

God's Love has been
Poured into our hearts
Through the Holy spirit

Romans 5:5



The Holy Spirit At Work

Overview
Of the

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM
2017

St. Anthony/St. Mary Church

THE YEAR OF CONFIRMATION

Christianity and Service are the same word. The goal of Christian religious education is to prepare persons to become beatitude people: feeding the hungry, visiting the sick or imprisoned, clothing the poor, to help those who cannot help themselves because of emotional, economic or deprived backgrounds.

God, throughout the Bible, states that it is not sacrifice, ritual behavior or following the letter of the law that He desires, but mercy, forgiveness, and compassion in aiding those who are deprived in our socio-economic system.

Unfortunately, too often, we reject the latter because it makes us uncomfortable and adopt the former as the way we are willing to enter the Kingdom of God.

Yet God tells us that he demands Service as the criterion to enter the Kingdom in the stories of Jesus casting out of the Kingdom those disciples who did not take care of the poor and unfortunate. He welcomes those who serve the least of the brethren.

The purpose of the Confirmation Program is to accept as full members into the Church those disciples, who meet 2 criteria; 1) a fully informed understanding of the Christian message and 2) a willingness to enter a life of service to aid the less fortunate in our community, local and global.

Christian service is, therefore, the primary focus of our Confirmation Program. The secondary focus is to review the teachings of the Catholic faith so each disciple can fully understand the beliefs of the faith community within which he/she is making a commitment to live in an harmonious fashion. A disciple has a right to reflect on the faith and decide whether he/she can make a lifetime commitment to the Catholic Christian Community.

To be effective the Sacrament of Confirmation which brings the gifts of the Holy Spirit must be “freely chosen” by the disciple. If the disciple is coerced by parent, family or community, this may render the sacrament invalid.

What is Confirmation

Confirmation is the sacrament by which a baptized Christian is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and is bound more closely to the Church; one of the sacrament's of invitation. Confirmation obliges one to love, study, and spread the faith.

What is the purpose of our program

The purpose of our Confirmation program, entitled "Gifted with the Spirit" is to recognize the presence of the Spirit in their lives, and then respond to that presence. "Confirmation helps teens see themselves as active, gifted members of the Catholic Church, who are responding to an invitation to confirm their baptismal commitment."

Parents' role

"Parents are the first and foremost catechists of their children. They catechize informally but powerfully by example and instruction. They communicate values and attitudes by showing love for Christ and His Church and for each other, by reverently receiving the Eucharist and living in its spirit, and by fostering justice and love in all their relationships. Their active involvement in the parish, their readiness to seek opportunities to serve others, and their practice of frequent and spontaneous prayer, all make meaningful their professions of belief. Parents nurture faith in their children by showing them the richness and beauty of lived faith.

"Through the influence of peers and of adult catechists is important, catechetical programs are not intended to supplant parents as the primary educators of their children. Parental involvement in catechetical programs is essential" (National Catechetical Directory).

"The initiation of children into the sacramental life is for the most part the responsibility and concern of Christian parents. They are to form and gradually increase a spirit of faith in their children and, with the help of catechetical instructions, prepare them for the fruitful reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. The role of the parents is also expressed by their active participation in the celebration of the Sacraments." (Rite of Confirmation, Introduction)

Suggestions for Continued Involvement of Parents

1. Continue to share faith
2. Pray with and for child
3. Encourage child to worship with parish community
4. try to drop in for at least one Confirmation class
5. Continue to be open to the Spirit working in your own life
6. Use the Blessing Cup for a family celebration of Confirmation on or near the day.
7. Discuss your own Confirmation with your child

Sponsors Role

1. Spiritual guide, mentor and friend
2. Assist parents in leading their children to love and serve God in daily life
3. Walt and talk with your candidate in his or her preparation for Confirmation. (Faith Sharing)
4. Pray with and for the candidate (especially at the beginning and ending of your visits)
5. Meet with your candidate regularly
6. Be a role model through your example of your life as an adult Catholic (especially weekly mass)
7. Accompany candidate forward at the Confirmation Rite for the anointing with chrism.

Sponsor Requirements

1. A practicing Catholic
2. Has received the Sacrament of Confirmation
3. At least 16 years old
4. Be willing to meet with candidate regularly
5. Attend sponsor meeting
6. Attend Confirmation rehearsal and Liturgy

Holy Spirit, within me, guide me

Faith Community Responsibility

The faith community is expected to provide a warm, welcoming environment that invites the candidates into our community. Members are encouraged to:

1. pray for the candidates
2. model a lifestyle reflecting personal Christian ministry and financial support of the community.
3. conduct their personal lives in a manner reflecting our Christian moral principals and values.

The responsibility of the parent, sponsor and faith community does not end at Confirmation. All are required to continue to support the candidate's growth in the Christian faith through Christian education, participation in Christian service, reception of Eucharist, Reconciliation and the practice of a moral lifestyle.

Candidate Requirements

1. Participate in 30 hours of service projects
2. Complete 6 Spiritual Growth areas
3. Attend all Confirmation Preparation Classes. Missed classes must be made up within two weeks of absence.
4. Covenant forms filled out
5. Baptismal Record (unless baptized at St. Anthony/St. Mary)
6. Sponsor information sheet
7. Select Confirmation Name
8. Saint's report on name you've chosen
9. Completed "Knowledge Checklist".
10. Meet with your sponsor regularly.
11. Attend Confirmation Retreat

Service Projects

Candidates are required to participate in Class Service Projects and do 30 hours of personal service. Christian service must be given without expectation of any monetary payment.

Of the 30 hours at least 5 must be in the following areas: Service to the FAMILY, e.g. Childcare, house or yard work , aid to grandparents; Service to CHURCH, e.g. choir, cleaning the church, altar server, lector, serving on a committee, helping at church activity; And , Service to the Community, e.g. shopping or cleaning for the elderly, visiting a nursing home, helping at the food bank, etc.

*Choir/Altar Server; a limit of 5 hours can be claimed for service during the fulfillment of personal mass obligations. Special liturgies; e.g. Funeral masses, wedding masses may be included in any count over 5 hours.

Traditional Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit O Lord, and our hearts shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, who taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to delight in what is right and always to rejoice in his consolation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Important Confirmation Dates

Monday, Oct. 9 Meeting	Candidate/Sponsor 6:30 @ St. Anthony)
Saturday, Oct. 14	Confirmation Enrollment 4:00 p.m. St. Anthony's
Sunday, Oct. 15	10:30 Mass St. Mary's
TBD	Confirmation Retreat
Friday, April 13	Confirmation Rehearsal, Refreshments 6:00, Practice @ 7, St. Anthony's
Sunday, April 15	Confirmation Ceremony (St. Mary's @ 3:00 p.m.)

CONFIRMATION PRAYER

God, our Father, we ask you to bless all candidates

Who are now preparing to receive the

Spirit of Your love in the sacrament

Of Confirmation.

May the Gifts within each one be touched

By your Holy Spirit and become blessings

For our parish family.

Bless, too, our parents, our sponsors,

Our teachers and catechists, and all

Those who have been the reflection of

Your Son's love for us.

This we ask through Christ,

Our Lord.

AMEN

