



Confirmation Candidates have a special place in our hearts- one can really see the work of the Holy Spirit in these young people. We have spent a great deal of time thinking about our candidates and praying for them and you---their families. Preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation with our young people can be a good opportunity for us to renew our own spiritual life. There is much more to Confirmation than requirements. This year we have drafted an itinerary that not only includes faith filled discussions, and Mass-the center of our faith- but also guest speakers and some at- home work as well.

New this year is an opportunity for young people from Middle School and High School to come together as the youth of our parish to pray together, socialize and work toward our mission of serving others as Jesus did through a youth ministry program.

We are hoping and praying that our young people will continue a life of faith in the Catholic Church which we promised them at baptism. We hope that they discover their call to serve the church. We hope that they will witness your faith, your generous heart and your gifts and talents that you share with others. We hope that they observe you as you continue to learn about our faith, and we hope they will see changes in your spiritual life and see your relationship with Jesus deepen and they will recognize that Confirmation is an important step in our faith journey.

At the center of our journey is a prayer life. Praying as a family is important. I know how difficult it can be to get teenagers interested in family prayer or faith sharing. You can encourage your child to pray daily on their own time, by reflection, in a journal, or even with an app on their phone. You can continue to pray for your child and your family at this special time in your faith journey as a family.

Biblical Traditions have suggested that a name change indicates a renewed commitment to God. We ask our confirmands to research saints to discover men and women who have spiritual gifts that they would like to emulate and to choose one that best suits them. We also ask them to research and discover ways to use their gifts and talents in service to the church, community and family.

Another important part of the journey to Confirmation is choosing a sponsor- someone who is catholic, not your parent, an adult, that will be added to their spiritual support group as they continue on their path of faith in the Catholic Church.

Finally a retreat provides an extended time when students can focus on their personal spiritual lives, hopes and dreams, the need for healing and strength and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a relaxed environment, and a place where community is strengthened.

Just a reminder that confirmands are not perfect- they are not part of a perfect family or a perfect church, but they can step up with confidence to be sealed with the Holy Spirit if they know they are part of a community on a journey. When they can see us follow Jesus, when they can tell we are still learning and seeking answers, when they know that we make every effort to forgive one another and to live in peace, then they can say YES not just to our invitation but YES to their personal call from Jesus Christ.

Mrs. Mascola, Director of Faith Formation

Mrs. Iverson, Youth Ministry Leader