

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a Sacrament - a time in our life long journey 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, letting someone walk with us and be our friend through sponsorship which is like having a "soul friend." 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:

- Finding a sponsor with whom you can share joy, laughter, a difficult moment, faith and encouragement. Your sponsor needs to be a practicing Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Just like in Baptism your sponsor should not be a parent. However, you can have your Baptism godparent. 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. Choose someone whom you feel comfortable talking about faith.
- Keeping a Faith and Prayer Journal - You will be able to use this journal as a way to sort out thoughts, a way to talk with God and record memories! You can draw, write, and attach photographs and pictures. You and your sponsor will share this and you will keep it as a record of this time in your life.
- Uncovering a faith story in your life! You will write a faith story and prayer which will be a contribution to a booklet that is shared with the parish. In Confirmation we are empowered to share our faith!
- Give thanks to God for one special gift you enjoy having and with your sponsor share that gift through an activity. That is your service! We'll ask you to make a few notes on what it meant to share what is so uniquely yours!
- A Retreat afternoon from 2:00 PM to 5:45 PM. Included in this experience will be a special celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and a community meal!
- A Parish Rite of Call and Sending of you to the Bishop for Confirmation. At Mass you will receive a community blessing.

- You will choose a Confirmation 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. We'll talk more about this process at our sessions.

Each session will include the following:

- An activity to deepen community
- Focusing on the meaning of the Sacrament
- Hearing and Receiving Faith Stories
- Sharing in a small faith group
- Participation in a Ritual Prayer
- All is meant to open us to a conversion of heart which we celebrate in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Dates for our Gatherings:

Winter/Spring 2009

We will meet on Sundays from 4:00PM to 5:30PM in the Fellowship Hall except on the retreat day - see below when we meet in Mt/Mk/Lk at 2pm.

Sunday, January 18

Parents/Candidates/Sponsors Gather

What is Confirmation? What can we expect from God, the Faith Community and what do I do? How will my Sponsor help me? What do my sponsor and I do?

Sunday, January 25

Candidates and Sponsors Gather

Anointed in the Spirit we discover God in faith stories, the ordinary events of life and each other? Choosing A Confirmation Name.

February 1, 2009

No Session

Super Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 8, 2009

Candidates Gather with Adult Friendly Presences

Blessed by the Spirit - How will the Spirit help me in my ups and downs? It is about the Paschal Mystery - the heart of our life and faith!

February 15, 2009

Hanging out with God

Retreat Day - 2:00PM to 5:45PM

Candidates and Adult Friendly Presences

Gather in the Beginning

Enjoy each other...Discover more of our Friendship with the Holy Spirit...Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation...Let our Faith Community Applaud Us on the Journey (Parents and Sponsors will join us for a meal to conclude the day - be there by 4:15 PM. Parent with last names A to M bring twelve of something for desert. N to Z bring a large bottle of pop.)

February 22, 2009

Rite of Call and Blessing of Candidates as they prepare to meet the Bishop for Confirmation

You may celebrate this experience at any of the Masses this weekend. (There will also be a session in the evening at 4PM.)

February 22, 2009

Candidates and Friendly Presences Gather

How am I gifted? What gifts do I ask for from the Holy Spirit? Inspiration from others who have used their gifts to bring good.

March 15, 2009

Parents/Sponsors/Candidates Gather

We celebrate the conversion that has happened!

We celebrate our Faith Stories & Service! We walk through the Rite of Confirmation and details.

March 21, Saturday

Celebration of Confirmation

at the Basilica of St. Mary, Minneapolis, MN
10AM. Must be there by 9:30AM

St. Hubert's Catholic Faith Community
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