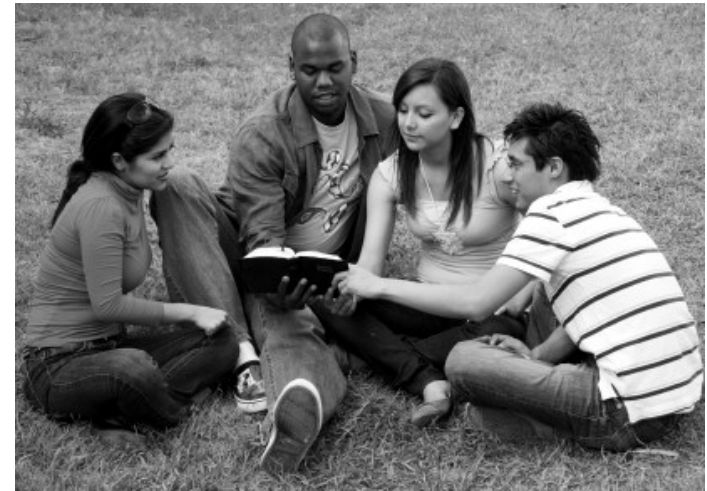


**SAINTS MARY AND JOSEPH PARISH**

**A COMPREHENSIVE  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
EXPERIENCE FOR HIGH  
SCHOOL YOUTH**

*Come and See!*



**The schedule for the 2011-2012 year  
is provided early so that you may prioritize your  
child's faith formation with other activities.**

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Saints Mary and Joseph Parish  
200 Lawrence Road  
Salem, NH 03079  
[www.ssmaryjosephparish.org](http://www.ssmaryjosephparish.org)



Orientation and Sign-Up Nights for  
Worship/Prayer, Service/Evangelization and  
other Catechetical choices:



**Emmaus Experience**  
Tuesday, September 6th  
5pm at St Julie Hall  
or  
Sunday, September 11th  
5pm at St Joe's Gym

**Immediate Preparation  
for Confirmation**  
Tuesday, September 6th  
7pm at St Julie Hall  
or  
Sunday, September 11th  
7pm at St Joe's Gym

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Most Holy Spirit,  
I have a mission,  
the work which Jesus Christ has left for me,  
the purpose for which I was born.  
But I need Your help,  
Your Presence in my life to succeed.



Share Your **WISDOM**, that I will see the solution to problems  
and use my energy to solve instead of complain.

Fill me with **UNDERSTANDING** of God's Word and how it  
applies to my life.  
Untangle the confusion of the decisions I face.

**COUNSEL** me,  
Show me the way to Christian living and make me strong  
against the temptations surrounding me.

Grant me **COURAGE**, especially when my efforts seem to fail  
and I feel like giving up.

Give me **KNOWLEDGE** to see the truth about You, myself,  
my family, my friends, my church and my world.

Make me more **LOVING** and **REVERENT**,  
That I will build up rather than tear down,  
Forgive rather than hold grudges,  
See the value of each person and of Your creation,  
Think of others before myself.

Fill me with **AWE and WONDER** so as to help me praise  
Your greatness and Your unlimited love through my  
thoughts, my words, my actions... my life.  
Amen



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## HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Several years ago the National Conference of Catholic Bishops created a document entitled:

### *Renewing the Vision:*

Within that document, the following goals for the Church's ministry for youth were described:

- To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today
- To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community
- To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person

A comprehensive approach to ministry to, with and for youth utilizes the following eight components: Advocacy, Catechesis, Community Life, Evangelization, Justice and Service, Leadership Development, Pastoral Care and Prayer and Worship.

How does Confirmation fit in? As directed by the diocese, Confirmation preparation is to be a part of High School Ministry, not the only component. Confirmation is the third sacrament of initiation and it completes one's Baptism. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states **"A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs."**

Confirmation is not a graduation from religious ed, but rather your choosing to say 'YES' to WANTING God to be more in your life, YOU WANT to live your life in keeping with the Way of Jesus, YOU WANT to continue growing and learning, and YOU WANT to join in the Church's mission to continue Jesus' ministry to establish the Kingdom of God. *Consider what the above quote from the Catechism is saying and implying... especially in regards to assuming the role of disciple in our world. That's huge!* Would you choose to join an organization/team but not go to meetings/practices/games? Therefore, **your coming to Mass each weekend will tell us how serious, sincere and genuine your desire for Confirmation is.**

## Immediate Preparation for Confirmation KEEPING ON TRACK

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Items needing to be turned in:

