

INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This is to be read by parent together with your child!

The Sacrament of Confirmation is built on what begins at Baptism and what was nourished in Holy Communion. It completes the process of initiation into the Christian community and matures the soul. To be 'initiated' means to become a full member of a community or group, in this case, the Catholic Church.

The 1st Sacrament of Initiation is '**Baptism**' where the Holy Spirit is first given as a gift to us. At Baptism, we become a member of the Body of Christ; we are marked as a child of God. The 2nd

Sacrament of Initiation is '**Confirmation**' which confirms the gift of God, our faith, which was given in Baptism. During the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the Holy Spirit and we are sealed as children of God. This sacrament strengthens our faith; we pray to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The final Sacrament of Initiation is the '**Holy Eucharist**' where we receive the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is the high point of our relationship with Jesus. This is the only one of the three Sacraments of Initiation that we can and should receive repeatedly – even daily, if possible.

Confirmation means to accept the responsibility for our faith. When you were a child you were told what to do but, as an adult, even a young adult, you must make the choice to do what's right simply because it is the right thing to do. We believe that the Holy Spirit who confirmed the apostles on Pentecost also confirms Catholics during the Sacrament of Confirmation and gives them the same gifts and fruits that were given to the Apostles.

The 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment (Counsel), Courage (Fortitude), Knowledge, Reverence (Piety) and Awe and Wonder (Fear of the Lord). The 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit are supernatural graces given to the soul; they include Charity (Love), Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-control and Chastity.

CONFIRMATION CEREMONY

The Confirmation ceremony will take place either at St. Bernard Parish or at Notre Dame Cathedral on Sussex Drive; the parking is free, but only for the duration of the ceremony. The celebrant will be either the Archbishop or the Auxiliary Bishop. Dress code information will be made known to the recipient in advance.

During the ceremony, the following will take place:

Presentation of the candidates:

Each child to be confirmed will come forward with his/her sponsor to be presented to the Archbishop. At Baptism, the child's parents selected the child's godparents. At Confirmation, the child and parent should discuss together who should take on the role of sponsor. The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic over the age of sixteen who regularly attends Sunday Mass and has already been confirmed. Only one sponsor is chosen for Confirmation and can be, but does not have to be, one of the child's godparents.

The sponsor cannot be the child's mother or father. The sponsor should be someone that the child respects and whose role will be to support the parents and child as they prepare for full initiation into the Church.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises:

Since most of the candidates were baptised as infants, they will now profess their faith, the faith of the Church, in their own name.

Anointing with Chrism:

The child being confirmed will stand in front of the Archbishop or Bishop and the sponsor will lay one hand on the child's shoulder. The Archbishop will trace a cross with Chrism Oil on the child's forehead and say '**Child's name**, BE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT'. The child will then respond with "AMEN". Chrism is perfumed oil which is blessed by the Archbishop every year during Holy Week.

Sign of Peace:

Archbishop Prendergast or Bishop Riesbeck will touch each child on the cheek as a sign of peace to accompany the words "PEACE BE WITH YOU" and the child will respond "AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT".

Eucharist:

The Sacrament of Confirmation will culminate with the receiving of the Holy Eucharist.

DUTIES OF PARENTS

In order to fully prepare your children for receiving the sacraments, a partnership is necessary between you, the schools and the Church. In receiving the sacraments, your child has a responsibility to practice their faith. When you brought your child to the Church to be baptised, you made a baptismal promise to raise your child in the Catholic Church. You were then, and still are now, their first and primary teachers of the faith. It is now your duty and privilege to present your child to the sacrament of Confirmation to complete their initiation into the life of the Church. We encourage you to take on your rightful role by helping your children prepare to receive this sacrament. By working together, you will both grow in faith and confidence.

The first step towards your child's Confirmation is for you to discern, as a family, whether you and your child, as well as his or her sponsor, are ready to make the commitment this year. Once you have made the decision and your child's sponsor has been selected, it will be necessary for you to send a **copy of the sponsor's Confirmation certificate** * to the parish office, with your child's registration form and a copy of your child's Baptismal certificate from a Catholic Church.

Confirmation is a call to witness Christ and therefore we invite you to practice your faith as a family in our parish community.

God bless you all,

Fr. Eslin Pereira (Pastor) 613-738-1943, and the
St Bernard Parish Sacramental Team

*To obtain a copy of the sponsor's Confirmation certificate, the sponsor will have to request a copy of his/her certificate from the parish where they were baptised. If his/her Confirmation is not on record at that parish, then they should get in touch with the parish where they were confirmed. This can take time so please begin as soon as possible.