

## Daily Prayer for Confirmation Preparation

---

Jesus, You said to your apostles,  
the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom the Father  
will send in my name, will instruct you in  
everything and remind you of all that I told you.”

(Jn 14:26).

As I prepare for my Confirmation, there is so much  
to learn. Let your Spirit instruct me throughout  
this preparation process, and throughout my life,  
remind me of all that I am taught. Amen.



St. Francis of Assisi Church 6850 Mayfield Road Gates Mills, Ohio 44040  
**CONFIRMATION DATA SHEET**

Please complete the following information. Type or print clearly. Information must be accurate.  
Turn in this form along with your baptismal certificate and fee at the November meeting.

**I. CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

CANDIDATE'S FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
FATHER'S FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
MOTHER'S FULL NAME (MAIDEN) \_\_\_\_\_  
PARISH OF REGISTRATION \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAILADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* If your family is registered at a parish other than St. Francis, you must have permission to make your confirmation at St. Francis. Please talk to your pastor and have someone notify us by phone or in writing that you have received that permission.

**II. BAPTISMAL INFORMATION FOR THE CANDIDATE**

DATE OF BAPTISM (MONTH, DAY, YEAR) \_\_\_\_\_  
CHURCH OF BAPTISM \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* Candidates not baptized at St. Francis of Assisi Church must attach a copy of their baptismal certificate to this application. Please do not send originals.

**III. SPONSOR INFORMATION**

\*\*\* Please be familiar with the sponsor requirements given at the October meeting before completing this information.

OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF RECORD:

SPONSOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
SPONSOR'S PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* A certificate of eligibility from the sponsor's parish must be attached to this application if the sponsor belongs to a parish other than St. Francis of Assisi.

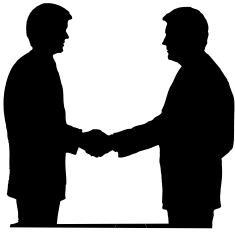
\*\*\* If the sponsor of record is not available to work with the candidate during the six month process, who will act as the candidate's mentor during the preparation period?

MENTOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
MENTOR'S PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

**IV. CONFIRMATION NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

\*\*\* Should be a Christian name. May be the baptismal name. No nicknames, please  
My candidate's name and picture may be displayed in Church. \_\_\_\_\_

BAPTISM CERTIFICATE \_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00 FEE PAID BY CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_



**St. Francis of Assisi Confirmation Program**

**Sponsor Evaluation**



**Please reflect with your candidate on his or her readiness and desire for Confirmation. Return this form to Meg Zetzer for review at the March Confirmation Meeting.**

**Candidate's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor of Record for Confirmation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mentor for the Preparation Process** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(if different from the sponsor of record)**

Reflect on the following points regarding your candidate and write a recommendation regarding his/her readiness and desire for confirmation.

- ◆ openness, honesty and willingness to listen during your times together;
- ◆ attitude toward the church and it's teachings;
- ◆ participation in Eucharist, reconciliation, prayer, service;
- ◆ unique gifts, signs of growth, eagerness to take an active role.

**Do you think your candidate has the readiness and desire to make a commitment to the Catholic Church and to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Please explain.**

+++++

**Please circle one of the following statements:**

a. **As a sponsor/mentor for \_\_\_\_\_, I can attest to his/her sincerity and effort in preparing for confirmation and desire to be confirmed. Therefore, I personally recommend that he/she be accepted into full membership in the Catholic Church through the Sacrament of Confirmation.**

b. **After discussion, we have decided it would be better to delay Confirmation until a later date. We will contact Father Flynn to discuss our reasons.**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Reflection One:  
Getting to Know You



# *Confirmation Getting to Know You*



## *Psalm 139*

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
You discern my thought from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.*

# Confirmation: Getting to Know You



## Handing on the Scriptures, The Word of God:

What does “the Word of God” mean?

- 1) The Word of God existed before anything else existed.
- 2) The creative Word of God brought everything else that exists into being.
- 3) Jesus is the Word of God who became flesh and dwelt among us.
- 4) Jesus is as present in His Word (the Scriptures) as He is in the Eucharist. Through Scripture God reveals to us what we need to know for our salvation.
- 5) Through Tradition, the church echoes those truths of God’s Word that are revealed to each succeeding generation.

