

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT ST. THERESA'S PARISH.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated, at a special celebration with the Mass, with the Archbishop or his designate after an extended period of special preparation and review of Catholic dogma and practices by the candidates.

At the present time, the details and format of this extended period of special preparation and review of Catholic dogma are under review by the Pastoral Team at St. Theresa's Parish.

However, the first step in this process of preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is to **REGISTER** of your child/children to participate in the Confirmation process. See the attached St. Theresa's Parish Confirmation Registration Form.

All of the information and documents requested on the form **MUST BE HANDED IN AT THE TIME YOU ARE REGISTERING YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN FOR THIS SACRAMENT.** If the form is not completed and all documents required are not supplied, your child/children will not be registered until you supply the required information.

Some of the documents requested make take some time for you, as parents, to obtain. We suggest you begin the process to obtain these documents as soon as possible.

In mid September more information will be published in the Parish Bulletin about the Confirmation Program and Registration deadline.

A NOTE FOR PARENTS:

If you miss the Registration deadline of Wednesday – November 30, 2011 your child/children will not be allowed to participate in this year's Confirmation Program.

CONFIRMATION

By the sacrament of Confirmation, (the Baptized) are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.

Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed

(CCC 1285).

August, 2011

CONFIRMATION

"THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



ST. THERESA'S PARISH

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CHOOSING THE GIFT:

Let's say there is something you really want to accomplish. *What would you be willing to go through to accomplish what your heart desires?*

Accomplishing a goal involves a lot of choices along the way. First you want to be sure that you do, indeed, want to reach that goal. So you start with a simple question but a major choice:

“Is this what I really want to do?”

This is perhaps the most important choice you will make.

You want to think about what kind of an impact this accomplishment will have on your life. You want to raise questions like:

- Why is this important to me?
- How will this be good for me, now and later in life?
- What kind of impact will this have on others in my life like my parents and my friends?

You will also want to choose exactly how you plan to reach your goal. No doubt, you will want to choose others who will help you along the way. You will need to talk to those who have done the same thing you want to do. You will need to be willing to do “extra” things as you move toward your goal. Like what? Like Study? Work hard? Make some difficult choices? Devote extra time to certain activities?

As you begin your journey toward receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are choosing to make a journey that will take you toward the completion of your initiation into the Church. In receiving this sacrament you choose to accept God's gift of being fully united with God through the Holy Spirit in the life and work of the Church.

WHY DO I NEED THIS:

Your parents are encouraging – or even making – you go to Confirmation classes because they want you to share fully in the life of the Church. They care deeply for you and your faith – your relationship with God.

Part of being confirmed and becoming an adult in the eyes of the Church is accepting the responsibility that comes with full membership.

Your willingness to be confirmed is also helping your parents fulfill a very important promise they made to each other, to the Church and to God.

Full-fledged members of the Church are respectful of others and of what the Church asks us to do to nurture our faith.

Finally, and most importantly, you need Confirmation because it is one of the most important statements you will even make about yourself. There is nothing special about “going through” Confirmation unless you have made the personal decision to approach the sacrament with honesty and faith.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is nothing without you. It requires your response. Your preparation for the sacrament will lead you to the point where you can honestly make that decision.

After all, ***it is all up to you.***

WHY DO I NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Just like your Baptism, your Confirmation is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. God's seal, placed on you at Confirmation, will never go away.

It CAN make a lot of difference. You will not be the same old person. If you choose to accept the Sacrament of Confirmation into your heart and truly invite the Holy Spirit into your life, the Holy Spirit can:

- Bring you closer to God and Jesus
- Fill your life with a sense of meaning and purpose
- Guide you through life
- Help you make decisions
- Give you special strengths and gifts

These special strengths will enable you to live a more fully Christian life.

Confirmation gives you the strength to be able to say boldly and proudly: “I am a Christian, I am a Catholic.”

The special gifts that the Holy Spirit brings will help you live out your life as a Christian too. These seven gifts help you:

- Be wise
- Understand things and people better
- Give good advice
- Have courage
- Have knowledge
- Be reverent
- Realize that God is awesome and full of wonder

The Holy Spirit is given to those who ask. So by asking for and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are asking for the Holy Spirit and all the gifts of the Spirit.

That is a gift worth asking for.

CONFIRMATION IS A TIME TO STAND ON OUR OWN AND SAY WHAT YOU BELIEVE, MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICE.

(From “getting confirmed – a journey of questions and answers” by Liguori Publications.)