



St. James Parish

Religious Education Program

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PARENT LETTER CONFIRMATION

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Candidates for Confirmation

One special moment for your child in the coming year is the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Since the Confirmation program involves an approach requiring prayer and involvement on your part, it is important that you know about it ahead of time. It is our hope that you will read this letter carefully with your child, discuss its contents as a family, and begin preparation for this Sacrament of Christian initiation.

What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the sacraments of initiation. Through these sacraments we become members of the Catholic Church, a community of Spirit-filled people who have been saved by Christ and who witness Christ's love in the world.

As one of the sacraments of initiation, Confirmation impresses the candidates with a special character. Through this sacrament the candidates are enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, are bound more perfectly to the Church, and are strengthened in faith. They are enabled to witness more courageously to Christ and to spread and defend the faith.

The Role of Those to be Confirmed

Those to be confirmed must be suitably instructed and properly disposed. They must be willing to be involved in the preparation program with the intention of remaining faithful to Christ and His Church.

The Role of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

As parents, you fulfill a primary role in the sacramental preparation program. You help your child grow in faith as you prepare him/her for the fruitful reception of the Sacrament. Your attendance at required meetings and the Sunday parish celebration of the Eucharist is vital. There is no substitute for your actual presence at such times. Your interest, involvement, and concern make a difference in your child's perception of what this Sacrament and the Christian life are about.

The Role of the Sponsor/Confirmation Name

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. One of the baptismal sponsors may fulfill



the role of the Confirmation sponsor. This choice would express more clearly the relationship between Baptism and Confirmation, however this is not necessary.

Church law states that the sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age. He/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 his/her qualifications with a Letter of Eligibility.

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

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

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,
Fillie Duchaine
Coordinator of Religious Education