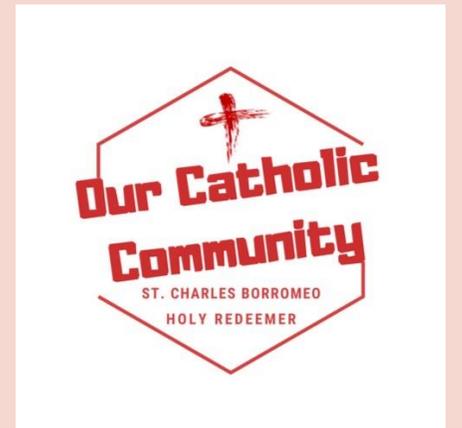


# Confirmation

2018



# Prayer to the Holy Spirit



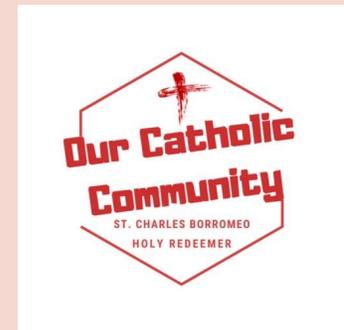
***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful,  
and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.  
Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created,  
and You shall renew the face of the earth.  
O God, who has taught the hearts of the faithful  
by the light of the Holy Spirit,  
grant that by the gift of the same Spirit  
we may be truly wise  
and ever rejoice in His Consolation. Amen.***

# Confirmation

- Present the new Confirmation guidelines in light of our Parish cluster
- Better understand the sacrament
- Have a better relationship with Christ



# Confirmation

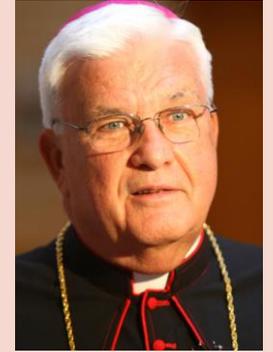


In our Catholic Community we strive to make preparation to the sacrament of Confirmation our very best as we embrace the guidelines established by the Diocese's of Winona - Rochester published in 2018.

In 2018 the Diocese has renewed its vision of Missionary Discipleship and these guidelines will help the candidates grow as well as our leaders, teachers and parents.

We strive to deepen our love for Christ and to help deepen our whole community in the faith of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

# Letter from our bishop...



It has been 14 years since the last publication of a diocesan document concerning the preparation of youth for the sacrament of Confirmation. Over these years a new, yet original perspective has emerged in the Church, leading us back to a **fresh look at the essence of this Sacrament**, to an opportunity to refresh and renew our understanding and appreciation of the gift of the Holy Spirit, and to the great need to anticipate and receive these gifts with a **profound openness** to allowing the **transforming character** of God's freely given grace to penetrate our being.

# Confirmation

How did Jesus prepare the Apostles?

They listened to Jesus' teaching, they watched, participated, prayed and learned, and they were afraid, and they did not fully understand, until the Holy Spirit enlightened them.



# Letter from Fr. Tim...

*“Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit . . . To this end, catechesis (preparation) for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community.”*



# Letter from Fr. Tim...

- Develop a more personal faith with the help of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Develop a deeper sense of belonging to the Catholic Church
- Develop a more active relationship with Christ through prayer
- Become a more active, visible sign of Christ's love at home, school and here at St. Charles Borromeo and Holy Redeemer through the liturgical ministries, social activities and special annual events.



# Confirmation

- The confirmation program offers opportunities to enrich spiritual growth and development with Jesus Christ and the Church community.
- The program is design to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, as well as to carry a lifelong devotion to our Faith.



# Confirmation

- Candidates will be accountable for their attendance
- If candidates are not going to attend, contact the office, your teachers or your Faith Sharing Leader.
- If school is cancelled for the day, there will be no class that day. If school is released early due to weather, there will be no classes.
- You will be held accountable for all materials.
- Candidates are encouraged to take ownership of their Confirmation preparation.

# WHAT IS CONFIRMATION? P. 4

*“Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your heart.”*



# WHAT IS CONFIRMATION? P. 4

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, there is a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit ... the same outpouring of the Holy Spirit that was given to the Apostles at Pentecost.

