

Saint Dennis Confirmation Class Calendar 2019/2020

Get ready for some new freedom, some dangerous permission, some hope from nowhere, some unexpected happiness, some stumbling stones, some radical grace, and some new and pressing responsibility for yourself and for our suffering world. Richard Rohr

September 22	9:00 am– 11:00 am	Class: Parent/Student Meeting Parent Talk & Small Group Kick-Off
October 6	9:00 am – 11:30 am	Class: Leap of Faith Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast
October 27	9:00 am – 11:30 am	Class: Student & Sponsor
November 3	9:00 am – 12:00 am	Class: Spiritual Advising, The Holy Spirit, Nursing Home Project Meeting
December 1	9:00 am – 11:30pm	Class: Prayer
January 12	9:00 am – 11:30 am	Class:
January 26	9:00 am – 12:00pm	Class: Spiritual Advising, Nursing Home Service Project, Dust
February 1	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Pizza Factory (optional)
February 2	8:00 am – Noon	Pizza Sale
February 23	9:00 am – 11:30 pm	Class
February 26	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Soup & Service
March 1	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Parish Mission
March 2	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	Parish Mission
March 8	6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Parent/Sponsor/Student Class Cards You Were Dealt
March 14	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Confirmation Retreat
March 29	9:00 am – 11:30 pm	Year in Review, Jeopardy, Party
April 2	7:00 pm	Communal Penance
April/May	TBD	Confirmation

In addition: Two Sponsor meetings outside of class using Sponsor Book. 7 hours of service at Saint Dennis. All service hours must be approved and completed at Saint Dennis Parish. No exceptions.

Sunday, September 22, 2019



Parent & Student Meeting

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you....” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Schedule

10:15 Donuts & Milk

10:20 Deacon David- Welcome & Catechist Introduction

10:30 Overview of the year (God Has a Plan) - Deacon David

10:40 Room A: Parent Meeting

Room B: Student Small Group Kick-Off- M&M Icebreaker

This icebreaker is a simple way to help people introduce facts about themselves. It's very flexible and adaptable – and (if you have a sweet tooth) delicious too! The M&Ms Game goes by other names: The Skittles Game, the Candy Game, the Color Game, among other names.

Setup- Pour M&Ms or any other multicolor candy into a bowl. Have everyone in the group grab as much or as little as they like from the bowl. Make sure that no one eats their candy right away.

How to Play- For each piece of M&M candy they took, they will have to answer a question, depending on its color. For example, you can designate:

- Red candy: favorite hobbies
- Green candy: favorite foods
- Yellow candy: favorite movies
- Orange candy: favorite places to travel
- Brown candy: most memorable or embarrassing moments
- Blue candy: wild cards (they can share anyone they choose)

11:00 Dismissal

Saint Dennis High School Faith Formation Class

Sunday, October 6, 2019



Leap of Faith

***“Faith isn’t a feeling. It’s a choice to trust God even when
the road ahead seems uncertain.”***

-DaveWillis.org

Schedule

10:00 Go directly to school gym

11:00 Video: Chosen – Leap of Faith: Session 4, Segment 3

11:10 Small group discussion

11:25 Large group closing and prayer

11:30 End of Class

Sunday, October 6, 2019



Small group discussion questions (Leap of Faith)

Begin by going over the video and discussing. What stuck out to them? What spoke to them?

Talk about what it means to take risks. What are some examples of risk-taking?

1. When you jump out of an airplane, you trust the person who is flying the airplane and the person who packs the parachute. But you are still taking a risk. Is it the same thing with our faith? Do we take a risk in trusting God? What sort of risks could they be?
2. It can be hard to fully allow yourself to trust someone. Who do you trust? Do you trust your parents/family? Friends? Other relationships? Are you ever afraid to trust them? Do you doubt their trust?
3. Are you afraid to trust God? Why?
4. What are some ways you could work on trusting God more in your life?
5. Faith is a lifelong and daily decision. How can you make it a daily effort to keep your faith even through the difficult times?

Saint Dennis High School Faith Formation Class

Sunday, October 27, 2019



Prayer

Schedule

10:15 Donuts & Milk

10:20 Icebreaker

10:30 Welcome and Overview

OPENING PRAYER:

TURN AND TALK

- What kinds of things make you restless or anxious?
- What do you do to relieve stress in your life? To what extent do those things make you less stressed out?
- What prevents you from being able to be still, rest, and reflect on your life?

10:45 Open

11:00 SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

11:25 CLOSING PRAYER

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Almighty God and Father, I have tried to understand your love for me and the entire people of God you created for your glory. I don't claim to fully understand your love, but I am trying to open myself to you and the love you have planned for me from the beginning. I know that you have loved me and blessed me in ways I could not have imagined. So please, dear Father, help me to remember your great love, when I wonder about my worthiness, when I fall into doubt, when I am inclined to be unloving. I want your love to be reflected in my daily life. Thank you for loving us in a way we can understand. And thank you for loving us first.

