

# PURPOSE

CONFIRMATION FORMATION



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***“Open your minds and hearts to the beauty of all that God has made and to His special, personal love for each one of you.”***

ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II



# There is a God

03

## WHO LOVES ME

You are signed up for an amazing adventure, an adventure that will bring you freedom, peace, and so much more. Are you ready to say yes?

You and your parents should have already received an email welcoming you to the Purpose Confirmation prep. This email contained a link to Purpose Confirmation web page, giving you an idea of what you will need to do this year.

A few key things to keep in mind:

- You are in charge of your formation, we give you the minimum of what is expected but you can and should do more.
- The more effort you put into your formation the more you will get out of it.
- It is okay if you don't know if you want to be Confirmed. That is why you are here, to find out!

- It is okay if you don't agree with something, be honest and respectful and ask questions.
- Be open minded.
- Be yourself & be honest
- Don't have a pre-conceived notion of what will be happening
- Have Fun!
- If you are having any problems contact us as soon as possible
- Trust us, we are here to help you to grow in your faith.
- Be patient and flexible.

*"Conversion means accepting, by a personal decision, the saving sovereignty of Christ and becoming his disciple."*

ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II



# Confirmation Formation

## WHAT DOES BEING A DISCIPLE LOOK LIKE?

Formation is about something deeper than having the right thoughts about faith. It is about a whole way of life – the things we do each day, the people we interact with, and how we go about doing that. Formation helps those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be prepared and willing to accept the responsibility they are about to undertake: to be a disciple of Christ. Being a disciple is not simply a question of having the right thoughts and beliefs about God, but also the formation of habits that help us embody what it means to be God's people.

In a practical sense, this means that "formation" includes everything from catechesis, praying, participating in the liturgical life of the parish, building community and learning together to actively seeking out ways to participate in the mission and work of the Catholic Church in the world.

The opportunity of Formation to engage in Bible study or theological study, therefore, has a clear purpose beyond interesting ideas or facts of the faith.



## The Goals of Confirmation Formation

The Goals of Purpose Confirmation Prep are:

- That the teen feels welcomed and is participating in the community of the parish.
- That they know God Loves them
- They know of the True Presence of Jesus Christ within the Eucharist.
- They are praying everyday (formal and informal)
- That they are ready to encounter Jesus Christ on the day of Confirmation
- They want to receive the Gift of Confirmation
- They are practicing the Works of Mercy in their everyday lives
- They are willing to use the special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never be ashamed of the Cross.
- They are Following the precepts of the Church (CCC2041 - 2043)
  - Attending Mass every Sunday and Holy days of Obligation
  - Confessing your sins at least once a year
  - Receive Communion at least once a year
  - Observe days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church
  - Help provide for the needs of the Church (see stewardship section)

*"Christianity is not an intellectual system, a collection of dogmas, or a moralism. Christianity is an encounter, a love story; it is an event"*

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



**THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE. I HAVE HAD SUCH AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE. I WAS CONNECTED TO GOD IN A WAY I HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE AND MY HEART FELT FULL. I WAS ABLE TO MAKE AMAZING CONNECTIONS WITH NEW PEOPLE TOO. I CAN NOT EXPRESS JUST HOW GRATEFUL I AM FOR ALL THESE AMAZING PEOPLE.**

**Testimony from a Teen in STA Purpose Confirmation 2021**

# What Confirmation Formation looks like

Now that we know that Formation is different than just attending meetings and the goals of Confirmation, what are the Requirements to be confirmed?

We are going to walk with you the entire way and have made it very simple to understand and follow. On the following pages is the listing of what you need to complete and the optional items for that month. The majority of these Practicums you may already be doing in your daily life and that's good! If you are already doing them go beyond the minimums get uncomfortable and do the last optional Column, the "Go-Beyond". ***Schedule is subject to change.***

The **minimum requirements** to be Confirmed are:

- Attending the meetings (with no more than **2** absences. See "meetings" column below for Dates).
- Completing the practicums (See "Practicum" column below).
  - These cover the Goals of Confirmation Formation
- Pass the End of Year Interview

**What is a Practicum?** A practicum allows teens to apply what they've learned in the real world.

Since your formation for Confirmation is up to you, we provide the Go-beyond Column. These allow you to go beyond the minimum requirement and dive deeper into your relationship with Christ. The Journal Exercises are different each week and can be found under the Purpose Section of the STA Parish App.



