



ALL SAINTS'

EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents of 7th and 8th Grade Students,

Baptism initiates us into the body of Jesus Christ known as the Church. The intention is to introduce the new Christian into a loving community of believers who take on the responsibility to nurture and guide their faith and worship. One of the prayers at Baptism is for God to give the new Christian "an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage and will to persevere, a spirit to know and love (God), and the gift of joy and wonder in all (God's) works." (BCP pg. 308) Since baptism usually occurs during infancy or early childhood, it becomes important for new Christians at a later point of maturity to explore the promises made on their behalf and decide whether or not they want to confirm these promises. The Church developed the sacrament of Confirmation to be the process by which the new Christian decides.

For the past few years All Saints' Episcopal Church and Day School has offered confirmation preparation for students in the 6th grade. Beginning in the fall of 2010, students are eligible to be confirmed in 7th and 8th grade after having completed a period of preparation. All Saints' Confirmation preparation includes prayer, study and service, related to the faith and worship life within the traditions of the Episcopal Church. For those 7th and 8th grade students who wish to be involved in the confirmation process at All Saints', we offer the following:

For Parish Families: Tuesday Evening Classes

As part of our Sunday morning worship community, your 7th or 8th grade student is invited to participate in a Tuesday evening Confirmation class at All Saints'. Students will meet with members of our clergy and youth ministry staff as they prepare for their Confirmation in May. Classes will begin on September 14 and will meet twice a month, from 6:30-8:00pm. Because of the limited number of gatherings during this academic-year program, we consider attendance in class and at all scheduled events mandatory.

For Day School Students: Day School Retreats

If your child has completed 6th grade religious studies at All Saints', he or she is invited to participate in three mandatory Confirmation preparation retreats, scheduled for February 4, March 4 and April 8 from 3:30-7:00 pm. The Rector, clergy, and staff, will teach and prepare students to be confirmed. Enrollment is in September through the Director of Children and Family Ministries in the church office. There will be required reading and assignments to be completed throughout the school year, prior to the retreats. If other commitments [sports, family, and school] do not allow faithful attendance to even one of the retreats, we recommend waiting until your child has the time and space needed to prepare well for Confirmation. There is \$100 fee for materials and supplies.

If you are a parish family and have a student enrolled in 7th or 8th grade at the Day School, you may choose either one of the above choices for your child.

Confirmation will take place at All Saints' on Sunday, May 8, 2011 at 11am, and is performed by The Rt. Rev. Kirk S. Smith, the Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Arizona. This rite is celebrated by parish students, Day School students, and adults.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the students of All Saints' Episcopal Church & Day School. If you have any questions, please contact Cristina Hatton in the church office, chatton@allsaints.org or 602-279-5539, ext. 116.

Peace and joy,

Cristina Hatton
Director of Children and Family Ministries