

SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH



CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

“RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”



Brian McCauley,
Director of Sacramental Preparations
St. Mary of the Assumption
Office: 740.653.5054
bmccauley@stmarylancaster.org



From the Pastor

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Dear Parents,

The formation of a Christian in the faith of Jesus Christ is an ongoing and life long process. Your son or daughter has reached a significant moment in that process. This year he or she will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the third of the three Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. It is our privilege and joy here at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish to assist you in your responsibility to prepare your child for Confirmation.

At Baptism your child became a son or daughter of God and a member of the Body of Christ, the Church. At Confirmation they will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit enabling them to assume the responsibilities of an active Christian in the Church and the world. These next few months are a time of study, formation, and prayer so that as far as possible your child will be prepared to encounter Christ Sacramentally in Confirmation. I look forward, as does the whole parish staff in helping you in this process.

This document outlines that process of preparation here at St. Mary of the Assumption. Be assured of my prayers for your child and yourself, as together we began that journey that will lead to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Yours in Christ,

Father Craig R. Eilerman

Pastor



CONFIRMATION CALENDAR

| DATE | EVENT & LOCATION |
|-------------|--|
| OCTOBER 2 | 1ST CONFIRMATION MEETING: 8TH GRADE PARENTS & STUDENTS: 10AM IN THE SPIRIT CENTER, FOLLOWED BY 11:15 HOLY MASS |
| OCTOBER 30 | 2ND CONFIRMATION MEETING: 8TH GRADE PARENTS & STUDENTS: 10AM IN THE SPIRIT CENTER, FOLLOWED BY 11:15 HOLY MASS |
| JANUARY 6/8 | LETTER TO FR. EILERMAN ASKING TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AND SACRAMENTAL FORM TO MR. MCCAULEY |
| JANUARY 29 | 3RD CONFIRMATION MEETING: 8TH GRADE PARENTS & STUDENTS: 10AM IN THE SPIRIT CENTER, FOLLOWED BY 11:15 HOLY MASS |
| FEBRUARY 5 | CONFIRMATION RETREAT & HOLY MASS: 9AM - 2PM IN THE SCHOOL GYM; PLEASE BRING A LUNCH/DRINK |
| FEBRUARY 8 | SM GRADE SCHOOL INTERVIEWS - MORNING SM PSR STUDENT INTERVIEWS: 3:15-6:00PM |
| FEBRUARY 9 | SM PSR STUDENT INTERVIEWS: 3:15-6:00PM |
| FEBRUARY 11 | SM PSR STUDENT INTERVIEWS: 2:00-3:45PM |
| FEBRUARY 12 | CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL: CANDIDATES & SPONSORS, 12:30PM IN THE CHURCH |
| FEBRUARY 14 | HOLY MASS & ADMINISTRATION OF CONFIRMATION, 7PM. CANDIDATES & SPONSORS, PLEASE ARRIVE BY 6:30PM. |

Sacramental Celebrations

Saint Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, encourages students to celebrate the sacraments in their home parish, even if they attend St. Mary Elementary School. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact Mr. Brian McCauley.

The Celebration of Confirmation during Holy Mass

To make more evident the relationship of Pentecost and the call to witness in the Church, Confirmation ordinarily takes place within Holy Mass, at which the Bishop is the celebrant and minister of the sacrament.

Outline of Holy Mass with Administration of Confirmation

- I. Liturgy of the Word
- II. Presentation of Candidates
- III. Homily by Bishop Campbell
- IV. Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- V. Laying on of Hands
- VI. Anointing with Sacred Chrism
- VII. Liturgy of the Eucharist

Let us Pray

Lord God, You gave Your Holy Spirit to Your apostles, and willed that through them and their successors the same Gift should be delivered to all the faithful. Look graciously on the service we humbly render to You; as parents, sponsors, and catechists, so that through this preparation, the candidates hearts will be open to the Spirit's grace and His seven-fold Gifts as they are sealed with the sacred oil of Chrism in the sign of the holy cross. May His gracious indwelling make them a temple of His glory, You who are God, living and reigning with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen

Sacramental Preparation

The Sacrament of Confirmation perfects the grace given in Baptism. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, the confirmed Catholic has an even greater obligation to faithfulness in defending the Church and evangelizing others to the flock of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Key Terms:

Chrism: The consecrated scented oil used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.