This Sacrament is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace, because it is through the Sacrament of Confirmation that each person is more perfectly bound to the Church and is strengthened with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Even the name *Confirmation* emphasizes that through this Sacrament, Baptismal grace is both confirmed and strengthened.

# WHAT IS CONFIRMATION? P. 4

On multiple occasions, the Lord promised to His followers this immense gift of the Holy Spirit.

It was through the gift of the Holy Spirit that the Apostles were able to “go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” proclaiming the “mighty works of God.”

# WHAT IS CONFIRMATION? P. 4

- Brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace
- Increases sanctifying grace
- Roots us more deeply as children of God
- Unites us more firmly to Christ



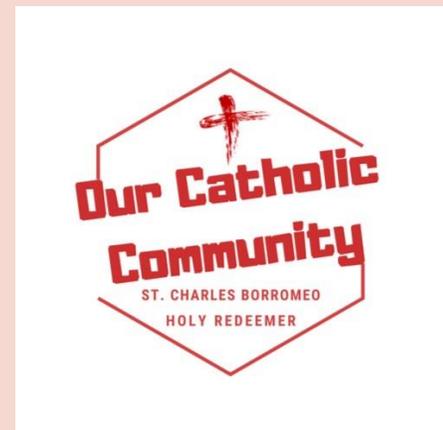
# WHAT IS CONFIRMATION? P. 4

- Strengthens our bond with the Church and connects us more closely with her mission
- Increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us
- Imprints a spiritual and indelible sign, called a character, on the soul which gives the confirmed person the power to profess faith in Christ publicly and, as it were, officially
- Gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross.

# Involvement

The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our lives as followers of Christ.

Participation in Sunday Mass is essential to our identity as Roman Catholics.



# Involvement

Active participation in the Mass is essential – first and foremost through a lively interior and spiritual participation. As is stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church

“the Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.”

# **ROLE OF THE PARENT** P. 5

A supportive parent is essential to Confirmation preparation. At the time of infant Baptism, parents have accepted the responsibility of being the primary teachers of the faith for their child.

Young people need to see their parents modeling the Catholic faith in their daily lives. Their involvement in the Confirmation process is essential for the continued formation of the child's faith.

# ROLE OF THE PARENT P. 5

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, “family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith.

Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God.”



# Confirmation Name P. 9

It is the current custom that the candidate chooses a Confirmation name that is a Saint or virtuous Biblical person. The candidate may also choose his baptismal name, showing the relationship between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. “A name foreign to Christian sensibility” cannot be chosen.



# Letter to the Bishop P. 9

Every Confirmation candidate is asked to write the Bishop and request the Sacrament of Confirmation. The letters should be collected by the parish and sent to the bishop at least three (3) weeks prior to the celebration. In these letters the candidates introduce themselves and their families, briefly share what they've done to prepare for the Sacrament, and state why they have chosen to be confirmed.



# THE SPONSOR P. 6

The process of choosing a Confirmation sponsor is of great importance. A strong relationship with a faith-filled sponsor can create a safe and supportive environment in which the candidate is able to integrate their faith as a lived reality. Essentially, the sponsor mentors the candidate by supporting, listening, and encouraging the candidate's faith.



# THE SPONSOR P. 6

**The person chosen as a Confirmation sponsor should be someone who can relate to the candidate and meet the following criteria:**

- Be designated by the one to be Confirmed, by the parents or the one who takes their place or, in their absence, by the pastor or minister and is to have the qualifications and intention of performing this role.
- Have completed the sixteenth year of age, ...
- Be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on.