- \_\_\_ Baptismal Form before December 11, 2011  
(if baptized here, need to know when and which church)
- \_\_\_ Sponsor Form before December 11, 2011
- \_\_\_ Letter of Intent before December 11, 2011

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Weekly Mass

Triduum

Confirmation Rite of Intention, May 20, 2011 & Rite of Election, Sept. 2012

Adoration

Retreat

Reconciliation with sponsor/parents, September 2012

Pizza and Prayer Night

Pizza and Prayer Night experienced: \_\_\_\_\_

## CATECHESIS

5 Immediate Prep classes, completed Option \_\_\_\_\_  
Faith Sharing with sponsor over the Summer of 2012  
Confirmation Interview with parish priest or deacon

Interview Date \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_  
Time \_\_\_\_\_

## SERVICE AND EVANGELIZATION:

Daily seek to develop a caring and compassionate heart that seeks to serve and one of the parish service activities below:

Planning and hosting parish liturgical experience like the Blessing of the Animals, Mass of Healing, Reconciliation Service for Middle School or Emmaus Experience Group, or Prayer of Lament and Hope, NFP bead project for Haiti, Assisting with Middle School Religious Ed Classes or Happy Days Vacation Bible School, March for Life in DC, Workcamp Summer Mission Trip, Passion Play, 24 Hour Famine for World Hunger, or other suggested Opportunity.

Parish Service Event:  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Emmaus Experience

KEEPING ON TRACK

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Weekly Mass

10:45 Mass at MQP with parents on November 20 & January 29

Adoration at class

Reconciliation

Retreat

One of the following:

*Praying with the monks at St. Anselm, The Sights and Sounds of Holy Week, Advent Song or Lenten Story and Song, or other suggested opportunity.*

Prayer and Worship Experience:

---

## CATECHESIS

Each of the class sessions of Option \_\_\_\_\_

and 1 elective: March for Life in Concord, March for Life in DC, Museum of Russian icons, Workcamp, Circles of Care with Officer Matt and Mo Shyne, or Human Sexuality: God's Plan for Love and Life

Elective:

---

## SERVICE AND EVANGELIZATION:

Daily seek to develop a caring and compassionate heart that seeks to serve, as well as serve at Cor Unum one night...

Cor Unum, date served \_\_\_\_\_

and a parish service activity like: Altar serving, Choir, Religious Ed elementary class assistant, NFP Beads for Haiti, March for Life in Concord, Jan 14, March for Life in DC, Jan. 22-23, Famine to feed the hungry, Feb 3-4, Famine Orientation on Jan 11, Passion Play for April 1, Happy Days Vacation Bible School, Workcamp Summer Mission Trip, or other suggested opportunity.

Parish service event:

---



In a discernment process as to how to build on the foundation that has already been constructed by those before us, with the guidance of recent catechetical documents and input from parish staffs and catechists, the Diocese of Manchester developed a Pastoral Plan for Catechesis entitled:

*Feed My Sheep: Nourishing Disciples.*

The document states that parish programs are to reflect lifelong faith formation inspired by the baptismal catechumenate (i.e. RCIA), and the programming for youth ought to follow a comprehensive youth ministry model, active participation of the parish community, and incorporate a spirit of evangelization. In regarding Confirmation specifically, the document states:

*Confirmation catechesis teaches that Confirmation increases and deepens the grace of Baptism. It is important that preparation emphasizes and strengthens the "baptismal conferral of the Holy Spirit" (NDC, p 123) and prepares candidates to witness to their faith in their words and deeds.*

*In addition to preparation in a comprehensive youth ministry program within a parish and/or theology classes and Campus Ministry in a Catholic High School, the Diocese recommends that immediate preparation for Confirmation consist of a six to eight week period of preparatory catechesis. The preparation should include the rites, symbols, the connection to Baptism, the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and living as disciples of Jesus Christ. Parents and sponsors should be actively involved in the catechetical preparation as well as be provided resources to help them understand and fulfill their role.*

*Spiritual experiences and service opportunities are an integral part of vibrant parish communities. As members of the parish, candidates for Confirmation will benefit from the witness and example of all the baptized responding to their call to holiness and to serve others, especially those in need. These experiences and opportunities include prior catechesis to prepare the candidates and other parishioners and a reflection afterward to understand what was experienced and to explore what effect it had on them personally and as a group.*

To read the whole document, go to the diocesan website  
[www.catholicnh.org](http://www.catholicnh.org)

## RENEWING OUR HEARTS

### The Emmaus Experience

#### WORSHIP and PRAYER:

Attendance at Mass each weekend, 10:45 Mass at MQP with parents on November 20 & January 29, Retreat, Adoration at class, the Passion Play, reconciliation and 1 of the following: Praying with the monks at St. Anselm, The Sights and Sounds of Holy Week, Advent Song or Lenten Story and Song or another opportunity presented at the September meeting..