## Mandatory

Meetings	Practicum	Go-Beyond (optional)
12 - Entrance Ceremony 19 - What is our Desire? 26 - Faith & Reason	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serve at 1 - 6pm Mass</li><li>• Pray Daily<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ 1 "Our Father"</li></ul></li><li>• Attend Sunday Mass &amp; Turn in Tithe Envelopes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weekly Journal Exercises</li><li>• Attend Life Teen</li><li>• Attend Jesus &amp; Java</li></ul>

## Meetings

## Practicum

## Go-Beyond (optional)

3 - Is God Real? <b>3 - Parent Sponsor Retreat Meeting.</b> 10 - Relationship w/God 17 - Community 20 - Examine 31 - No Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serve at 1 - 6pm Mass</li><li>• Pray Daily<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ 1 "Our Father"</li><li>◦ 1 "Hail Mary"</li></ul></li><li>• Attend Sunday Mass &amp; Turn in Tithe Envelopes</li><li>• Attend the Confirmation Retreat (10/21 - 10/23, You must register)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weekly Journal Exercises</li><li>• Attend Life Teen</li><li>• Attend Jesus &amp; Java</li><li>• Serve at 2(ea) -6pm Mass</li></ul>
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## Mandatory

Meetings	Practicum	Go-Beyond (optional)
12 - Entrance Ceremony 19 - What is our Desire? 26 - Faith & Reason	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend Mass on the Holy Day of Obligation on Nov 1 - "All Saints Day"</li> <li>Serve at 1 - 6pm Mass</li> <li>Pray Daily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 "Our Father"</li> <li>1 "Hail Mary"</li> <li>1 "Glory Be"</li> </ul> </li> <li>Attend Sunday Mass &amp; Turn in Tithe Envelopes</li> <li>Volunteer for St. Vincent Da Paul Thanksgiving Meal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food Drive/Collection</li> <li>Distribution day</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly Journal Exercises</li> <li>Attend Life Teen</li> <li>Attend Jesus &amp; Java</li> <li>Serve at 2(ea) -6pm Mass</li> </ul>

## Meetings

## Practicum

## Go-Beyond (optional)

5 - Why Believe in Jesus? 12 - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe 19 - Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend Mass on the Holy Day of Obligation, Dec 8 - "The Immaculate Conception"</li> <li>Serve at 1 - 6pm Mass</li> <li>Pray Daily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 "Decade of the Rosary"</li> </ul> </li> <li>Attend Sunday Mass &amp; Turn in Tithe Envelopes</li> <li>Serve at "Our Lady of Guadalupe" Celebration</li> <li>Attend Mass on the Holy Day of Obligation Dec 25 - The Birth of Our Lord, Christmas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly Journal Exercises</li> <li>Attend Life Teen</li> <li>Attend Jesus &amp; Java</li> <li>Serve at 2(ea) -6pm Mass</li> <li>Attend the Christmas Novena</li> <li>Volunteer at the Christmas Shop</li> <li>Volunteer at the Night in Bethlehem</li> </ul>
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NOV

DEC



# YOUTH MINISTRY

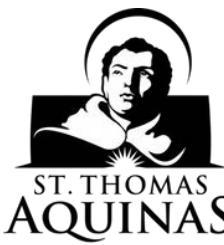
ENCOUNTER JESUS - LIVE AS HIS DISCIPLE - BRING HIM TO OTHERS

Jan

Meetings	Practicum	Go-Beyond (optional)
9 - Burn 16 - No Meeting 23 - The Mass & Eucharist 30 - Sacrament of Baptism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attend Mass on the Holy Day of Obligation, Jan 1 - "Solemnity of Mary"</li><li>Serve at 1 - 6pm Mass</li><li>Pray Daily<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 "Our Father"</li><li>1 "Hail Mary"</li><li>1 "Glory Be"</li><li>40 "Jesus Prayer"</li></ul></li><li>Attend Sunday Mass &amp; Turn in Tithe Envelopes</li><li>Attend Sanctity of Life Day in Santa Fe -OR- Participate in the Baby Shower Drive for Origins</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Weekly Journal Exercises</li><li>Attend Life Teen</li><li>Attend Jesus &amp; Java</li><li>Perform a Holy Hour at the Adoration Chapel</li><li>Sign up for Summer Events</li></ul>

