

Confirmation Candidates & Sponsors

“What to Know & Do” for Confirmation



- **Candidates & Sponsors (proxy)** should check-in to the covered breezeway entrance of the parish center **at 8:30AM**. You will need to check in to receive your Confirmation Name Badges. *Please have the rest of your family / friends go directly to your **reserved** pew in the main church (leaving room for Candidate and Sponsor on the center end of your pew). Before Mass begins – THANK YOUR SPONSOR for their gift of faith shared!!! EVERYONE should be seated by 8:50AM, in order to prepare for the live-stream on time start.*
- EVERYONE also must follow the CDC and Diocesan health guidelines:
 - **wear masks**
 - **sanitize hands**
 - **arrive healthy**
- *Appropriate Dress (your Sunday best, kicked up a notch!)*
 - *Ladies - no cleavage, bare shoulders, bare back, short skirt /dress length ... you don't want me to supply those ugly sweaters ☺*
 - *Gentlemen – no shorts, jeans, sneakers, t-shirts, etc. ... a suit is great, a sport coat, shirt & tie is great, even khaki pants and a shirt with collar is fine.*
- Although we will not have a professional photographer, the Mass will be live-stream videoed for loved ones to virtually celebrate www.espirutusanto.cc – and the video will be available for replay (at no cost) once recorded.
- Following Mass, you will have personal photo opportunities with your families. Time inside the church will be very limited, as baptisms and funerals are scheduled as early as 11:00AM. But the campus is full of beautiful *outdoor* space to take advantage of photographs at your own pace!
- **PRAY FOR THE OPENNESS TO RECEIVE THE BEAUTIFUL GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ... that will be my prayer for all of you ☺** MUCH Love & Pride for each of you, Sue Sferra

In the Book of Isaiah 11:2-3, the **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** are described. In the passage the gifts are considered ones that the Messiah would have possessed. Through Jesus, we also receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation ... free graces, without “earning” or even “deserving” ... what GIFTS!

Wisdom helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives.

Understanding is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message.

Knowledge is the ability to think about and explore God's revelation, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us.

Counsel is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when we have choices that relate to him.

Fortitude is the courage to do what one knows is right.

Piety helps us pray to God in true devotion.

Fear of the Lord is the feeling of amazement before God, who is all-present, and whose friendship we do not want to lose.

“Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.” (Matthew 7:17-20)

This passage in Matthew's Gospel helps us to understand the **Fruits of the Holy Spirit**, which are the behaviors of people who have allowed the grace of the Holy Spirit to be effective in them. The tradition of the Church lists 12 fruits. So with the Gifts given to you freely, may you choose to offer the Fruits lovingly and for all!

charity

generosity

joy

gentleness

peace

faithfulness

patience

modesty

kindness

self-control

goodness

chastity

THE ORDER FOR THE CONFERRAL OF CONFIRMATION WITHIN MASS

The Rite of Confirmation takes place *following* the READING OF GOSPEL

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

Sue:

“Father Len - it is with great joy I present to you our young women and men who have prepared and are ready to receive the fullness of Christian Initiation in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Each candidate has been well instructed and is accompanied by a sponsor. It is my privilege to present them to you at this time.”

As your name is called, I invite each Candidate for Confirmation to please stand.

*** Candidates - remain standing until Father Len invites you to be seated.

HOMILY OR INSTRUCTION

Father Len offers words of encouragement to Candidates – invites them to be seated, and offers the Homily

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES – The Candidates Stand

Father Len:

Do you renounce Satan and all his works and all his empty promises?

Candidates: I do.

Father Len: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: I do.

Father Len: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: I do.

Father Len: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in Confirmation?

Candidates: I do.

Father Len: Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: I do.

Father Len: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord. **ALL R/. Amen.**

*Father Len or Sue will invite the Candidates for Confirmation, along with their Sponsors, to please come forward and stand at the foot of the altar, facing the assembly. ***Candidates stand on first step, face out, spaced out – Sponsors stand behind them on second step, right hand on Candidate shoulder****

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

Father Len: My dear friends:
in Baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life to his chosen sons and daughters. Let us pray to our Father that he will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen his sons and daughters with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God. (All pray in silence for a short time)

Father Len and Father Anthony extend hands over all those to be confirmed.

Father Len alone says:

All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.

Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence.

Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **ALL R/. Amen.**

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

With the Sponsor's right hand on the Candidate's shoulder and the Candidate's Confirmation Name clearly visible (on name tag):

Father Len dips the tip of the thumb (cotton swab) of his right hand in the Chrism and, with the thumb (cotton swab), makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, calling them by SAINT/CONFIRMATION name as he says:

N. be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The newly confirmed responds: Amen.

Father Len says: Peace be with you.