Amen.

11:30 End of Class



Open

1. How do you pray? What do you pray for? What are some situations you've prayed for that didn't end up the way you'd hoped?
2. Does God answer prayer? Do you think sometimes he says no? If God's gonna do what God's gonna do, then why do we pray?
3. Are there things in your life right now that you wish were different? Stuff you're dealing with? Situations you're going through? Are you up for whatever God has in mind?
4. Do you believe that God has invited you to take part in the ongoing creation of the world? If so, what does that mean in your day-to-day life?
5. Are you angry with God about something that's happened in your life? Do you tell friends and family what you're feeling but not God? Why or why not?
6. Is there a role God is calling you to play in a situation you're struggling with right now? Have you expected God or someone else to take on that role?
7. Is prayer about changing you or about changing what's happening? How could prayer change your perspective right now?

Sunday, November 3, 2019



Confirmation & Sponsors: Grabbing the Starfish in Life

Schedule

10:15 Donuts & Milk

10:20 Deacon David – Overview of Confirmation and Sponsor expectations

10:30 Video- Shells

10:40 Small Groups/Deacon David meet with sponsors

11:00 Prayer and Blessing

Shells

"I'm not that convinced that many people really truly need an even better cell phone, with more features. But it seems like a lot of people never stop moving, going from place to place and meeting to meeting ... so busy. And yet life in some sense is passing them by."

1. How do you feel about the pace of your life?
1. In what ways do you feel life is passing you by?

"There's this whole village that wants him to stay and he basically says, "No, got to go." There's this opportunity to do so much good, help so many people, and he turns it down! Jesus doesn't do everything."

1. Have you ever walked away from something good? Why or why not?

Jesus has a compass. He has an orientation. He has a way to orient his life, a path that he's on. Jesus says no because he's already said yes. He's very clear on what his life is about. Do you have a hard time saying no? Or perhaps there's a better question - what is it that you have said yes to? Because you can't say no until you've said yes to something else.

1. Do you know someone who has this kind of purpose? How is their life different?
1. What is your life about? How could answering that question help you to be more focused?
1. How can we avoid letting the expectations of others dictate what we do? When was the last time you were able to retreat?
1. Do your choices drive you toward the "one thing" in your life?
1. Who or what is suffering in your life because you're busy doing so many good things?
1. What are the shells that keep you from grabbing hold of your starfish? What would it take to drop them?

May you drop your shells in the pursuit of a simple, disciplined, focused life in which you pursue the few things God has for you. And may you be like Jesus, able to say no, because you've already... said yes!

Sunday, December 1, 2019



Spiritual Advising, Breathe, Nursing Home Christmas Project

Schedule

10:15 Donuts, milk, & overview

10:20 Group A: Spiritual Advising
Group B: Nooma Breathe
Group C: Nursing Home Christmas Project

10:55 Group C: Spiritual Advising
Group A: Nooma Breathe
Group B: Nursing Home Christmas Project

11:30 Group B: Spiritual Advising
Group C: Nooma Breathe
Group A: Nursing Home Christmas Project

12:00 Dismissal

Sunday, January 12, 2020



Rich & The Belize Project

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” (1 Timothy 6: 17)

Schedule

- 10:00 Donuts & Milk
- 10:15 Announcements: Service opportunities, Pizza Factory, Movie, January 26 Spiritual Advising class to Noon.
- 10:20 Ice Breaker: Rock, Paper, Scissors Contest
- 10:35 Presentation: Rich
- 10:50 Small Group Discussion (spend 5 minutes catching up with your group since last class)
- 11:10 Presentation: Barb’s Belize Video, Belize experience with past participants
- 11:25 Change for Belize Project: Explanation and distribution of cans)
- 11:30 End of class



Rich

1. What do you generally associate with someone who's considered rich? Do you consider yourself rich?
2. Is what you have, your stuff, outdated and not-good-enough? Compared to what or who?

Maybe you have this sense, you look around and you have this sense that you don't have that much because you see people that have even more. But it's a dangerous thing when we start to think that "our world" is "the" world. We're bombarded with all of these images of the newest models and the latest styles and, after a while, our stuff, it starts to seem kind of average, outdated, not-good-enough.

3. Is everything you own in some way a gift from God? Everything?
4. Are you generous? With your money? Your time? Your stuff?
5. Are you content? If not, what will it take?
6. Do you think it's possible to live out the kind of generosity Jesus talked about without being content?
7. Do you consider yourself a follower of Jesus? If so, do you live the kind of life that depicts that belief?
8. What can you give? Who are you going to bless?

