

# THE CATHOLIC CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Dear Religious Education Families of the Catholic Center,

April has been a beautiful and busy month here at the Catholic Center. Between the celebration of Easter, welcoming new Catholics into the faith, and our Confirmation and First Communion ceremonies, it has been a joy to witness so many of our community members receive the sacraments this spring. The Catholic Center is truly alive and spreading the Gospel!

As this school year concludes, we are looking ahead to the upcoming Religious Education year and several exciting changes.

## **Archdiocesan Changes to Confirmation**

The Archdiocese is shifting Confirmation requirements from the 9th grade to an earlier age, beginning in 6th grade. Additionally, a more family-centered approach to preparation is being introduced. This transition will be phased in over several years, and we will share more detailed information with you soon.

## **New Leadership & Programming**

To align with these changes, we are adjusting our programs to better support our students and their families. We are thrilled to announce that **Jeff Donahue** will be joining us as our new Youth Minister. Many of you already know Jeff and his family from his many years of service in a similar role at St. Joseph's. Jeff will oversee the Confirmation program as well as our middle and high school youth groups.

**Lynn Renna** will continue to lead our RE Pre-K and Kindergarten and 1st through 5th-grade programs, including preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

## **Key Changes at a Glance:**

- **New Age for Confirmation:** The target age is moving to 6th grade (11–12 years old). This will be a phased transition, offering a two-year Confirmation program for students in grades 6–12.
- **Family-Oriented Catechesis:** The Archdiocese is moving toward a family-centered approach to faith formation, rather than focusing solely on teen-only ministry.

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- **Focus on Sacramental Graces:** By providing the gifts of the Holy Spirit at a younger age, the Church aims to better equip our youth to navigate the challenges of modern life.

By integrating this new Confirmation timeline with an active Middle School and High School Youth Ministry and Family Faith Formation, our goal is to help students deepen their knowledge of the faith and remain open to God's grace.

As parents, you remain the most influential people in your children's spiritual lives. We are honored to work alongside you on this journey. Registration for the new school year will begin soon—stay tuned for more details.

God's Blessings to All,



Fr. Brian McNavish  
Director