FEB

Meetings	Practicum	Go-Beyond (optional)
6 - Signature <b>10 - Teaching Mass with Sponsor</b> 13 - Sex is more 20 - Desert-ed 27 - Called	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Serve at 1 - 6pm Mass</li><li>Pray Daily<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 "Our Father"</li><li>1 "Hail Mary"</li><li>1 "Glory Be"</li><li>1 "St. Michael Prayer"</li></ul></li><li>Attend Sunday Mass &amp; Turn in Tithe Envelopes</li><li><b>Attend the Teaching Mass with Your sponsor on Jan 10, 2022 @7pm in the Church</b></li><li>Abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Weekly Journal Exercises</li><li>Attend Life Teen</li><li>Attend Jesus &amp; Java</li><li>Perform a Holy Hour at the Adoration Chapel</li><li>Attend Mass on Ash Wednesday</li><li>On Ash Wednesday Fast (only 1 meal, etc..)</li><li>Attend Stations of the Cross on Fridays.</li><li>Watch the Passion Movie</li></ul>



# YOUTH MINISTRY

ENCOUNTER JESUS - LIVE AS HIS DISCIPLE - BRING HIM TO OTHERS

## Meetings

- 6 - Power
- 13 - Meaning
- 20 - No Meetings
- 27 - Speak

## Practicum

- Serve at 1 - 6pm Mass
- Pray Daily
  - 1 "Our Father"
  - 1 "Hail Mary"
  - 1 "Glory Be"
  - 1 Decade of the "Divine Mercy"
- Attend Sunday Mass & Turn in Tithe Envelopes
- Abstain from Meat on Fridays during Lent
- Complete the Letter to the Arch Bishop requesting the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Go To Confession

## Go-Beyond (optional)

- Weekly Journal Exercises
- Attend Life Teen
- Attend Jesus & Java
- Perform a Holy Hour at the Adoration Chapel
- Attend Stations of the Cross on Fridays.
- Watch the Passion Movie
- Attend the Lenten Day of Reflection
- Attend the Spring Life Teen Retreat

## Meetings

- 3 - Pathway
- 10 - No Meetings
- 17 - United
- 24 - Nations

## Practicum

- Serve at 1 - 6pm Mass
- Pray Daily
  - 1 "Our Father"
  - 1 "Hail Mary"
  - 1 "Glory Be"
  - 1 Decade of the "Divine Mercy"
- Attend Sunday Mass & Turn in Tithe Envelopes
- Abstain from Meat on Fridays during Lent
- Serve in the live stations of the Cross on Good Friday -OR- Serve at Mass in the Grass on Easter Sunday
- Go to Confession

## Go-Beyond (optional)

- Weekly Journal Exercises
- Attend Life Teen
- Attend Jesus & Java
- Perform a Holy Hour at the Adoration Chapel
- Attend the "Mass of the Lord's Supper" On Holy Thursday
- On Holy Thursday spend an hour in Adoration
- Fast on Good Friday
- On Good Friday Attend the Celebration of the Lord's Passion
- Attend the Easter Vigil
- Say the Divine Mercy Novena

Mar

April



# YOUTH MINISTRY

ENCOUNTER JESUS - LIVE AS HIS DISCIPLE - BRING HIM TO OTHERS

May

Meetings	Practicum	Go-Beyond (optional)
1 - May Crowning 8 - Pathway 15 - TBA 22 - No Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serve at 1 - 6pm Mass</li><li>• Pray Daily<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ The Rosary</li></ul></li><li>• Attend Sunday Mass &amp; Turn in Tithe Envelopes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weekly Journal Exercises</li><li>• Attend Life Teen</li><li>• Attend Jesus &amp; Java</li><li>• Perform a Holy Hour at the Adoration Chapel</li><li>• Attend the May Crowning on May 1</li></ul>

June

Meetings	Practicum	Go-Beyond (optional)
5 - TBA 12 - TBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Serve at 1 - 6pm Mass</li><li>• Pray Daily<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ The Rosary</li></ul></li><li>• Attend Sunday Mass &amp; Turn in Tithe Envelopes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weekly Journal Exercises</li><li>• Attend Life Teen</li><li>• Attend Jesus &amp; Java</li><li>• Perform a Holy Hour at the Adoration Chapel</li><li>• Attend Life Teen Leadership Conference June 26-30, 2023</li></ul>



OLIFE

*Christianity is  
an encounter,  
a love story;  
it is an event.*

~ POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

# F.A.Q

## **What happens if a teen misses more than 2 meetings?**

You are allowed 2 absences from the Purpose meetings (excused or unexcused), After that we will use our discretion if you should continue in the program this year.