**CATECHESIS: one of the class options on next page , and 1 elective:** March for Life in Concord, March for Life in DC, Museum of Russian icons, Workcamp, or Human Sexuality: God's Plan for Love & Life , & other opportunities presented at Sept mtg.



#### SERVICE AND EVANGELIZATION

Service is the way we express our commitment to living as Jesus calls us. The gifts we have been given are meant for the good of others. When a person freely chooses to share his/her giftedness to meet the needs of another, help make life easier and happier for another, Jesus is made more present. It is the goal that we all continue to become Jesus' feet, hands, eyes, heart and voice in our world... to develop a servant-heart. **In addition to developing a servant-heart and to serving once at Cor Unum, teens are asked to participate in at least 1 of the following parish opportunities:** Altar serving, Lectoring, Choir, Religious Ed elementary class assistant, NFP Beads for Haiti, March for Life in Concord, Jan 14, March for Life in DC, Jan. 22-23, Famine to feed the hungry, Feb 3-4, (*Famine Orientation on Jan 11*), Passion Play for April 1, Workcamp Summer Mission Trip and other opportunities presented at September meeting.

#### COR UNUM

Each teen is asked to participate at least once in helping to serve a meal at Cor Unum Meal Center. Teens will choose from a list of dates which we have committed to serve as a parish. Members of the Youth Ministry team will be working side by side as teens serve those who are in need in our local community. If you have any questions, call or e-mail Shawn McDonough.

## IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

### Confirmation Specifics

**Date for Confirmation:**  
Fall 2012, when the Bishop's Office lets us know, we'll let you know!  
**Rehearsal for Confirmation:**  
TBA



### Baptismal Certificate:

ALL Candidates need to turn in a copy of their baptismal certificate... unless you were baptized here. Please inform us if you were baptized here.

Note: BAPTISMAL certificates,  
Not birth certificates... we know you were born!  
We need to know you were baptized!

### Sponsor

A sponsor is someone who:

- Celebrates the Eucharist regularly
- Is at least 16 years of age and is confirmed
- Models for you what an authentic faithful Catholic Christian is
- Is willing to support and encourage you on your faith journey
- If married, must be in a valid marriage
- Returns sponsor form signed by their pastor and imprinted with their parish seal

### Confirmation Name

In Scripture we have examples of people's names being changed when they were given a new role or when they experienced a conversion. Abram and Sarai's names changed to Abraham and Sarah when they become believers in the One God. When Jesus appointed him the leader of the apostles, Simon's name changed to Peter. Saul, who persecuted the first Christians, changed his name to Paul when he became an apostle. Because Confirmation celebrates your being fully-initiated into the Church, and it could be a significant faith-life moment where you sincerely commit to growing and being a disciple of Jesus, choosing a Confirmation name reflects this intention. You may choose the name you were baptized with, therefore confirming what was celebrated when you were baptized. Or you may choose the name of a saint who represents for you what a Christian should be, therefore reminding you of your commitment to live as a disciple.

## IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

From the 2010-2011 evaluation process, it was noted by many that smaller classes would be preferable and more time was needed for other opportunities. In consideration of these suggestions, and to provide a couple different scheduling Options in understanding the fullness of family schedules, Confirmation will be celebrated in the Fall.

There are a couple catechetical options for the Immediate Preparation for Confirmation from which to choose:

**Option 5: Sunday nights, 6-7:30 at St Julie Hall**  
March 11, 18 and 25  
April 15  
May 6

**Option 6: Mondays, May-June, 6-7:30 at MQP**  
May 7, 14 and 21  
June 4 and 11

**Option 7: Summer 2012 S-Th, 6-7:30pm, St Julie Hall**  
June 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

Classes will reflect on who the Holy Spirit is, the gifts and fruit of the Spirit, the symbols, ritual action, history and theology of Confirmation.

