

**CELEBRATIONS AND PREPARATION
FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
2018-2019**

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 for the entire family.

As a parish family, we view these parish based activities as **essential opportunities** to support your child in their faith journey, providing not an opportunity to "graduate" from Church, but rather to build a lifelong relationship with Christ and His Church.

PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday, October 4, 2018

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.

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.

Our groups will gather on Sunday in conjunction with the 11:30am Mass to which we invite the entire family to attend. At the conclusion of the Mass those in attendance will be invited to their small group spaces where they, with their small group adult mentor, will enjoy lunch together, followed by large and small group activities hosted here at the parish concluding at 2:30pm.

1 - Our Journey Begins- **November 11, 2018**

2 - Growing as Catholics- **December 9, 2018**

3 - Witnessing to Jesus – **February 10, 2019**

4 - Responding in Faith – **March 3, 2019**

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

PARISH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Each small group will also choose a Lord's Day Mass to participate in ministries in the parish - 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.

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 12/13, 2019 or January 19/20, 2019**

Please register on our website and select one weekend no later than November 1, 2018

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, March 30, 2019. Please ensure this date is kept free.**

A Parent Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 21, 2019 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

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7:00p.m. for those attending Our Lady of Fatima and Other Schools
Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 7:00p.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: Monday, May 6, 2019 at 7:00pm for those attending the May 7th Celebration
Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 7:00pm for those attending the May 9th Celebration
Attendance at the applicable rehearsal is compulsory for Child and Parent.
Attendance of Sponsor at rehearsal is highly recommended.