## **How do we decide if a teen should be delayed in making the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

We use the following questions to help us make the decision if a teen should be dropped:

- Does the teen report their absences thru the absent reporting form?
- Is the teen participating in the meetings?
- Is the teen completing the practicums?
- Is the teen attending mass and turning in their Tithing envelopes?
- Is the teen attending other events, or being involved (Life Teen, Volunteering, Twitch Streams, special events, retreats, etc..)?
- Are they communicating with us?
- We may also ask to see your journal entries.
- Are they praying every day.

## **Why is there so many practicums?**

Actually the practicums are the bare minimum of what every Catholic should be doing. They were designed from the Precepts of the Church:

There are five precepts of the Catholic Church. A precept is a command or general rule of actions. The Catholic Church gives us five precepts as a starting point on the path to holiness to help us grow in love of God and neighbor. These five laws of the Church are described by the Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 2041 in this way:

The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities **is meant to guarantee to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor.**

## **What is asked in the final interview?**

The final interview is not a test but a discussion to see how you grew in your faith this year. Formation should change you. Your life and practices should be different than the beginning of the year. We will also ask you the different prayers. Not to see if you know them but to see if you have been growing in your prayer life.

We will ask you random questions from the book "100 Things Every Teen Should Know About the Catholic Church".

# F.A.Q

## Why do I need to turn in the Tithing Envelopes?

Good question!! Well the tithe envelopes are not about money it is about stewardship (see the stewardship section) and acknowledging with our actions that everything that we have is a gift from God. Also:

- It shows that we are attending mass
  - For many parishes if you are not turning in your weekly envelopes you are unregistered.
- financial supporting our parish
- Lets us see how we contributed to the life of the parish (time, talent, treasure that you gave to the parish this week)

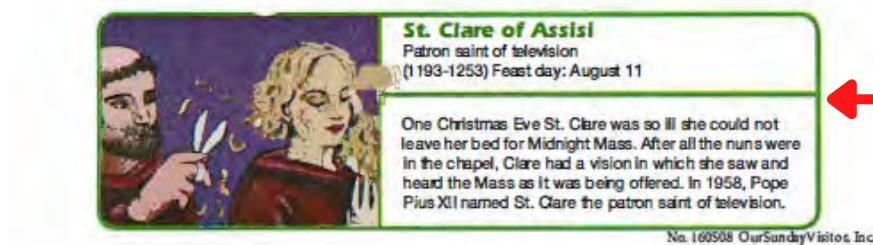
## How much money do I have to give?

A Biblical teaching is usually about 10% but that's our goal to get you to by the end of the year. Think of it this way, if your parents give you \$20 to go out on Friday night you could put \$2 in the envelope that week.

Archbishop Emeritus Sheen used to say at the very least \$1 a year.

## BUT

What did you give in My Time, My Talent, too? Make sure to fill these out too, even if you turn in an empty envelope but try not to.



# F.A.Q

## **What if I can't attend the Confirmation Retreat?**

Then you may be delayed in receiving the Sacrament for lack of preparation. We will need to discuss this personally. Please contact Deacon Ed as soon as possible to schedule a meeting.

Please remember this simple story of St. Pope John Paul II

*“Holy Father, when do you get some free time?” a reporter asked St. John Paul II. It was a fair question. The Pope’s routine included near- ceaseless prayer, writing, meetings, and reading. His reply? “All my time is free.”*

## **When is the Confirmation Retreat?**

Oct 21 - 23rd, 2022 at Glorieta Adventure Camps

## **How do I Register for the Confirmation Retreat?**

Under the special events section of the STA App, this years retreat is called "Always Forward". To hold your spot you only need to \$20.

## **How much is the Confirmation Retreat**

The confirmation retreat is \$120 for teens registered in the parish. Early Bird Discount if you register before Sept 23, 2022 it is only \$100.

For teens that are joining us from other Parishes the fee is \$225.

The reason why it is more expensive for other parishes because STA parish offsets the amount by paying transportation fees, core team, speakers, supplies, etc..

If you need assistance with payment please contact Deacon Ed as soon as possible.

## **What if I don't get Confirmed this year or get delayed?**

That is fine, we will come up with a plan for you. That is the beauty of formation, it isn't about pass or fail, it is about where you are and what you need. There is nothing that says that you need to get Confirmed this year, sometimes it takes longer, just enjoy the journey to this awesome gift.