## Getting to Know You:

In the movie, *My Life*, a man who has only a few months to live makes a video of himself so that his unborn son will know him. In the process he learns much about himself; his deep-seated anger, his need to forgive past hurts and bad memories, his alienation from his wife, and his need to love and be loved. In making a video that will let his son know his father as he really was, the father discovers for himself who he really is. This is a beautiful sense of self-discovery that allows the man to die in peace.

For any of us it takes a lifetime to answer the question “Who am I?” Since this is a crucial question in the adolescent years, you probably feel that you have to answer it completely, but it’s quite okay to move into adulthood having answered it only partially. Try to do that now.

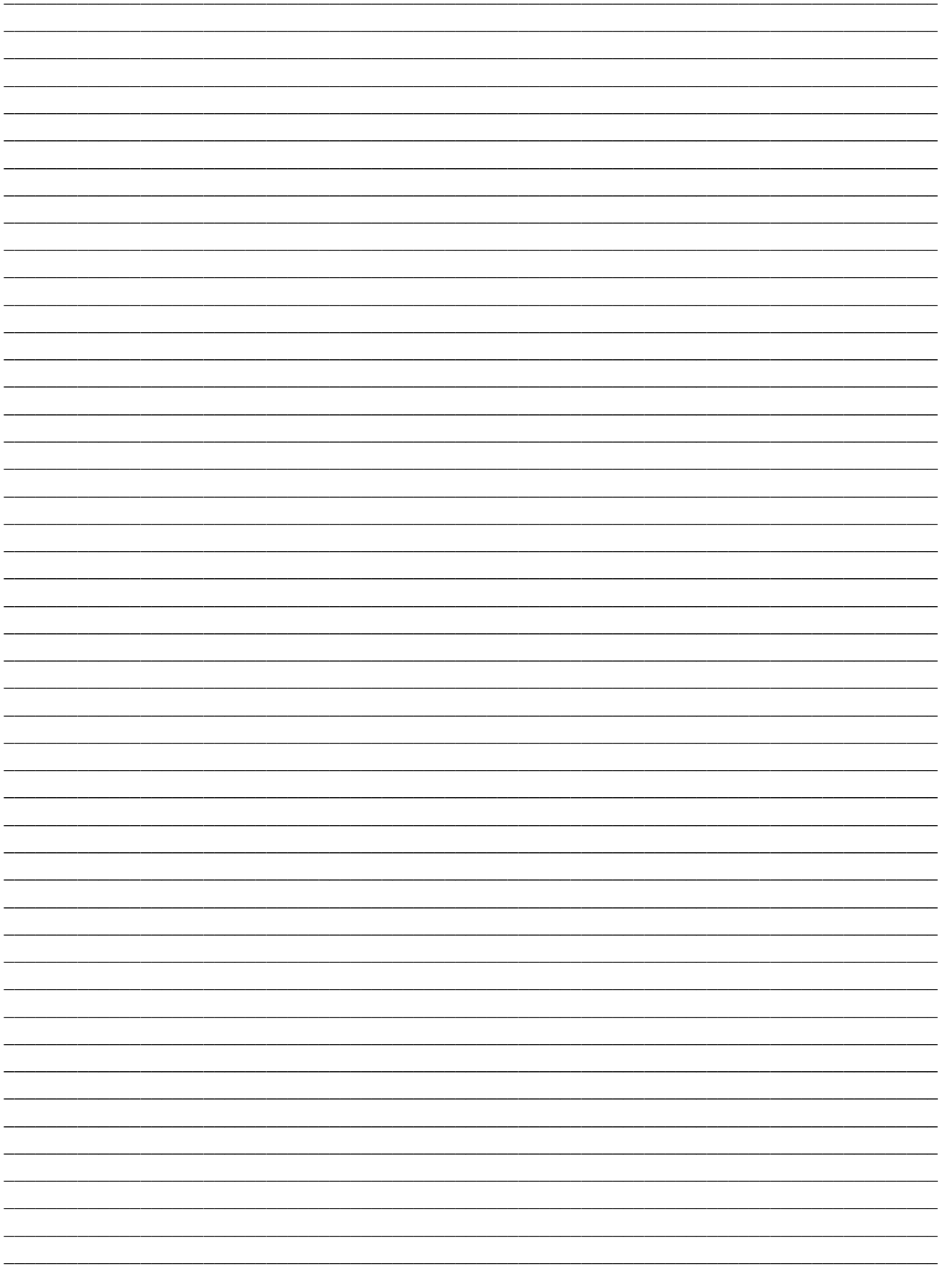
If you were to produce a video called “My Life”, what would be in it? On one level you might include the big events of your life, such as first communion, eighth-grade graduation, significant awards, an important vacation. You might also include things that occupy your time: hobbies, music lessons, sports, school, clubs, and computers.