Form: The essential words and actions of the sacrament which accompany the 'matter'.

Indelible: A permanent and eternal mark

Matter: The essential material substances used in administering a sacrament. Blessed Water, Sacred Chrism, etc.

Sacrament: An outward sign, instituted by Our Lord Jesus Christ and administered by the Church, which gives divine life

Seal: A permanent change in the soul resulting from certain sacraments.

Notes on Confirmation:

Jesus, the Anointed One (Mk 1:9-11):

- In the Old Testament, laying on of hands and anointing were signs of appointment to special offices
- At His baptism, Christ was anointed for ministry by the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Him while God the Father spoke His words of love and approval. This was Christ's acceptance of His Father's will.

The Spirit is poured out onto the Church (Acts 2:1-41)

- On Pentecost, the promised Holy Spirit inspired and empowered the apostles for their ministry.
- The same Peter who denied Christ three times before His death, now preached Him openly and boldly.
- The Spirit was given to the baptized by the laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-17)

Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation

- The Spirit is poured out in the special way experienced by the apostles
- The form of Confirmation is, “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- The matter Bishop or Priest (in special cases) anointing the forehead with chrism by the laying of his hand.
- Confirmation makes an indelible spiritual mark on the soul

The effects of Confirmation unite us to the mission of Christ

- We become, even more fully, the children of our Father (Rom 8:14-17)
- We become more united and configured to Christ (2 Cor 1:20-22)
- Stronger bond with the Church, and we become her defenders
- The Gifts of the Spirit are increased and strengthened
- We are strengthened against sin, and the fruits (virtues) of the Spirit are strengthened within us.
- As soldiers in the Church Militant, we are given the strength to courageously and confidently profess and defend the faith, even unto death, and to spread it throughout the world.
- We are obliged to use all that we are and do to consciously give good example and be witnesses to the Christ in whom we live.

The Role of the Parents

God’s love is communicated to children primarily through their parents. Parents have shared the gift of human life with their children and, through Baptism, have enriched them with a share in God’s own life. They have the responsibility and duty to nourish it. Their faith, their attitude toward other persons, and their faith and trust in God strongly influence the development and growth of their children’s faith. Parents are catechists precisely because they are parents. Their role in the formation of Christian values in their children is irreplaceable. Parents should speak naturally and simply about God and their faith, as they do about other matters they want their children to understand and appreciate.

In preparation for the celebration of the sacrament, the role of parents is to encourage, support, and affirm their child’s free decision to seek the sacrament. Parents are asked to attend all parent/candidate preparation sessions so they can appreciate the meaning of the sacrament and come to an understanding of their role and responsibilities throughout the process.

The Role of the Confirmation Sponsor

It is a privilege and a responsibility of the sponsors to assist the parents in the formation and growth of their children in the Catholic faith. The sponsors are called to give witness in the practice of the faith, and to be models of following and proclaiming the Holy Gospel by their words and actions.

Therefore, it is necessary that the sponsors be practicing Catholics, who frequently receive the sacraments and whose lives bear witness to the faith. It is appropriate and fitting that the sponsor be one of the baptismal godparents if possible, to again stress the tie of Baptism and Confirmation. If this is not possible or practical, the candidate may select a sponsor with the help of their parents and considerable thought and prayer. Sponsors must be at least sixteen years of age and must have received all the sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion.

Sponsors are invited to participate in the Confirmation preparation sessions with the parents.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

It has long been the practice in the Catholic Tradition to select a name after one of the saints or after a great man or woman in Sacred Scripture. The saint becomes the confirmand’s “patron” whose life of courage and strength can be a model of faith and inspiration throughout his/her life. It is also a reminder that we are each called to the holiness of the saints through our Baptism and faith in Christ, but most importantly, to show in an outward way, that we become a new person by the grace of the sacrament.