

St. Victoria Confirmation Program Mission and Vision

The St. Victoria Confirmation program is focused on providing a unique opportunity for each candidate to **EXPLORE HIS OR HER FAITH AND THE MEANING IT CAN HAVE IN THEIR LIVES**. We strive to provide students the opportunity to discover the beauty of the Catholic faith, to build a connection and a deeper sense of belonging to the community of the Church, and to personally encounter Jesus and cultivate a more profound relationship with Him. There are three elements.

First, we provide an opportunity for each student to **GROW IN UNDERSTANDING AND DEEPER APPRECIATION OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH**. We present students Catholic teachings in what we call the "first catechetical moment". Then, more importantly, we provide the "second catechetical moment", which is an opportunity to **REFLECT ON WHAT THE TEACHING MEANS IN THEIR LIVES**. We recognize Candidates for confirmation will always have varying levels of catechetical and theological knowledge, so we are not trying to deliver theological teaching which could be "tested out of", but instead the focus is to allow students in small groups to ask questions, hear differing perspectives, and further explore and enrich what they already know. In small groups, teens wrestle with questions they must ask in order to fully embrace the Church's truth as their personal truth. Confirmation is dedicated to presenting a lifelong process of coming to deeper faith, which by the grace of the Holy Spirit and God's enormous love, we believe can lead to transformation of the heart, mind, and soul.

Secondly, we invite students to come into a **DEEPER SENSE OF BELONGING, BOTH WITH THEIR CONFIRMATION PEERS AND THE PARISH**. Small groups are the key element to our program as they provide an ideal setting for students to connect, build trust, open their hearts, and form relationships. Students are encouraged to share their experiences, success, and struggles with their faith. It's exciting to see students encounter Christ through encounters with one another. Students are both receivers and givers, being Jesus to each other. As their small group becomes important to them, the parish and Catholic Church become important too. An understanding of faith as a "me and Jesus" thing transforms into an understanding of faith as a "we and Jesus" thing, in which we support each other as we explore our faith together, serve together, and celebrate His presence in the community of the Church.

Finally, we encourage our students to **PERSONALLY ENCOUNTER JESUS CHRIST**, so their faith can truly come alive. Building our relationship with Christ is a lifelong journey. Confirmation provides the structure, opportunity, and safety to engage in that work. Teens benefit from small group discussions, service, retreats, and the reflections on what these experiences, and ultimately, Jesus means in their lives. Confirmation provides students a **UNIQUE OPENING TO EXPLORE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST AND CLAIM IT FOR THEIR OWN**.

It is our hope that through St. Victoria's Confirmation program, student's experience, at least in some small way, the "God of sweet love" who accepts them unconditionally, the "radical hospitality" of a community that cares, and through service opportunities, gets a taste of what it is like to engage in "bold acts of charity and justice". Our Confirmation program invites all students to encounter their faith, encounter each other as one Catholic community, and encounter Jesus. It is our hope that the Confirmation program will deepen our youth's desire to continue their faith journey in the community of the Catholic Church with an even deeper desire to reach out as the face and hands of Jesus Christ.