

# CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2017: PARENTS

I pray that your summer is going well. I have been in your place twice so far, that summer of 8<sup>th</sup> grade is jock full of change in your child. They are entering that space where they are quite done with being considered a child and yet at the same time they are not ready to be an adult; although they very much see themselves as adults.....

This is where your parenting wisdom is looked at as severely lacking ....CAUSE YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS LIKE TODAY..... sound familiar? Well in some ways we don't understand what our children encounter when they are not in our company. This is a time when your child needs you more than any other in their development. They are in the process of trying to figure out who they are and what they are supposed to do in this world. They will try on various attitudes, opinions, and activities just like they try on clothes in an effort to see what fits them best. While this is a very challenging time for parents and children alike the only true avenues through this time in their growing up is COMMUNICATION.

Be aware that your child will resist talking with you at all costs.....eating Brussels sprouts will be preferred to chatting with mom or dad; but it is your wisdom, values, and support that they truly seek. Now is the optimal time for you, as your child's primary catechist, to initiate your role in preparing your teenager for the reception of Confirmation. *Faith is caught not taught.* As your child struggles to clarify their own conviction, attitudes, and values, you as their parent, are their chief role models!

With that in mind your **HOMEWORK**, yes I did type those letters, is to ask yourself and reflect on the following questions:

- Do I keep lines of communication open with my teenager?
- Do I make time for prayer, both private and communal?
- Do I actively participate in the sacramental life of the Church?
- Do I try to grow in knowledge of the faith and share it with my family?
- Do I give loving service to those inside and outside my family circle?
- Am I involved with parish activities as much as I could be?

During the summer encourage and support your young teen's efforts to prepare for this sacrament by:

- helping them discover ways to serve others (a list of suggested projects is posted under the Confirmation tab of the parish website [ww.stgilesparish.org](http://www.stgilesparish.org)),
- attend Sunday liturgy as a family
- pray together as a family at home
- read the Sunday scriptures together,
- witness your own faith in words and actions.
- Assist them in the process of selecting their sponsor (a rubric may be found in the candidate packet, also found under the Confirmation tab of our parish webpage).

Above all, please remember that faith lived and celebrated in the family makes a lasting impression. The entire catechetical staff here at St. Giles parish is looking forward to sharing this time of spiritual growth in the life of your child.