

## Diocesan Confirmation Retreat

2018 - 2019

### (Sample Draft) Schedule

10:00 – 10:15 AM: Welcome/Rules

10:15 – 10:40 AM: Ice Breakers

10:40 – 11:00 AM: Morning Prayer

- Scripture- Read ACTS 2: 1-13
  - Reflection: The same Holy Spirit that inspired the Apostles to do amazing things 2000 years ago still stirs within us.
  - As we begin this retreat, may each of us be open to the Holy Spirit and it's call for us.
- Closing Prayer - <https://youtu.be/fEziNhDagTO>
- Hand out a small rock to each of the participants with the direction that they are asked to carry this rock for the length of the retreat.

11:00 – Noon: Small Group Activity (Choose of the Options)

- Spark Video Prayer
- Faith Scavenger Hunt

12:45 – 1:45 PM: Large Group 1/Small Group: Baptism

Loin King Media Clip ( Optional way to start talk)

Talk Should Include (15 Minutes)

- Sign & Symbols of Baptism
- God knows you by name
- You are Marked by Christ
- What is our response to being Called by God

Small Group:

- Share one idea about the talk.
- In Baptism, you become part of the Christian Community. What does it mean to be a member of the Christian Community? What do you receive? What are your responsibilities?
- Faith Activities
  - Magic Carpet- Place a tarp on the floor and have the entire group stand on the tarp. The goal is to flip the trap over to the opposite side without any member getting off the tarp.
    - What were the challenges of this activity? How can this activity be related to the Church?
  - Willow in the Wind- Have the group make a circle shoulder to shoulder with the youngest member of the group in the center. The person in the middle will cross

his/her arms over his/her chest and place his/her feet and knees together and be stiff like a board.

- The person in the middle will call out “Circle Ready” and the circle will respond “Ready”
  - After hearing that the circle is ready, the person in the middle will fall backwards and be gently passed around the circle.
  - Pass middle person around the circle 2 times and then invite a new person to enter the middle.
- Questions
    - Based on the activities and the talk, define faith in your own words?
    - What makes it difficult to have faith?
    - Who is a person who has supported you in your faith? How have they done this?
    - What are some specific ways that you can strengthen your faith?
    - Baptism makes you part of the Christian community. What do you receive as a member of the Christian Community? What responsibilities do you have?

1:45 – 2:45 PM: Free Time (with Snacks)

2:45 – 3:00 PM: Sweet Nell or something like it

3:00 – 4:00 PM: Large Group 2/Small Group: Confirmation

(Optional Media Clip – Parable of the Talents)

Talk should include:

- Personal Experience of Confirmation
- Explanation of Giftedness- Each of us has unique gifts from God
- Connect how the Holy Spirit works in everyday life
- Share about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how we use them

Small Group

- Share an insight that you have from the talk
- Looking at the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit Hand Out, are there any that you have questions about the gifts or the fruits? Look at each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and think about how you are already applying the gifts of Holy Spirit in your lives today.
- Think about your own life. Which gifts or fruit of the Holy Spirit do you feel you use often? Which gift or fruit would you like to improve upon.
- Activity- Candles
  - Hand out Candles to each of the Young people and invite them to begin by placing gifts on the candle that they feel God has given them to share. This can be done through word or drawings.
  - How each young person then write one Gift or Fruit of the Holy Spirit that they are comfortable with and one Gift or Fruit that they would like God’s help to improve.
  - With extra time, they can continue to decorate their candles.

4:00 – 5:00 PM Gather together as large Group and Share Gifts or Move to Reconciliation

Follow Reconciliation Service or the following:

(Circle the group around a table with two lighters. Turn of the light in the room)

- Read Matthew 5: 14-16
- Invite Participants to come to the table and share a Gift or Fruit of the Holy Spirit that they feel they use often or one which they would like to improve using
- Close with prayer or song

4:00 – 5:00 PM: If no Reconciliation Service - Mass Prep/Parish Time/Break Outs

5:00 – 5:45 PM: Supper (Find participants to help with the Mass Parts)

5:45 – 6:15 PM: Free Time

6:15 – 7:15 PM: Large Group 3/Small Group- Discipleship

Talk should include:

- Share about a time where you experienced God's love.
- Share about what it means to be a Disciple of Christ
- Share about humility and what it means to be merciful.
- Challenges to live as Disciples of Jesus. What makes it hard to live our faith?
- How does fear make it difficult to be a Disciple of Jesus?
- Explain how Sacramental Grace helps us to be closer to God and better disciples and witnesses to our faith.
- Express how the Sunday Eucharist provides us community to support and fuel us to be better disciples.

Small Group

- Share an insight that struck you during the talk.
- As a group, create a definition of what discipleship is.
- How does fear make it difficult to be Disciples of Jesus? What kind of fears make it difficult to be a disciple of Christ
- Talk about the Three ways we encounter Christ in the Sunday Eucharist ( In Each Other, The Word, and the Eucharist)
- At the end of Mass, the Priest will often say, "The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord." What does this mean to you?

(Optional) Parent Letters

- Jesus never sent his Disciples on their own. He always offered support. Today, we have a letter of support that we would like to share with you as you continue on your path to discipleship.
  - Hand out Parent Letters with soft music playing in the background.
  - After reading the letters, hand out paper and pens/pencils to participants so they can write a letter back to their parents

7:15 – 7:30 PM: Mass Prep/ Move to the Church

7:30 – 8:30 PM: Mass

8:30 -9:00 PM: Closing Prayer/Evaluation

- Invite participants to pull out their rocks that they were given at the beginning of the day.
  - Find out how many still have them
  - Talk about that faith is a gift that we always carry with us.
  - Faith is something that we can also lose if we are not careful
  - At times faith can be inconvenient. Like the rock, it may call us to do something we may not want to do.
  - Activity- Faith Rocks
    - But faith is also something to share. As we prepare to leave this retreat we invite you to place a faith message on the rock and then share the message by placing it in a rock pile in a public place where it can evangelize to others.
- Closing Prayer and Blessing of the Rocks
- Evaluations