**With only 5 classes,  
Participation at ALL classes is expected.**

**Orientations to sign up for  
Elective and service opportunities are  
Tuesday, September 6th at 7pm at St Julie Hall and  
Sunday, September 11th at 7pm at St Joe's gym.  
Teens and parents need to attend just one.**

## RENEWING OUR HEARTS

### The Emmaus Experience



The Emmaus Experience **begins the discernment process as one considers Confirmation** and is open to all high school youth. It consists of catechetical time, an elective and service. There are a couple catechetical options from which to choose:

**Option 1: Sunday nights weekly for half the year, 6-7:30pm at St. Julie Hall**

September 25 (with parents)      November 6 and 20  
October 2, 16, 23 and 30      December 4 (with parents)  
*and Circles of Care Nov. 13, 6:30 at St Julie Hall*

**Option 2: Wednesdays monthly 6-7:30pm in SJ Family Room (below the church)**

September 28 (with parents)      January 4  
October 19      February 8  
November 9      March 21  
December 7      April 11 (with parents)  
*and Circles of Care Nov. 13, 6:30 at St Julie Hall*

**Option 3: Summer 2012, M-Th, 6-7:30m, St Julie Hall**

July 30 (with parents), July 31, August 1 & 2 and  
August 6, 7, 8 and 9 (9th with parents)  
*and Circles of Care Nov. 13, 6:30 at St Julie Hall*

**Option 4: Catholic High School Students**  
First 2 classes of either Option 1, 2 or 3

**With only 8-9 classes,  
participation at ALL classes is expected.**

**Orientations to sign up for  
elective and service opportunities are  
Tuesday, September 6th at 7pm at St Julie Hall and  
Sunday, September 11th at 5pm at St Joe's .** Page 7  
**Teens and parents need to attend just one.**



## IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

Teens are free to respond to God's call to live their faith more deeply: to worship, to witness, to serve and to continue to grow in faith as a confirmed Christian. We challenge youth and their families to not "go through the motions", but to approach Confirmation with sincerity and integrity... one does not need to be confirmed to be married in the Church (*though if people want to be married in the Church, they are saying they want God to be a part of their marriage, so doesn't it then make sense to confirm your faith?*)

If one doesn't intend to celebrate Mass on a regular basis, is she/he meaning the "YES" at Confirmation to live as God calls us to live? The challenge is to say what we mean and mean what we say. Confirmation is available at any time from this point on... it doesn't have to happen this year or next. Ideally it ought to be celebrated when YOU mean it. Faith is a journey... each person is at a different place...

If seeking to confirm their faith, teens who have completed the Emmaus Experience and are in grades 10-12 are asked to write a letter of intent to the pastor and parish describing their readiness:.

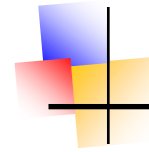
The following are the guidelines in writing the letter...  
BE TRUTHFUL: do not tell us what you think we want to hear!

*Greeting:*

*Dear Fr. John and Parishioners of Ss Mary & Joseph Parish,*

1. *Body of the Letter:*
2. *Paragraph 1: introduce yourself, describe your background.*
3. *Paragraph 2: Request the Sacrament of Confirmation, explaining why you want to be confirmed.*
4. *Paragraph 3: Describe how the parish/people in the parish, classes, service experiences, youth ministry activities has helped you in understanding what it means to be a Catholic Christian.*
5. *Paragraph 4: Tell how you plan to live out your Confirmation.*
6. *Conclude the letter and sign*

Send to Sue Levesque at the parish office  
**before DECEMBER 11th**



## IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

### IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

**ORIENTATION & SERVICE NIGHT: SEPT 7 or 11, 2011**

**Spiritual Discernment:**

*A brief discussion of letter of intent with adult mentor*  
January date tba

**WORSHIP and PRAYER:**

Attendance at Mass each week, Rites of Intention and Enrollment, Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, Retreat, Reconciliation, Adoration and 1 Pizza & Prayer Night

Rite of Intention at parish liturgy	May 20, 2011
Rite of Enrollment at parish liturgy	Sept 2012
Reconciliation with sponsors/parents	Sept 2012
Confirmation	Oct-Nov 2012

**Catechesis:**

Each class from one of the options (*no absences*), Youth and Sponsor/Parent faith sharing (on their own) during the Summer, Interview with Parish priest or deacon

**SERVICE and EVANGELIZATION:**

develop a servant heart and participate in one of the following:  
Planning and hosting parish liturgical experiences like the Blessing of the Animals, aMass of Healing, or Prayer of Lament and Hope, NFP bead project for Haiti, Assisting with Middle School Religious Ed Classes or Happy Days Vacation Bible School, March for Life in DC, Workcamp Mission Trip, the Passion Play, 24 Hour Famine for World Hunger, and other opportunities presented at the September Meeting.

*Mystagogia (looking at life after Confirmation)*

**A special gathering with dinner for the newly confirmed  
will be held a week or so after Confirmation ...**