# THE SPONSOR P. 6

**The person chosen as a Confirmation sponsor should be someone who can relate to the candidate and meet the following criteria:**

- Not to be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed.
- A Baptismal Godparent is a great option to consider as it shows the unity between Baptism and Confirmation.
- The sponsor should be an influential person that will lead the candidate in the faith, intercede for them, and commit to walk with them for the rest of their lives.
- *The sponsor should be one who lives their faith, attends weekly Catholic Sunday Mass, is devoted to a life of prayer, and lives as a witness of the Catholic faith.*

*Young people should be encouraged to look for these qualities in a sponsor.*

# Catechesis on the Holy Spirit P.7

While sacramental preparation for Confirmation may encompass many aspects of the Catholic faith, it is essential that the candidates for Confirmation have a thorough catechesis on the Holy Spirit. The following items should be included in this catechesis:

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- Scripture references with emphasis on the story of Pentecost
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Symbols of the Confirmation Liturgy (chrism, laying on of hands, etc.)
- Explanation of the Rite of Confirmation with an emphasis on explaining the homily
- Effects of Confirmation
- How is the Holy Spirit present in the Sacraments?
- Traditional Prayers to the Holy Spirit



# **CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWS** P 10

- Many parishes find that an interview with the pastor is beneficial. These interviews can take a variety of forms, such as a conversation getting to know the candidate and getting to know where they are in their Catholic faith, to a more deliberate testament to whether they have been suitably instructed.
- It is due to these statements from the diocesan guidelines that our Catholic Community will have two interviews one with the Director of Evangelization in the fall with the candidate and at least one parent. The last interview will be in late winter or spring with the priest.

# FAITH SHARING GROUPS

These groups allow our Catholic Community to model parish mentorship to our Confirmation candidates and instill a model of Christian discipleship.



# FAITH SHARING GROUPS

- Faith Sharing Groups meet once a month during the school year.
- Faith Sharing Groups will be a small group sessions that occur instead of class one week out of the month.
- It is up to the group to decide when and where to meet.
- The goal of each lesson is to have candidates and their leaders share their faith in a safe environment that encourages a relationship with Christ and each other.
- Two Virtus Trained adults will be present at the time of the meeting. Students will remain in the same faith sharing group throughout all of Confirmation prep.

# FAITH SHARING GROUPS

10<sup>th</sup> grade (SCB – 25) (HR – 15)  
Redig/\_\_\_\_\_

Fr. Tim/Jason Pulzin/Keeli

*Faith Sharing Groups (meets once a month with students and other leaders) starts in Oct.*

## **Faith Sharing Leaders**

- Kelly E & Keeli Redig
- Dale Gathje & \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
- Keith Toke & \_\_\_\_\_
- Shelly Haag & \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# SERVICE AS CHRISTIAN WITNESS P 10

- In contrast to an obligation of service hours, young people should be presented **an opportunity to be generous witnesses to the command of Christ to “love one another, as I have loved you.”** Young people are called to proclaim the good news of the Gospel both in word and action. Care should be taken in approaching service hours or projects with the proper disposition. Some parishes have customs of serving a specific amount of hours. The requirements to fulfill a set amount of hours could be presented in a manner which contradicts the meaning of the service component, which is an expression of the gospel lived in the world. **Candidates could be given the false impressions that by performing service they are earning the Sacrament.**
- If a parish has an expectation of service within your parish program, be mindful that it should be an expression of the Gospel lived in the world – not just a requirement.

# SERVICE AS CHRISTIAN WITNESS

- For this reason our Catholic Community will require **projects** that will bring the candidates closer to Christ and learn how to be a generous witness to command of Christ to “love one another”.
- The final recommendations will be decided by Faith Sharing Leaders and their teachers. The recommendations will be based on at least one project for each individual, group, and class.



# Due Dates for Confirmation

**Oct 3** *Orientation*

**Oct. 9 or 10** *Interview with Director*

**Nov. 1** *Make sure you have baptismal record on file at parish.*

**Dec. 1** *Sponsors Name*

**Jan. 15** *Confirmation Name*

**Feb. 15** *Projects*

**March 15** *Letter to the bishop*

**March 31** *Retreat*

**April 15** *Service report*

**May 1** *Confirmation Practice 7 PM*

**May 8** *Confirmation 7 PM*



# Confirmation

O God our Father,  
in Jesus you call all Christian families and homes  
to be signs of living faith.  
By the light of the Holy Spirit,  
lead us to be thankful for the gift of faith,  
and by that gift  
may we grow in our relationship with Jesus,  
your Son, and be confident witnesses to Christian  
hope and joy to all we meet.  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