*For it is in Giving, That we receive" - St. Francis of Assisi*

# Stewardship

## A WAY OF LIFE

### What is a Stewardship Parish?

People sometimes speak of stewardship in the context of "the three t's": time, talent, and treasure. Many of us grew up only hearing the word when someone was asking for money, so a wall of defense appears any-time we hear the word "stewardship." Perhaps it is time to consider this again, or for the first time, for what it really is, since stewardship is a deeply meaningful way of life.

When the word "steward" is used in the Bible, it refers to one who cares for the vineyard, livestock, or property of another, nurturing it to yield with increase. When Jesus uses the word, he is helping his disciples (those who are learning his ways) to understand that our lives, our talents and abilities, our financial resources, everything we value, all is given to us by God in trust. God trusts that we will care for

these gifts, but also something more: Jesus tells us that God's way of caring is sharing. God's way of sharing is in sacrifice. To "sacrifice" is to offer something of value to God, making it holy. We are called to take our talents and multiply them, to shine Christ's light brightly and to use our resources to care for one another. Jesus himself is the model of such stewardship. He sacrifices himself wholly and freely, never holding back.

### At the heart of it all is our relationship with Christ

Living as disciples, our very lives become a reflection of that relationship. Living life as a steward isn't always easy. Being a steward of so much requires us to think about how we are using all we have been given, to grow in gratitude for these abundant blessings, and to challenge ourselves to stretch beyond what is comfortable, to sacrifice. The Gospels tell us that that is the way Jesus lived his life. When we share our presence, our prayers, our gifts, and our service, we continue Christ's mission, transforming the world one person at a time.

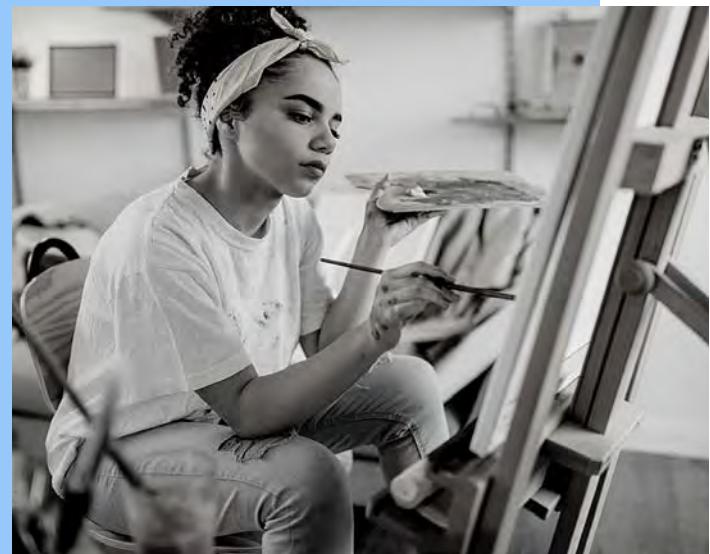
# SHARING TIME

How we use our time says much about what we value and where our priorities are. Time for God, family, for others, for ourselves: when all are balanced well, we feel our lives are in order. If one element of our use of time falls out of balance, life seems unmanageable and out of sorts. Are you being a good steward of the minutes, hours, days, months and years that God is giving you?



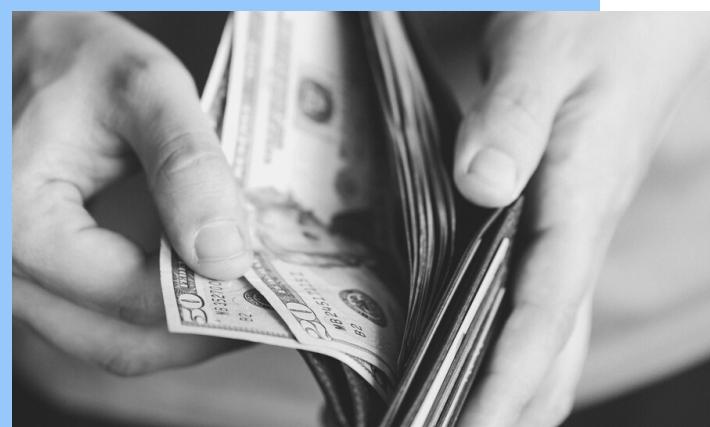
# SHARING TALENT

A talent is an innate way of interacting with the people and situations in our lives. Each of us has skills that come easy, gifts that we recognize or that others see in us. In using our talents, we find ourselves filled with energy and joy. In fact, some of our greatest talents may be so much a part of us that we take these gifts for granted. We can develop our talents and abilities throughout our lives, using and offering them as a sign of Christ's presence with and for others.