Sunday, January 26, 2020



Spiritual Advising, Nooma, Service Project

Schedule

10:15 Donuts, milk, & overview

10:20 Group A: Spiritual Advising

Group B: Dust

Group C: Service Project

10:55 Group C: Spiritual Advising

Group A: Dust

Group B: Service Project

11:30 Group B: Spiritual Advising

Group C: Dust

Group A: Spiritual Advising

12:00 Dismissal

Is God My Friend?

Schedule

10:15 Donuts & Milk

10:20 Icebreaker

10:30 Welcome and Overview

10:45 Presentation: Mark Fremgen

TURN & TALK Large Group Discussion

11:00 Small Group Discussion

What/who do you think of when you think of God? What emotions, thoughts, feelings, images come to mind?

When thinking about the 3 persons of God: the Trinity, which person of God do you feel closest to or relate to the most today? (God the Father, God the Son or God the Holy Spirit?)

Have you ever considered God to be a friend? Why or why not?

Think for a minute about your good friends, your best friend.

What is your best friend like?

(Regarding the below discussion questions, allow the kids to answer the questions first, but if they have difficulty starting the conversation, there are some thoughts you might use to help get started or supplement the conversation).

What makes a good friend? What makes your friendship solid?

- (Good communicator, honest, common interests, trustworthy, always has my back treats me and others with respect and love, dependable, always there for me, fun to be around, etc.)

What things might endanger your friendships?

- Other people and influences, Not spending time together. broken trust or confidence, etc.)

What cultivates friendships?

- Spending time together/hanging out, same interests, etc.)

Have you changed since having good friend(s) or your best friend?

- I am a better person, I am challenged to think differently, gives me new perspectives, I am more confident from the encouragement of my friend.

Compare the key elements of a good friendship to your relationship with God.

On a scale of 1-10, how would you assess your “friendship” with God?

(1 being “don’t even know God” and 10 being “best friends”)

The following reading from John speaks of God’s desire to be in relationship with us, to call us friends.

The bolded part of the text is the reading from John and in parentheses are some thoughts that might help to explain the type of relationship Jesus desires of us. You may have other thoughts to add.

John 15: 12-16 “**This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.** (Love is the most basic part of friendship) **No one has greater love than this, than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.** (Friends are loyal, and will always be there and sacrifice for you. Jesus’ ultimate act of love for us was His sacrifice of dying on the Cross. He gave His life for us.) **You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father** (We are vulnerable with our friends, share struggles, are brutally honest because we trust them. We tell them things we would not share with everyone. Jesus was vulnerable in sharing God the Father’s message).

You did not choose me, but I chose you. (Lastly, we choose our friends as they choose us. God is constantly pursuing us and inviting us into relationship.)

Many elements of a good friendship are found in the teachings of Jesus in the Gospel. He commands us to be loyal, compassionate, empathetic, forgiving, accepting, respectful, etc. He believed in the people who were outcasts and judged by society. He cared for all people. Isn’t that what attracts us to our friends? Kindness that they show toward us and others. Jesus is empathetic. He was so deeply moved that when he saw Mary weeping because her brother, Lazarus had died, he began to weep with her. (John 11:17-33) A true friend feels are our sadness and joy. Jesus wants us to know the joy that is found in knowing Him.

Sirach 6 :14-16

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter: whoever finds one has found a treasure.

Faithful friends are beyond price; no amount can balance their worth.

Faithful friends are life-saving medicine; and those who fear the Lord will find them.

No matter where you are in your relationship with God/Jesus, God is always pursuing you, loving for you and waiting for you to answer the invitation to know and love Him more. God promises to NEVER turn His back on you.

11:30 End of Class



Cards You Were Dealt

**God has a plan!
God will never give you something you can't handle?**

Corinthians 10:13

No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.

Paul and his companions were sorely tried as they took the gospel into new areas. This is his testimony: "We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death" ([2 Corinthians 1:8-9](#)). It sounds like Paul *was* tempted beyond what he could bear—"far beyond." This fact leads us to another truth: our strength to endure testing and temptation does not come from ourselves; it comes from God. That's exactly what Paul says next: "This happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God"

However, these promises do not mean we will never face trouble; on the contrary, Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble...But take heart! I have overcome the world".

The Story of Martha &

Mary Lynn Alice

God's Healing Touch

Cards You Were Dealt Video

Breakout (30 minutes)

Closing Prayer (Amazing Grace)



The Year in Review (and a party)

10:15 Donuts & Milk

10:20 Announcements

- **Confirmation is ...** There will not be a separate Confirmation Practice but instead, please arrive at ...
- Make up dates ...

10:30 Jeopardy Competition by Lisa Harms with awesome prizes!

11:00 Change For Belize

11:15 Culver's Custard Bar