

St. Stanislaus Church  
1598 Main Street, PO Box 558  
Pleasant Valley, New York 12569  
(845) 635-1700  
CONFIRMATION 2018

## FOR PARENT ONLY

February 2018

Dear Parents,

This letter will give you information regarding the Confirmation Retreat on April 6 – 7, 2018. I know it seems long but it covers a lot of very important information and I ask that you read it in its entirety.

Enclosed please find a permission slip and contract for the retreat. I ask that you read each one carefully, sign where indicated and return it to me as soon as possible. **No Confirmation Candidate will be allowed to attend the retreat program without both of these papers.**

Regarding the retreat, as I previously advised, it will be held on Friday, April 6 to Saturday, April 7 at the Vincent Pallotti Retreat House in Monroe, New York about an hour away. The candidates will be asked to arrive here at St. Stanislaus by 6:00pm. Please make sure your child has eaten dinner before coming. Once they have arrived at St. Stanislaus, no food will be permitted. We will be leaving by bus at 6:15pm and will arrive at the retreat house around 7:30pm. We will be returning to St. Stanislaus on Saturday by 6:30pm.

As you also know the retreat program is a FAST. All participants will go without food for the duration of the retreat. There will be scheduled juice and cracker breaks. I will ask your assistance in this matter. Please make sure that your child does not bring any food items with him/her. This includes all kinds of candy and gum. If your child has a medical condition that requires them to eat more substantial meals, I ask that you contact me and arrangements will be made to accommodate these needs. In these cases we will also ask that you provide any food items that your child requires since the cost of the retreat does not include meals.

Please take special notice of #8 on the Retreat Contract: We ask that your child not bring anything that will isolate them from the rest of the group such as personal mp3 players, gameboys, ipods etc. We would like them to be totally focused on the program, so we ask that they also leave home all cell phones and watches. These items only serve to distract them. I have told the students that they can bring music if the music is of an appropriate nature, as well as any musical instruments. However these items are to be used in the common areas of the retreat house. Here is the phone number to my own personal Cell phone should there be a need to contact your child 845-242-5208.

Your child will not need to pack much since we will be there only one night. They should bring their own toiletries and **towels**, something to sleep in and clothing for the next day. The retreat house has beds with sheets and pillows etc, so there is no need to bring bedding. Due to Health Department regulations, we ask that the teens **not** bring any additional pillows or stuffed animals.

Boys and girls will be separated for sleeping and they will be well chaperoned, however we ask that the candidates bring appropriate clothes to sleep in.

There is another matter in which I will need your help. During the retreat we of course ask for your prayers, but I would like your children to know that you support them and encourage them in this very important step in becoming Confirmed Catholics. I would ask that you write a letter telling them just this. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to share your own faith experiences with them, to tell them how much you love them and how proud you are of them. Similar letters from other family members and friends, especially their sponsors would also enhance this time for them. **We want these letters to be a surprise for the students so I ask that you get these letters to me directly.** I can not begin to tell you the impact these letters have on the kids. In the past there have been several children without any letters from family or friends so I encourage you to begin immediately to prepare these very important letters.

Another surprise we have planned for the candidates is a celebration when they return on Saturday at 6:30. Members of all the parish organizations will be preparing and serving a meal to the retreat participants. This will be a representation of the entire parish community welcoming them home again. We hope this is a wonderful and memorable event for them, so we ask you to invite family members, friends, and sponsors etc, to also be present to welcome them home. You could bring balloons, flowers etc. to give to your son or daughter, anything to make the day more festive and happy. Light refreshments will be available to you and your guests while the candidates are having dinner. I know that the candidates will be tired after their long weekend but this is a very important part of the retreat experience and I ask that you help to make it a special time for them. Last year there were a few parents that were not on hand to welcome back their child and this caused disappointment. We do not want the wonderful retreat experience to be darkened with a sad ending. So I ask that if you cannot personally be there to greet your son or daughter, please make arrangements for someone else to be there with a smiling face and warm hug and make sure your child knows you will not be present to bring them home. This again is a **SURPRISE** for the students! We are asking that each family bring a finger dessert, nothing that needs to be cut. If you wish to assist in planning the reception please contact MaryAnne Thompsett at 266-5303.

I think this covers just about everything. If you should have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 635-1700 ext 10

May God Bless you,

Andrea Tighe  
Confirmation Coordinator

Hope Andrews  
Confirmation Catechist