

## 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 a period of special preparation and review of the Catholic faith and practices by the candidates. Our Youth Confirmation ministry is geared towards gr. 6-12.

The first step in this process of preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is to **complete & submit the St. Theresa's Parish Confirmation Form to the parish office.**

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.**

To register your child for Confirmation, complete and submit:

- St. Theresa's Parish Confirmation Form
- A copy of your child's Baptismal certificate
- Registration fee of \$50.00

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.*

## Registration deadline October 12, 2023

## 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).

September 2023

# CONFIRMATION 2024

"THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT"



## ST. THERESA'S PARISH

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## WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation, like Baptism and the Eucharist, is one of the 3 Sacraments of Initiation of the Catholic Church. As the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples who were gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2), so the Holy Spirit comes to every baptized person for whom the Church requests the gift of the Holy Spirit. It secures and strengthens us to be a living witness to Christ.

Section 203-207 of the YouCat (Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church) states that Confirmation is:

- 1 of the 7 Sacraments
- A Sacrament of Initiation into the Church
- Completes our Baptism
- The word “Confirmation” means strengthening
- Strengthens the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that we first receive in Baptism
- Helps us live out our faith and act as witnesses of Jesus Christ
- We receive a special seal on our soul that marks us forever as a Christian

### What Confirmation is NOT....

Confirmation is not a graduation and it is not an initiation into adulthood.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN CONFIRMATION?

To be Confirmed is to make a covenant with God. In receiving Confirmation, you say yes to believing in God and to wanting the Holy Spirit poured out on your life, and God in turn gives the Holy Spirit to you and promises to be with you always.

In Confirmation, the soul of a baptized Christian is imprinted with a permanent seal that can be received only once and marks this individual forever as a Christian. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the strength from above in which the Confirmed puts the grace of their Baptism into practice through their life and act as witnesses for Christ.

*Excerpts in this section are taken from the YouCat sections 203-7.*

## OBJECTIVE OF CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Together we to joyfully prepare to receive Confirmation, thereby sealing our baptism and embarking upon an ongoing and life-long process of conversion and mission. Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation means you want to be with us – the People of God – at Church EVERY SUNDAY, celebrating the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith.

### WHO ADMINISTERS CONFIRMATION?

The Sacrament of Confirmation is normally administered by the Bishop. When necessary, the bishop can also delegate a priest to do it. During Confirmation, the bishop will use holy chrism (oil of anointing) to mark Confirmands on the forehead with the sign of the cross, saying, “Be sealed with the Holy Spirit”. Through Confirmation, you will receive the strength to witness to God’s love and might in word and deed. They become full-fledged members of the Catholic Church, responsible for upholding and sharing the faith.

### AN ADVENTURE AND YOUR RESPONSE

This must be a journey of your choosing. As you begin your adventure 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.

Your parents may be encouraging you to start your Confirmation preparations. They want you to share fully in the life of the Church. They care deeply for you and your relationship with God.

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. **Will you choose to respond?**

## 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 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 receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are asking the Holy Spirit to strengthen you and to strengthen within you all the gifts of the Spirit that you first received in Baptism.

That is a gift worth asking for.

## CONFIRMATION IS A TIME TO DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST, INVITE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES, & COMMIT TO SHARING THE JOY OF OUR FAITH ALWAYS.

*Some excerpts from “Getting Confirmed – A Journey of Questions and Answers” by Liguori Publications*