



ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS SYLLABUS Spring 2018

Class Dates: All Classes on Monday's from 6:30-8:00 p.m.(time is flexible depending on needs of the group)

April 9,16,23,30 @ Sheil Catholic Center

Rehearsal: Monday, May 7th– 6:30 PM at Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago

Confirmation: Tuesday May 8th – 7:00 PM (plan to arrive between 6:15-6:30) @ Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago

Instructors:

Tim Higgins: t-higgins@u.northwestern.edu

Phone: 847-328-4648

Text Book: *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, July 31 2006.

Week 1: Monday April 9

Welcome!

1. What brought you here? Why be Confirmed now?
2. What do you think of when you hear the word “church”? What do you like about being Catholic? What are the challenges of being Catholic today?
3. The Creed – God, Jesus, Holy Spirit. Church = One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic

Logistical items forms, books, baptismal certificates.

Confirmation is a beginning, not an ending ...

READ: Chapters 5 and 11

Week 2: Monday April 16

The Sacramental Life:

1. A closer look at the seven sacraments with a particular emphasis on Confirmation.
2. Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
3. Sacraments of Healing – Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
4. Sacraments of Service – Marriage, Holy Orders

READ: Chapters 15-20 (Definitely read the chapter on Confirmation, plus one other sacrament of your choice.)

Week 3: Monday April 23

The Moral Life:

1. The 10 Commandments and the Beatitudes as guidelines for moral living
2. How to make a moral decision (think, pray, act)
3. What to do when there isn't a clear-cut right and wrong.

READ: Chapter 23; Chapters 25-34 (choose 1-2 to read in depth)

The Communal Life: Social Justice and Being a Disciple of Jesus

1. The importance of being in community and care for one another.
2. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy/ Catholic Social Teaching
3. The Call to Discipleship

READ: Chapter 24

Week 4: Monday April 30

The Prayer Life: Liturgy and Private Devotion

1. Importance of Liturgy
2. Ways of praying – devotions, discernment, communion of saints

READ: Read one chapter – Chapter 12 (Mary), Chapter 22 (Devotions), Chapters 35-36

The Bible – How Catholics read / study / understand the Bible
Translations, Lectionary, How to pray with the bible

READ: Chapters 1-3

REHEARSAL: Monday, May 7th – 6:30 PM at Holy Name Cathedral

Rehearsal and Reconciliation Service at Holy Name Cathedral

CONFIRMATION: Tuesday May 8th - 7:00 PM at Holy Name Cathedral

More details will follow about when/where to meet. You and your sponsor should plan to arrive between 6:15-6:30. For those who wish to carpool, we will gather at Sheil around 5:10 and drive/train to Holy Name together.

Sponsors

Your sponsor must be a confirmed Catholic over the age of 16, may be either a man or a woman, and be someone willing to walk the journey of faith with you. Sponsors are expected to attend the rehearsal and Reconciliation Service, and, of course, Confirmation on May 8th. They are certainly welcome to attend other preparation sessions, but it is not a requirement.

Documents

We will need a copy of your baptismal certificate by Monday, April 16th. Please write or call the church at which you were baptized and ask them to send you your certificate. We will also need the address of this church.

RESOURCE LIST

Some of these books are available in the Sheil Library. All of them are available online or through a local book store.

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, July 31 2006.

The Essential Catholic Handbook: A Summary of Beliefs, Practices, and Prayers. Liguori Publications, April 2004.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Catholicism - - a fun and factual look at all things Catholic. Bob O'Gorman and Mary Faulkner, Alpha Publishing, August 2006.

A Handbook for Today's Catholic. Liguori Publications, July 2004.

Catholicism by Richard P. McBrien, HarperCollins, 1994.

Why Stay Catholic: Unexpected Answers to a Life-Changing Question. Michael Leach. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2011.

Doors to the Sacred: A Historical Introduction to Sacraments in the Catholic Church. Joseph Martos. Triumph Books, 2001.