**CONFIRMATION RETREAT INFORMATION 2013**

- **What is a Confirmation Retreat?**
  
  A Confirmation Retreat is an opportunity for youth and adults who are preparing for the sacramental rites of Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation of Baptismal vows to meet with the Bishop and their peers from across the diocese.

  Youth go on an overnight mini-pilgrimage to one of our churches. They have the chance to encounter God in new ways with peers from other parts of the diocese. In addition, they get to know the Bishop in small groups and spend time in fellowship with young people from different places who are at similar points in their faith journeys. Lastly, youth learn more about the Anglican Communion from someone in our diocese who has experience with the Anglican Church in another part of the world.

  Adults meet with the Bishop as a group over lunch on the Saturday of the retreat. This informal gathering allows the Bishop and candidates to get to know each other better and learn more about each other’s faith journeys and questions. Adult candidates do not come on Friday night and do not have to stay overnight.

- **Will there be quiz?**
  
  No. This is simply an opportunity for formation, fellowship and learning.

- **Who should attend a Confirmation Retreat?** Is attendance at a Confirmation Retreat required for candidates to be confirmed, received or reaffirm their Baptismal vows?

  While the Bishop does not require candidates to attend a Confirmation Retreat, he strongly urges youth and adult candidates to participate in one. The priest of a congregation determines the requirements for candidates from his/her church.

  Remember, youth must be in at least 8th grade during the 2012-13 academic year in order to be confirmed.

- **Do I have to attend the entire retreat or may I attend only a portion?**

  Adults must attend the entire lunch meeting with the Bishop and other adults.

  Youth and their chaperones must attend the entire retreat from 7PM Friday until 2PM Saturday.

  - **Why?**
    
    The purpose of going on a retreat is to remove oneself from life’s everyday concerns and focus on the retreat’s theme. When people come and go at different times it disrupts the flow of the retreat and the community building. If youth have another commitment (like sports practice, music or language lessons, etc.), we ask that they forego that activity for the weekend and allow themselves to really experience what a retreat is. They may not skip Friday night or leave and come back later. If a participant is unable to attend the

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1 The overnight retreats in which the youth participate begin Friday at 7:00PM and end Saturday at 2:00PM.
entire retreat on a particular weekend, we ask that they register for a different date that works better for his/her schedule.

- When and where do Confirmation Retreats take place?
  Confirmation Retreats take place in the late winter to early spring. We hold them at churches to help minimize the cost. This year the dates and locations of the retreats will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retreat Date</th>
<th>March 1-2, 2013</th>
<th>March 15-16, 2013</th>
<th>April 12-13, 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retreat Location</td>
<td>St. James’ Church, 581 Valley Rd., Upper Montclair</td>
<td>Christ Church, 400 Ramapo Ave., Pompton Lakes</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth’s Church, 169 Fairmount Rd., Ridgewood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Districts Assigned²</td>
<td>1, 5, 6 &amp; 8</td>
<td>2, 4 &amp; 9</td>
<td>3, 7 &amp; 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Bird Registration Deadline³</td>
<td>February 1, 2013</td>
<td>February 15, 2013</td>
<td>March 15, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Registration Deadline⁴</td>
<td>February 22, 2013</td>
<td>March 8, 2013</td>
<td>April 5, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Confirmation Retreats begin at 7PM on Friday and end at 2PM on Saturday.

Adult candidates have lunch with the Bishop from 12:15-2:00PM on the Saturday of the Retreat.

- What is a district? Which district am I in?
  The churches in our diocese are organized geographically into 10 districts. To find out which district your church is in ask your priest or wardens or go to [http://www.dioceseofnewark.org/district.html](http://www.dioceseofnewark.org/district.html).

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² Remember, if the retreat to which your district is assigned is inconvenient for you, you may attend any of the other retreats.
³ Registration fees are discounted through the early bird registration deadlines. After those dates the general registration fees apply.
⁴ The general registration deadline is the absolute deadline. We cannot accept any walk-ins or other registrations after that deadline, as described on p. 3 below.
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- **What if I can’t attend the Confirmation Retreat to which my district is assigned?**
  You may attend any of the three retreats. The district assignments are done to try to keep the number of participants balanced but you should feel free to attend whichever retreat suits your schedule.

- **How do I register for a Confirmation Retreat?**
  By mid-December 2012 registration forms will be available online at [http://www.dioceseofnewark.org/youth](http://www.dioceseofnewark.org/youth). Registration forms and flyers will also be distributed at many diocesan meetings. You will be able to register online, by mail or fax.

