

Dear Confirmation Participants,

I am sorry to be emailing you again with more updates and changes. Firstly, let me apologize for not doing a mass email sooner – I am still getting contact information forms in and I'm still missing people's information and I didn't want to send multiple copies out. With that being said – I would like to write to all of you and give you the updates about the program.

This year has been a challenge for everyone. I feel like I am constantly writing or updating everyone to say that we have had to alter and change the program to keep with the changing climate. I have tried to be open, honest and forthcoming with any information that I have, however, that has left many people frustrated and upset and for that I am sorry. To be clear, there was ample notice that the dates would be chosen for the late spring/summer months and the dates were chosen due to availability of those involved with the schedule and bookings for weddings/events in the church and church hall.

Due to significant angry parental feedback, we have had to make changes again to the program scheduled. After much discussion with Fr. Marciano about how to resolve the conflicts and concerns we have decided (at Fr. Marciano's recommendation) to push to program dates to the fall. There will be no changes in the overall end time – the students will still be confirmed in the fall – we have been trying to request a date with the Bishop in November. The format will stay the same with mini retreats including speakers and active participation. There will be no changes in expectations for assignments etc. The class dates have not been determined at this time as I will have to cross reference all availability for our speakers and the church hall bookings. I am looking to have the dates ready to give out in the next 2 weeks or so after I confirm all the loose ends. I will email these dates to everyone and I will also publish them in the bulletin again.

I will still make myself available on June 6th in the Church hall in person to answer any questions or meet with any students/parents who have concerns. I will also be available to collect any paperwork that you have (as it should be completed by this date). I would love to get everyone's paperwork done prior to the start in the fall as it will make the administrative side of the sacrament much easier going forward. I am still missing contact information for people and a few people are missing sponsors.

On an incredibly positive note – I wish you all luck with your community service assignment. You all have an incredible opportunity to make a positive impact on a young woman in our parish. The project "Sunflowers for Steph" will fulfill all the community service requirements – you do not have to submit a specific number of hours as in years past. Your kind words and outreach will give Steph the strength and joy to help support her spiritually as she continues to battle for her life. I spoke with her again today, she is struggling as her medical health is worse again – she was transferred to Boston for a specialist – her recovery timeline has been pushed out further. She will need all the prayers we can provide.

To Summarize:

- Summer Confirmation Dates have been cancelled.
- New dates for September/October will be scheduled and you will be notified soon.
- Sponsor Form Due June 6
- Saint Name Assignment/Form Due June 6
- Sunflowers for Steph – Community service project – Due by July (you may hand them into the office/collection basket as there are no classes)
- Confirmation Ceremony Date: Pending Bishop Approval (November likely)

If anyone has questions you may reach out to me by email or call me (401) 451-2523. I will be available after the noon Mass on June 6th in the Church hall to answer your questions in person. Please be kind and remember that I will respond as quickly as I can – if you email me in the middle of the day, I will be treating patients – repeated emails or calls won't expedite my response.

Sincerely,

Trish Meegan

Confirmation Director