Queen of Apostles Parish Confirmation Preparation 2024-2025

4:30 Arrive at St. Matthias Church / Pick up name-tag & a playing card Icebreaker – Shuffle the Deck

- students get into groups of 3 based on their cards (same value, straight or flush)
- group of 3 should sit down in the same half-pew in the church
- 4:35 Prayer Guided Meditation "Pass the Cross"

Rachel

- each table gets a few hand crosses to pass
- each candidate responds inwardly in prayer
- 4:45 Talk Pentecost

Rachel w/ assistance

- Scripture reading from Acts 2:1-12 Joe Rosales
- effect of the Spirit to transform the lives of the Apostles and transform our own teach refrain to "Refiner's Fire"
- so why do we anoint with oil and not with fire or wind? ("Duck Duck Goose")
 anointed not just as a witness, but chosen as <u>priest</u>, <u>prophet</u> and <u>king</u>
- 4:55 Move across the street to the Gym for Dinner
- 5:00 Meal Prayer Group grace prayer Melissa Richlen Dinner clean up after yourself
- 5:30 Breakout Session / Chosen as Priest, Prophet & King Groups
 - groups explore themes: priest (Green, Blue, White): Hebrews 4:14-5:4
 - king (Red, Black, Brown): 2 Samuel 5:1-2 & Psalm 61:1-9
 - prophet (Orange, Purple): 2 Samuel 12:1-7
 - chosen (Pink, Yellow): Ephesians 1:3-6 & John 15:12-17
 - brainstorm what is needed for that role
 - read & discuss Scripture passage(s) and answer a few questions
 - each group will need to select a scribe to record brainstorming and answers
- 5:50 Share answers

Table Groups report back

- 6:00 Talk Purification and Continuing Conversion

Rachel w/assistance

- Scripture reading from Malachi 3:1-4 Isabel López
- story of the woman & the silversmith: hottest part of fire, watched, own image
- purification removes anything that is not of value, can feel like being "tested" teach verses to "Refiner's Fire"
- 6:15 Stretch Break / Restroom Break if needed
- **6:20** Brainstorming: Impurities / Temptations & Challenges Rachel & Roine different kinds of impurities in different areas of lives (mini-witness by catechists)
 - relationship with God: sloth, pride, etc. (Deadly Sins) growing like weeds
 - relationship <u>with others</u>: to gossip, bully others, form cliques, lack compassion
 - relationship with ourselves: substance abuse: vaping, marijuana, alcohol abuse
- 6:35 Breakout: My Impurities (an Examination of Conscience) Groups
 worksheet to name our own impurities that we may want to bring to Jesus as
 part of our Reconciliation later on; answers are private, for personal use later
 - option if time allows: read and discuss as a table Malachi 3:5
 - Rachel leaves to open the church & set up for Reconciliation

6:45 Making a Good Confession

Roine Dryer-Michaels

- "Sacraments 101: Why We Confess" video from BustedHalo
- how to pray during the Examination of Conscience
- steps for confession (also listed on the back of the worship aid), <u>lighting candles</u>
- 7:00 Clean up & Pack / Restroom / Coats on (<u>bundle up</u>!) Catechists under the direction of Joe, Isabel and Melissa
- 7:10 Out the door Walk to Church Roine & Stella remain behind to clean up
 - to church w/ students: Joe, Scott, Melissa, Isabel, Jack, Leticia, Alexis, Reina
 - enter through side door with ramp from Claremont

7:15 Reconciliation Prayer Service

priest confessors: Fr. Jason, Fr. Michael, Fr. Tom Libera and Fr. Sergio Romo - see worship aid for the order of service

Confessions Flow Management

Isabel, Rachel, Melissa, Joe

- prompt youth in line to go up when a priest available, w/ "on deck" lines
- prioritize Spanish-language confessions for Spanish-speaking priests
- offer chance to do penance prayers, remind about lighting candle
- direct candles & to rear pews for evaluation Leticia, Scott
- as they come back from individual confessions, candidates
 - <u>light a candle at center aisle</u> to show that they've gone to confession
 - may then pray quietly in the church (if that is part of their penance)
 - then go to the rear pews at the back of church where they can complete an **evaluation** (pencils available) Reina, Jack, Alexis
 - other **prayer aids** available to use time in church wisely and reverently (rosaries & guides, variety of prayer cards, penance prayers)
- catechists help with maintaining a prayerful atmosphere & managing "what's next?" interactions, but may also go to confession once candidates have gone

8:25 Reminders and Closing Prayer

likely from back of church if individual confessions still going

Rachel

8:30 Dismissal from Ainslie doors of the church