  - **Registrations are accepted on a first come first served basis.** Kindly note that we can only accommodate 75 youth at each retreat. This limit is intended to keep the group manageable and provide a good experience for all attendees. We do not have a limit on the number of adult candidates who may attend each retreat.

- **How much does the Confirmation Retreat cost?**
  The fees for the retreats are outlined in the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Early Bird Registration Cost</th>
<th>General Registration Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Candidate</td>
<td>$33</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaperone</td>
<td>$18</td>
<td>$27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Candidate</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

  - **Why is there an early bird discount?**
    We offer an early bird discount to thank people who complete their registration early enough to enable us to prepare (including ordering and shopping for supplies and food) in a timely manner.

- **If I don’t register by the general registration deadline may I still attend the retreat? May I register the day of the retreat?**
  Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate anyone who does not register by the general registration deadline. We need sufficient time to prepare so we have enough food, supplies and staff to make the retreat as enriching as possible. Therefore, we cannot accept any registrations after the general registration deadline, including walk-ins.
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- Is there scholarship money available?
  Yes. The Diocese believes no child should stay away from Christian community because of money. The general diocesan scholarship policy is 1/3 contribution from the participant, 1/3 contribution from the participant’s church and 1/3 contribution from the diocese. To request scholarship please contact Kaileen Alston, Diocesan Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, at (973) 430-9991 or kalston@dioceseofnewark.org. All requests are confidential.

- Does my church have to send a chaperone?
  Yes. Congregations must send chaperones in a ratio of 1 adult for every 5-7 youth. While we don’t require churches sending fewer than 5 youth to send a chaperone, please consider that your youth will not have a familiar adult with them.

- What are the requirements of a chaperone?
  o Chaperones must be at least 21 years old.
  o All chaperones must have completed the FREE Safeguarding God’s Children training (which can be done online or via DVD or VHS) within the last 5 years. For more information about the Safeguarding God’s Children training please contact Kitty Kawecki, Diocesan Director of Resources & Training, at (973) 430-9902 or kkawecki@dioceseofnewark.org.
  o Chaperones are empowered, encouraged and expected to enforce the norms (rules) as they are stated on the registration form and at the beginning of the retreat.
  o We need chaperones with the ability and desire to interact with young people. Chaperones who know their young people are also able to monitor any personality issues or group dynamics that may arise with their youth.
  o Chaperones will be asked to help out with simple tasks during the retreat. This includes leading some games, helping to set up activities and meals and getting the youth to settle down at bedtime and get up promptly in the morning.
  o We need the chaperones to reinforce the design we set up. The design of the activities and groupings of participants is done prior to the retreat and with clear intention. We ask the chaperones not to interfere with this dynamic.
  o Our leadership team includes teen and young adult volunteers. Chaperones are expected to support their leadership through their own actions and the ways they encourage youth to behave.
  o Chaperones must stay at the retreat for the entire time. This includes remaining until all youth from their church have been picked up at the end of the retreat.
  o Helpful Tip: If the chaperone is also a confirmation instructor he/she knows what the youth have learned and what is yet to come in the curriculum. They can help the youth process what they experience at the retreat and have a better idea of what items to emphasize during the remainder of their preparation process after the retreat.

- What should adult candidates bring to the Confirmation Retreat?
  Adult candidates coming to meet with the Bishop should just bring an open mind.
What should youth bring to the Confirmation Retreat?
- Sleeping bag or air mattress and pillow (we sleep on the floor so make yourself as comfortable as possible)
- Modest pajamas
- Toiletries, a toothbrush and a washcloth
- Whatever medication he/she may need
- Change of modest clothes for Saturday
- An open mind

- Youth are not permitted to have cell phones, mp3 players or electronic games at the retreats. They can become a distraction. Kaileen Alston attends each of the retreats and gives parents her cell phone number in the preparation letter she sends out to each family after receiving participants’ registrations. If parents need to speak with their children they may call the chaperone from their church or Kaileen. Youth may also use any adult’s phone to call home, if necessary.

What should chaperones bring to the Confirmation Retreat?
Chaperones should bring everything listed above. Adults, however, are permitted to have their cell phone.

With whom do I speak if I have other questions about the Confirmation Retreats?
Please contact Kaileen Alston, Diocesan Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, at (973) 430-9991 or kalston@dioceseofnewark.org.

With whom do I contact with questions about the service where Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation will take place?
Please contact Kitty Kawecki, Diocesan Director of Resources & Training, at (973) 430-9902 or kkawecki@dioceseofnewark.org.

Whom do I contact about Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation certificates?
Please contact Kitty Kawecki, Diocesan Director of Resources & Training, at (973) 430-9902 or kkawecki@dioceseofnewark.org.