Sunday, October 15th, during the 9:00 AM Mass.** During this special Mass, the students will declare their intent to be Confirmed in front of the parish family. They will be recognized by the parish & gifted a Bible from Fr. Buckley during the Mass. The students will be seated together in reserved pews at the front of the church - please arrive no later than 8:50AM, and proceed to the reserved pews. Attendance is mandatory; please contact Mrs. O'Donnell with any questions or concerns.
- **Sponsor Selection and Submission of Sponsor Letter**
 - All Confirmation students will select a Confirmation Sponsor. Sponsors are persons who are willing to help the students live their lives as adult Christians in the church. Sponsors must be a mature member of the Church, living a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith, be at least *eighteen years of age* and be fully initiated in the Catholic Church by Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Godparents are ideal sponsors. **Parents may not serve as sponsors.** The sponsor will participate in the Confirmation Mass. Sponsor forms must be filled out and signed by the sponsor and the sponsor's pastor. **These forms must be submitted no later than November 1, 2023. No EXCEPTIONS.**

- **Service Hours & Acts of Kindness**
 - While preparing for Confirmation, students are required to perform 15 hours of community service. Students should complete at least 3-5 different activities, and may not contribute more than 3 hours towards one service activity (unless approved by Fr. Buckley). Service log entries must be signed by an adult in charge of the activity (service logs are the red sheet). **Service logs are due to the student's teacher no later than December 3, 2023. NO EXCEPTIONS to this date!** A list of service activity opportunities & ideas will be available on the Gr. 8 PREP webpage shortly : <https://www.stjoescoopersburg.org/prep-news/grade-8/>. Service activities may take place between August 1, 2023, & December 1, 2023 - no earlier. In addition to service hours, the students will be asked to complete small "random acts of kindness", which will be written down and displayed in a paper chain at the Confirmation service. More information about this project will be provided by the teachers.
- **Catholic Prayers**
 - Prior to receiving Confirmation, the students must know by memory the following prayers: the Sign of the Cross, Hail Mary, The Lord's Prayer, Glory Be, Apostle's Creed, and the Act of Contrition. Your students will be assigned memorization dates by their teacher.
- **The Bishop's Questions**
 - The Bishop may ask the Confirmation students one or more of 9 questions during the Confirmation Mass. Students are required to know by memory the answers to these questions prior to Confirmation. Your student's teacher will work with them on this item.
- **Selection of Confirmation Name**
 - One of the favorite aspects of preparing for Confirmation is choosing a Confirmation name. In Confirmation, the bishop uses this name, saying "(Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." It is customary to select the name of a person who has officially been declared a Saint. It is also possible to be confirmed under your middle, or Baptismal, name.
- **Confirmation Name Saint Report & Shield**
 - Prior to Confirmation, students will prepare brief reports about their Saint, including the reasons why they selected that particular Saint. More information about the content of the report will be distributed in class. Each student will also be given a template of a shield which will be decorated by the student and displayed in the church vestibule at Confirmation. This shield should also include your full name and the reasoning behind the choice for your Confirmation name. Teachers will advise what dates these are due.
- **Letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation**
 - **All students will prepare a letter to the Bishop requesting Confirmation.** In the letter, the students describe what Confirmation means to them and why they want to be confirmed. These letters are mailed to and read by the Bishop prior to the Confirmation Mass. More information about the content of the letter will be distributed by the teachers a few weeks before Confirmation.
- **Confirmation Retreat & Rehearsal**
 - **A Confirmation Retreat & Rehearsal will be held on the Sunday prior to Confirmation – April 7, 2024 – 11AM to approx. 4PM.**
 - **Attendance is mandatory.**
 - We will gather at the 11AM Mass, followed by Confessions. We will then proceed to the Parish Center for lunch, followed by our retreat. Finally, a rehearsal will take place in the church.
 - If for any reason your student cannot attend the retreat, you must seek prior approval from Mrs. O'Donnell to attend a retreat within another parish in our Diocese.
 - For the rehearsal, the student must be accompanied by their sponsor OR a parent/guardian who can stand in for the sponsor.
- **Confirmation will take place at 4:30PM in the church on Thursday, April 11, 2024.**
 - Students must arrive by 4PM. Further information will be released.