

**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

ST. Anthony/St. Mary Church

THE YEAR OF CONFIRMATION

Christianity and “Works of Charity” are the same word. The goal of Christian formation program is to prepare persons to become people dedicated to the beatitudes: feeding the hungry, visiting the sick or imprisoned, clothing the poor and to help those who cannot help themselves because of emotional, economic or deprived backgrounds.

We find in the Bible, that it is not only sacrifice, ritual behavior or following the letter of the law that He desires, but more importantly, 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 a 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, an important focus of our Confirmation program, along with reviewing 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 a 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 parents, family or community, this may render the sacrament invalid.



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

Class Service

Projects

Candidates are required to participate in 2 Class service Projects and perform spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Christian acts must be given without expectation of any monetary payment. This information will be provided to the students.

Living as Disciple of Christ means living the works of mercy. As a part of your confirmation preparation, you are to perform each of the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy. You are to write a reflection on each work of mercy performed. Include how it connects with being a Disciple of Christ and what connection these may have with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit

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

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 sacraments of initiation. Confirmation obliges one to love, study, and spread the faith.

What is the purpose of the program

The purpose of our Confirmation program, entitled “Chosen” 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 often 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.

“Although the influence of peers and of adult catechists is important, catechetical programs are not intended to supplement 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 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 your faith
2. Pray with and for your child
3. Encourage your child to worship with parish community
4. Try to drop in to 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. Walk 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, at least 4 visits.
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 of age
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 reflection our Christian moral principals and values.

The responsibility of the parent, sponsor and the 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. Attend Sunday Mass on a weekly basis
2. Perform works of Charity (spiritual & Corporal works of mercy.)
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 completed
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
12. Meet with Parish Priest/write letter to parish Priest

Service Projects

Candidates are required to participate in two class service Projects.