

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a Sacrament - a time in our life long journey of faith during which we acknowledge the Holy Spirit living in us through Baptism and open to even more of the Spirit's grace. In each Sacrament we meet the real presence of God. Confirmation is more about the Holy Spirit trying to get closer to us than any of our doing. We, with our preparation work, simply open the pathway.

As we prepare and celebrate Confirmation we seek the Spirit's gifts and ask the Spirit to strengthen and heal us as we question and journey in the ups and downs of life. We receive the confirmation of our faith community giving us companionship, love and prayer as we travel on! Sacraments are not private affairs. They flow from and lead to community.

Preparation for Confirmation is different than classroom work or simply learning about faith. It is more about hearing and sharing faith stories to inspire our hearts to open wider and letting someone walk with us. It is discovering that space in our heart where the Spirit lives and empowers us. We open to different forms of prayer and the many ways the Holy Spirit blesses us through people and community.

Preparation for Confirmation involves:

- ✠ **Retreat:** An all day retreat at Edenwood Retreat Center in Eden Prairie. The day will consist of small group and large group activities, food, and prayer. The day will end with Mass at St. Hubert's. The intent of this retreat is to inspire the spiritual journey that will excite them about becoming anointed with the Spirit in April
- ✠ **Small Group Sessions:** Each Candidate will be in a small group of their peers led by adult small group leaders. Centered around the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit at the session will learn more about your faith and how to share that faith, spend time in prayer, read scripture, have fun, and grow in relationships. The small groups will meet six times throughout the school year either on Sundays or Wednesdays, and the schedule is determined by the group and group leader(s).
- ✠ **Candidate-Parent Interactions:** Parents are the primary and first teachers of the faith to their children. The faith that is grown inside the family will effect the person for the remainder of their life. Parents and candidates are asked to complete two at-home interaction sheets and activities.
- ✠ **Candidate-Sponsor Interactions:** Find a sponsor with whom you can share joy, laughter, challenges, faith and encouragement. Your sponsor needs to be a practicing Catholic who has received the sacrament of Confirmation. Just like in Baptism your sponsor can not be a parent. However, you can have your Baptism godparent. Choose someone whom you feel comfortable talking about faith. Preferably, choose someone who lives close by so they can be available to you, meet regularly with you and join you for special gatherings at St. Hubert's. But you may choose someone who lives far away if they are someone you connect with and with which you feel comfortable talking about faith. You will be completing two at-home Sponsor-Candidate Interaction sheets with them.

- † *Day of Reflection:* An afternoon mini-retreat that includes a special celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and prayer service with parents and sponsors.
- † A parish *Rite of Calling*, and *Rite of Sending* of you to the Bishop for Confirmation. At the weekend Mass you usually attend receive a community blessing. Rite of Calling usually is in the fall and Rite of Sending shortly before the day of Confirmation.
- † *Confirmation-Saint name:* Throughout the Scriptures when people experienced a change in their spiritual selves God gave them a new name: Examples - Abram became Abraham; Saul became Paul. A form will be given to you shortly before Confirmation to fill out and return.

Important Dates:

- ✓ *Retreat at Edenwood Retreat Center in Eden Prairie (just need to participate in one)*
 - October 3, 2010
 - October 17, 2010
 - February 27, 2011
- ✓ *Small Group Sessions:* Groups will meet six times throughout the year September-April. Schedule will be determined by small group participants and leaders.
- ✓ *Interaction Sheets:*
 - Candidate-Parent Interaction #1: Due October 2010
 - Candidate-Sponsor Interaction #1: Due November 2010
 - Candidate-Parent Interaction #2: Due January 2011
 - Candidate-Sponsor Interaction #2: Due March 2011
- ✓ *Rite of Calling:* TBA; Fall of 2010
- ✓ *Day of Reflection:* March 20, 2011
- ✓ *Rite of Sending:* May 22 at 10:30 and 6:00 Mass
- ✓ *Confirmation Mass:* May 24, 7:00 pm at the Basilica of St. Mary

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