The newly confirmed responds: And with your spirit.

*Father Len will extend a loving congratulations to the newly confirmed – and invite the assembly to as well (we will clap for you!) ***Candidates and Sponsors will now return to your seats for the General Intercessions and the remainder of Mass****

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST is celebrated according to the Order of the Mass (*The Profession of Faith is omitted – as it has already been made in RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES*)

CONCLUDING RITE

III. THE EFFECTS OF CONFIRMATION (*from the Catechism of the Catholic Church*)

1302 It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

1303 From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";¹¹⁷
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;¹¹⁸
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross;¹¹⁹

Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.¹²⁰

1304 Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an *indelible spiritual mark*, the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness.¹²¹

1315 "Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit" (*Acts 8:14-17*).

1316 Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace; it is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

1317 Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian's soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one's life.



Dear Espiritu Santo Confirmation Candidates –

As you (NOW FINALLY) approach the very special sacrament of Confirmation, I want to remind of a few thoughts I originally shared during our retreat in March:

This beautiful Catholic Christian faith we share – it’s overflowing with gifts ... the sacraments being among the greatest! Your parents brought you to the font for Baptism, a day I’ll bet many of you don’t remember. Very soon, you will receive the sacrament that completes the grace you received at Baptism. It seals, or “confirms” this grace through the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation will enable you to better participate in the fullness of your faith – you will pray better, understand better, worship better, love & serve better (not every day, but most ... and that’s perfectly normal too). I use the word “grace” a lot when it comes to explaining our faith and the sacraments (especially Confirmation). Grace is truly a gift from God – free – unearned – undeserved ... but ours to enjoy! God sometimes nudges us to get our attention, so we might be open to getting a little closer to Him. In those “open” moments (which I hope have been many for you this year – especially during your retreat day Saturday), we are experiencing **actual grace**. Once we allow ourselves to get closer to God, we cannot help but put Him first. Our relationship with Him becomes like that of a best buddy – so rooted in love & friendship ... that we recognize, appreciate & tap in to it every day – can’t live without it! When we enjoy this kind of relationship with God, we are experiencing **sanctifying grace**. Let me tell you, sanctifying grace will get you through A LOT in this life! Through receiving the sacraments, through praying every day (even short, simple conversations with God), through trying to “walk the walk” (that’s where Works of Mercy and Fruits of the Spirit come in!) ... that grace is ours forever!!!

By now, you have already learned the history of Confirmation (what history!) – and the guidelines for receiving the sacrament: age of discretion – age 7☺, have a desire (that means be open) to receive, be in a state of grace (the sacrament of Reconciliation brings you there every time ... what a gift!), be ready to live as a witness to Jesus Christ (remember that “golden rule” we’ve talked about so much – simply desire and try to live by that rule every day – that’s being a true witness). The Catechism tells us that “**IN** Confirmation the Christian becomes more closely united with Christ”. With the graces (gifts) received, I have no doubt you will be a beautiful witness to Jesus in the world, offering the fruits of the Spirit everywhere you go!

Never lose sight of the fact that **receiving** the Sacrament of Confirmation helps to strengthen your faith – especially through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear (awe & wonder!) of the Lord. Be open to these great gifts – they will equip you to be a better example of Christ in your home, school, neighborhood and world – and allow you to share the Fruits of the Holy Spirit with others along your way: love, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, joy, generosity, self-control, chastity, peace, goodness, modesty, patience. For me, you are already an inspiring example!

Now do me a favor ... don't worry so much about what you need to *do, be* or *know* **BEFORE** – allow yourself to receive the grace **IN** the sacrament. Be open to what God will do for you, in you & through you.

Then use your gifts, offer those fruits – let them pour out of you ... and **GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!**

My love and prayer – Mrs. Sue Sferra

Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation has been highly encouraged throughout your preparation. Among the current parish opportunities: Saturday afternoons 3:00PM in Padua Hall (gymnasium of school building).

During this time, the sacrament may be more difficult to obtain. Pope Francis reminds us: “Do what the Catechism (of the Catholic Church) says. It is very clear: If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. Say, ‘Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,’ and ask for pardon with all your heart. Make an act of contrition, the pope said, and promise God, ‘I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now.’ And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church, N. 1452, says: “When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called ‘perfect’ — contrition of charity. Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible. You can draw near to God’s forgiveness without having a priest at hand.
