

**CELEBRATIONS AND PREPARATION
FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
2017-2018**

A Time to Deepen and Renew

The Sacrament of Confirmation, is the final Sacrament of Initiation, and it is a precious time in your child's faith life and we wish you all of God's blessings as you prepare for this Sacrament as a family. If you are not already an active member of our parish: this time of Confirmation will often be a natural "comeback" moment for families. We encourage you to use this preparation period as a time of faith renewal.

Let's ensure that the day of Confirmation is not your child's "graduation" from Church but rather a time of blessing and thanksgiving for your entire family. We hold all of these parish based activities **as essential elements of preparation**

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday, October 5, 2017

7:00 p.m. at St Mary of the Visitation Church

Parents will gather for a reflection upon the Sacrament of Confirmation. Information will be given for family activities and participation in **Sunday Mass**.

A Time to Away from Textbooks to Tools

While the celebration of Confirmation is a ritual, living out Confirmation is a relationship. Young people will be assigned to a Small Group led by a parent and a high school aged teen. These small groups will engage in activities together to prepare for Confirmation.

PARISH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

It is at Lord's Day Mass that the relationship is nourished. Young people will be offered opportunities, with their small group, to participate in ministries in the parish during their time at Mass - Welcome Desk, Catholic Café, Usher, Aiding in Parking Ministry, Helping in our Children's Ministry. The purpose of this involvement is to aide young people to become more closely associated with the activities of our parish and see there is a place for them. Parents are asked to support this by being present also.

SEARCHING IN THE SPIRIT SMALL GROUPS

Confirmation is a completion of the Baptismal Call. As first teachers of the faith we would like to support you in the opportunity to work with your child in the preparation. *Searching in the Spirit* is a series of four small group gatherings which helps young people not only prepare for the ritual celebration, but more importantly for the life long relationship of faith.

Once your child is placed in a small group, their small group adult mentor will contact you to set up sessions to be hosted here at the parish. Opportunities for Small Groups to meet on various nights are provided to accommodate schedules. ***Please register for a small group on our website no later than November 1, 2017***

1 - Our Journey Begins- **this unit should be done in November**

2 - Growing as Catholics- **this unit should be in December**

3 - Witnessing to Jesus - **this unit should be done in February**

4 - Responding in Faith - **this unit should be done in March**

These sessions are to be completed before the retreat which will be the culmination of preparation.

RITE OF ENROLMENT

All young people wishing to be Confirmed will be invited to participate in the Rite of Enrollment. This is a public opportunity for each young person to step forward to indicate their desire to be Confirmed and for our parish to show its support. ***This is a family event - parents attend with their child*** at any one of the Lord's Day Masses on one of the following weekends: **January 13/14, 2018 or January 20/21, 2018**

Please register on our website and select one weekend no later than November 1, 2017

Confirmation Retreat

All those preparing for Confirmation will gather together at Camp Brebeuf for a retreat in preparation for Confirmation. It will take place on **Saturday, April 14, 2018**. **Please ensure this date is kept free.**

A Parent Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 7:00p.m. at St Mary of the Visitation Church to provide details to follow on costs and schedule for the retreat.

While the retreat is an essential component, no child should feel unable to attend due to finances, as sponsorships are available.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 2:00p.m. for those attending Our Lady of Fatima and Other Schools
Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 5:00p.m. for those attending St Gabriel and St Elizabeth Schools
(it is possible to attend at a different time than above – please contact Parish Office for details)

Participation in these celebrations is based on successful completion of parish based activities, including Searching in the Spirit and the retreat, and is not determined based on school registration.

Candidates and Sponsors will be expected to be present 30 minutes before the celebration. Confirmation Gowns will be available to each student. Details will follow.

Rehearsal Times: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 7:00pm for those attending the 2:00pm Celebration
Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 7:00pm for those attending the 5:00pm Celebration
Attendance at the applicable rehearsal is compulsory for Child and Parent.
Attendance of Sponsor at rehearsal is highly recommended.

