

St. Gabriel Catholic Church Confirmation Retreat 2024 "Chosen For Greatness"

When: Feb 2-4, 2024

Where: Caraway Conference Center 4756 Caraway Mountain Rd, Sophia, NC 27350
Phone: 336-629-2374

Visit the Caraway website for information about Caraway Conference Center such as meeting space, lodging, and recreation.

Website: <https://carawayconferencecenter.com>

Who: Youth preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Why: St. Gabriel parish desires to ignite a passion for Jesus and encourage youth to live their Catholic faith boldly in everyday life through the Holy Spirit. Our experience as a Youth Evangelization Team and current landscape of the Catholic Church reveal the need for us to reach out and engage youth through retreat experiences. In our very busy lives, retreats are an opportunity to be in an environment with less distractions, to give us a space to encounter God in new ways. Over time retreats have proven success, 89% of self-motivated Catholics describe an event or experience that triggered their new spiritual commitment.

How: The retreat is a pivotal part of the Confirmation preparation. Through this "mountain-top" experience, our youth will have an amazing time, hear relevant talks, dynamic worship, entertainment, small groups, fellowship, Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. We are bringing in professional Catholic Speakers and Musicians to support this weekend in a dynamic way.

Transportation: Transportation to and from the conference center will be provided by families. Coordinating carpools is the responsibility of the parent(s).

Youth will need to arrive at the Caraway Conference Center between 5:30pm and 6:30pm to check-in. Participants will check-in at the lobby of the conference center, drop-off luggage in their room and gather in the Hollifield Hall, our main meeting space for the weekend. The retreat will begin at 7pm.

The retreat will conclude at 1pm on Sunday. We ask that parents arrive at 12:00pm to be ready for the conclusion of the retreat.

Lodging: 2-3 participants per room. Rooms are hotel-style lodging with personal bathroom and shower in each room. Linens and towels are provided. Boys and girls will be assigned to different floors of the building. Adult chaperones will be spread out on each floor. We will assign rooms based on small groups. We will be taking room requests at the time of registration.

Meals: Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast and lunch will be provided. Youth need to eat Friday dinner before arriving.

Registration Completion Deadline: Submit forms online by January 19, 2024.

Small Group Leaders: The small group leaders for Confirmation are asked to attend the retreat to assist in leading small groups for the weekend. All chaperones attending must meet the diocesan safe environment training requirements for youth protection.

Parent Chaperones: We are in need of parents to assist with chaperoning for the weekend. This includes maintaining safety and help supervise the hallways at night. This allows for the core team to focus on their primary role, which is to be a small group leaders for the weekend.

Volunteer Opportunities: We need you! Volunteer opportunities include: Parent Chaperones, Medical Safety Team, Hospitality, Photography, Set Up Crew, Prayer Ministry, A/V Team, "Night Owls", etc. All volunteers attending must meet the diocesan safe environment training requirements for youth protection. Volunteers attend the retreat at no cost.

Packing List:

- Pajamas
- Toiletries
- Sneakers
- Rain Jacket
- Bible & Rosary
- Journal & Pen/Pencil
- Water bottle marked w/name
- Warm and Comfy clothes
- Flashlight
- Joyful Spirit

Please don't pack:

- Cell phones*
- Video game consoles
- Screen devices
- Apple watches
- AirPods
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Weapons

*Cell Phones: We will provide contact information to you in the event that you need to contact your child. In addition, if your child absolutely needs to contact you, we will have them contact you from the conference center. In the past, we have experienced problems with cell phones and we want to avoid those issues. Retreat is an opportunity to detach from the distractions in our daily life to take time to listen and reflect and be present to one another.

We reserve the right to search any bag and if any contraband or drugs are found, we will ask that you come pick up your teen early from retreat.

Medications: For any medications, please keep in original bottle and marked with name and dosage and place in Ziploc bag. In addition, you will complete a medical card if your child needs medication during the weekend.

We will have over-the-counter drugs such as Tylenol, Advil, Benadryl, Zyrtec, etc. Please do not pack these types of medications for your child. We want all medications to be administered by our Youth Evangelization Team for the safety of all participants.

Food Allergies: All of the food allergies that you list on the liability/medical release form will be communicated to the kitchen staff at the conference center.

Snacks: We ask that every teen please bring individually wrapped snacks to share (enough to share with 12-15.) We do have a handful of teens that have peanut/tree allergies, so we ask that you please look for snacks that are nut-free. Below you will see which type of snack we would like for you to bring:

Last Name A-G: Salty

Last Name G-P: Sweets

Last Name R-Z: Fruit (apples, oranges)

Overnight Anxiety: Many young people may not have spent a night or two away from home or may not have ever gone overnight a great distance from home. If your child is feeling anxious and needs to contact home during the conference, we will allow your child to contact you during a non-session time.

We also invite you to join us as a parent chaperone for the weekend if that would assist your child in being open to the weekend.

If there is anything else you would like to make us aware of about your child/anything your child needs, please let us know so we can make this a great weekend for them.

If you have questions, please contact Lauren Piercefield at lauren@stgabrielchurch.org.