# SHARING TREASURE

"What do you own, and what owns you?" Jesus often teaches about the good use of financial and material resources, and he illustrates the negative impact of hoarding and being weighed down by money. The biblical principle of tithing, of offering at least 10 percent of one's treasure to church and charity helps us to use our money in a way that keeps God first, as a sign of our gratitude to God for all we've been given. Tithing means to give not what is leftover, but rather to give to God first, as a sign of our love and trust. Those who have made this commitment will tell you that such a promise has made a wonderful impact in their lives; their priorities are clearer, their lives richer in ways that truly matter. Being a good steward of one's financial and material resources is about more than 10 percent, however. What do you do with the other 90 percent? Are you a good steward of all you have?



# ACTS OF MERCY

## LOVING LIKE CHRIST

As disciples, we are called to live our lives and love like Jesus did. There are many opportunities within our program to do Acts of Mercy. It is important to start to see how we are performing these Acts of Mercy in our everyday lives.

### What are Acts of Mercy?

The Works of Mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in THEIR spiritual and Physical needs. There are two different types of Acts of Mercy. Corporal and Spiritual.

*"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."*

Matthew 25:40



## CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

**Are oriented toward the body. These are kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their material and physical needs**

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

## SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

**Are oriented towards the Soul. They are acts of compassion which help our neighbors emotional and spiritual needs**

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and dead

## HOW CAN I SERVE OTHERS IN MY PARISH?

### Volunteer in the Mass/Liturgical Ministry

- Altar Serve
- Sing in the Choir
- Lector at Mass
- Greet at the Doors (Usher)

### Volunteer in other Ministries

- Perpetual Adoration
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Origins Pregnancy Center
- Alpha (Adult Ministry)
- Altar Rosary Society

# STA APP



St. Thomas Aquinas Church - New Mexico

Available in App Stores



The STA App is your Main Source of Information for everything that we do in Youth Ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas. This is not only a place to find info but also to the main form of communication. So please download the app and use it!!

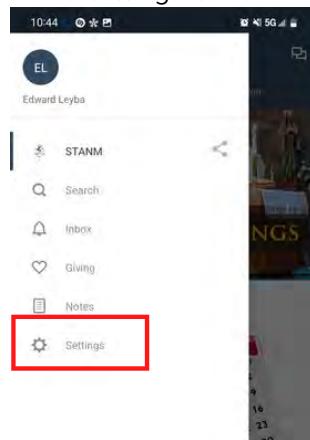
## SETTING UP THE APP

Setting up app notifications (all messages are stored in the Inbox of the STA App)

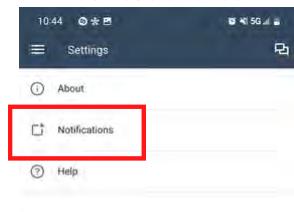
Step 1 - tap the menu button (3 lines)



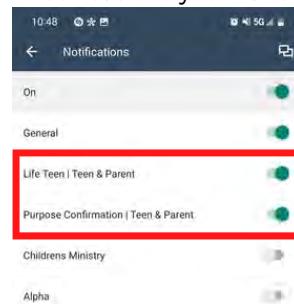
Step 2 - tap the settings icon



Step 3 - tap the Notifications Icon



Step 4 - Toggle on the notifications you want



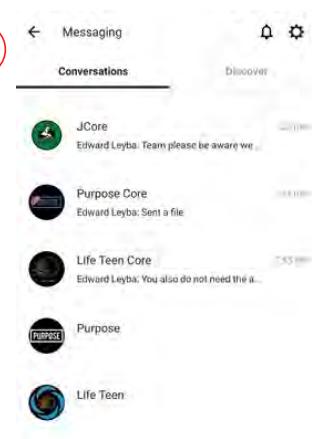
Using Messages (used to communicate with others or the core)

Login with your email address that you registered with. No Password? tap forgot password

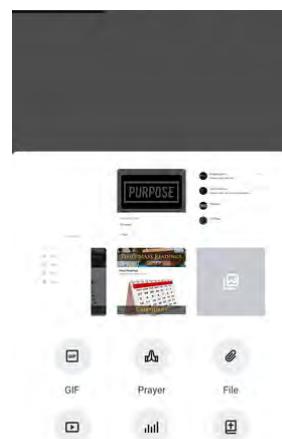
Step 1 - tap the messages Icon



Step 2 - Tap the group you would like to communicate in



You can attach prayer requests files and more



Click the bell at the top of messages and you can silence the messages for as long as you want

