



Saint James Parish

Religious Education Office

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Lynda Fiorenza

Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

A Special Note to Parents and Guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Sacrament of Confirmation marks a momentous event in the faith life of your child! As parents and guardians, you are your child's first and best teacher. When your child was an infant, you came to the altar of God to have your child baptized and welcomed into the Body of Christ, the Church. In the intervening years, you have walked with them in faith, as they have grown in body and spirit, receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. You have taught them, by your example, how to live life as a Catholic Christian. Now, as they approach the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are ready to take that final step with them as they become fully initiated into the life of Christ. God bless you!

WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. In being "sealed," the individual is permanently joined to Christ, completing and strengthening the spiritual gifts and graces bestowed at baptism.

THE ROLE OF THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED

Those who are to be confirmed make a sincere commitment to participate prayerfully, and earnestly as they prepare for the sacrament, attend Mass frequently, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to receiving Confirmation, and be open to the workings of the Holy Spirit. They attest to this commitment by signing the Confirmation Candidates Commitment Letter.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

As parents, you play a primary role in the sacramental preparation program. Your attendance at required parent meetings, support of class attendance, and participation in events and assignments, and most importantly, your attendance at Mass, speaks volumes! You are the role model that they look to. As you express and live your faith, you provide the best example of how your children will express and live theirs.

THE ROLE OF THE SPONSOR

Each candidate, with the help of his/her parent(s)/guardian(s), is responsible for choosing a sponsor and a saint's name to be taken for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is recommended that, if possible, the baptismal sponsor also be the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation and would make the function of the sponsor more effective.

Church law states that the sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age. He or she must be a Catholic who has received Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation and is living according to the Catholic faith. The sponsor may not be the mother or father of the one to be confirmed. It is the responsibility of the sponsor to give assurance of these qualifications. Each sponsor is to use the Godparent/Sponsor Eligibility Form available on the Saint James Church website, and in the folders provided.

It is important that parents, candidates, and prospective sponsors consider carefully the qualifications and requirements given in this letter before a commitment to the Confirmation program is made.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

***Celebration of Confirmation:
Saturday, April 13, 2024
Celebrant: Reverend Edward H. Blanchett***

A calendar for the Confirmation program will be provided to help you in your planning.

All required forms and Confirmation instructional documents are available on the parish website (Faith Formation/Religious Education/Confirmation).

I hope that this early information on the Confirmation program will enable you to devote some time to preparing, discussing, and praying about it. Additional information will be provided as we move through the preparation process. If you have any questions regarding the information here or any other aspects of the program, please contact me or your child's catechist. We are willing to assist you in any way possible.

Know that you will be in the prayers of the entire parish community during this time of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Lynda Fiorenza
Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation
Saint James Church