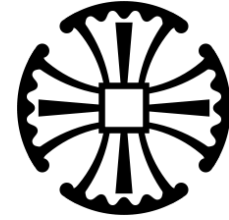


# Youth Involvement & Confirmation

## at All Saints' Church



### Confirmation

Here at All Saints' we offer Confirmation Class for students in Grade 9 and older to prepare for Confirmation by Bishop Hughes in the spring. We start in October and finish after Easter. The class is an opportunity for young people to learn more about Christian faith and practice. It is also a time for them to be able to ask questions and explore faith more deeply, leading to a more mature commitment to God and following Christ's way. I would urge all kids to participate in the class, but at the end of it the decision to be Confirmed or not is their choice.

**What are the nuts and bolts of Confirmation Class?** We have two options, and I need your response about what might work best for your family and your student:

- **Meet twice a month on Sundays after coffee hour for 1.5 hours.** While in-person is always best, for those who live at a distance, we can set up a Zoom link as needed. The Church now has a meeting camera, so any meeting using Zoom would be hybrid. We can also factor lunch into this as needed - *Option A*.
- **Alternatively, we've been invited to join forces with the Confirmation Class at St. Mark's** in Basking Ridge, 2 miles down the road from All Saints'. They also will start mid-October, meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, but in the evening - probably at 6:30 pm - *Option B*.

**Please let me know whether or not your student will be participating in Confirmation Class, and whether Option A or Option B will work best for you.**

### Youth Group

**St. Mark's has also invited us to participate with them in Youth Group**, open to youth in Grades 6/7 through Grades 11/12. They already have some youth involved from the two Episcopal parishes in Bernardsville - St. Bernard's and St. John on the Mountain - so this would be a combined effort.

Youth Group meets at St. Mark's (140 South Finley Avenue, Basking Ridge) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evenings from 5:00-7:00pm for dinner and a program. If this is something your student is interested in, please let me know and we'll make the connections!

*Note - for those of Confirmation age, the Confirmation Class would overlap with Youth Group time and extend a bit beyond it.*

## Serving in Worship

All Saints' youth of any age are invited and encouraged to serve in Sunday worship in a variety of roles:

- **Read** one of the Scripture lessons.
- **Serve as an acolyte/altar server** (light the candles, carry the Cross, receive the offering plates, assist the priest in preparing the bread and wine for Communion). Those are the basics. If we develop a large enough team of acolytes we can also include carrying processional torches, banners (on festive days), etc.
- **Serve on an ushering team** handing out bulletins, passing the offering plates for the collection, ushering people to the altar for Communion.
- **High School students can serve as Eucharistic Ministers**, leading the Prayers of the People and administering the Chalice.
- **Youth are also invited to sing in the Choir** (rehearses from 7:30-9pm on Thursday nights), play in the **Handbell Choir** (rehearses from 6-7pm on Thursdays), and serve on the **Altar Guild** (setting up the Church and the altar for worship on Saturdays).

**All of these roles serve God and our parish.** None of them, with the exception of Choir, are every Sunday commitments. Training will be given to any young person for the role they are interested in. Please share this invitation with your kids and then be in touch with me if they are interested or want to know more. I am always happy to answer questions.

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**We are rebuilding All Saints' Church** after several years that have been challenging for all of us. God has brought us through, and we are looking to the future with faith in God's love and care.

**Please let me know** the ways in which your youth will participate (*coming to Church and worshiping in the pew is great, too!*). I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings, Vicki+

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