On a deeper level, if you were willing to let people really know you, you might go deeper into yourself to explain the real you and share those things that make you unique, things that wouldn’t be obvious to a casual observer but only to your closest friends and relatives. We will be working at this deeper level. There is no way you will discover all about yourself in one day but, what we do here can be repeated often throughout your lifetime in various contexts.

**To become who we are meant to be - actually, to become who we are - in Christ, is what spirituality is all about. Being who we are meant to be is the basis of morality. God knows even better than we do exactly who we are, and God loves us unconditionally. In the end, what really matters is our love. Reflect quietly on the most popular reading about love in the New Testament (1Cor.13:1-13).**

“Now I will show you the way that is greater than all the others. If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and with full knowledge, comprehend all of life’s mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but don’t have love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”







Reflection Two:  
Parent and Candidate Meeting



# *Confirmation Parent and Candidate Meeting*

## *Confirmation Then and Now*



### *Ephesians 3 to 15*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...  
He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world  
to be holy and blameless before Him in love.  
He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ...  
In Him we have redemption through his blood,  
the forgiveness of our trespasses,  
according to the riches of his grace that He lavished on us...  
In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance...  
so that we... might live for the praise of his glory.  
In Him, you also, when you had heard the Word of truth,  
the Gospel of your salvation, and had believed in Him,  
were marked with seal of the promised Holy Spirit.  
This is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption  
as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.*

# Confirmation Parent and Candidate Meeting

## Baptism Ritual:

- ❖ Confirmation must be seen in close connection with baptism, since both are sacraments of initiation and both were part of the same ritual for centuries.
  1. The second anointing during baptism was actually the chrismation, confirmation. The godparents of baptism were the “sponsors” and the baptismal name was used again during the anointing with chrism and laying on of hands.
  2. Baptism means “drowning.” Being plunged into the water was an experience of death, of gasping for life. Once the newly baptized had taken the plunge, they came to new life in Christ.
  3. Confirmation continues the risk-taking of baptism. We confirm our desire to do anything for God, even those things that require great courage. On your confirmation day you will pronounce the baptismal promises your parents made for you at baptism.

## Theology/History of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- ❖ Life is a journey, an adventure toward wholeness, happiness, peace and fulfillment.
  1. Many of our most difficult moments are those in which we must decide which path to take. Especially during our teen years, the road that leads us to genuine happiness and inner peace is often very difficult to see.
  2. The true Christian knows that money, power and fame have little to do with genuine happiness and often leave us empty and aching for more.
  3. The mature Christian knows that life is indeed a journey of faith that lasts a lifetime. The Christian looks to Jesus for direction and strength, looks to Jesus when attempting to discover the right path.
- ❖ In the Catholic tradition, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are known as the Sacraments of Initiation.
  1. Initiation is formally defined as “the rites, ceremonies, rituals and symbols observed in admitting a candidate into a society or organization.” Through these initiation rites, new members experience a definite acceptance into the society or organization they wish to join and are expected to participate more fully in the activities and life of the group.
  2. Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, as sacraments of initiation, are our introduction to the life of the Catholic Church.
  3. We are CLAIMED for Christ by our baptism. EMPOWERED by the Spirit in confirmation, we make the faith our own. In the Eucharist, our spirits are NOURISHED and FED.
- ❖ Confirmation has changed numerous times throughout history and is currently celebrated on five different occasions:
  1. Christian Initiation takes place at the Easter Vigil when adults and older children present themselves for baptism. Following baptism, they are immediately confirmed and then invited to join the community at the Eucharistic table.
  2. Catholic Initiation happens when adults and older children who are already baptized in another Christian denomination make a profession of faith in the Catholic Church. They are then confirmed and welcomed at the Eucharistic table.
  3. Catholic Maturation is the occasion when those baptized as infants in the Catholic Church are confirmed by the bishop who is now considered the “ordinary minister” of



## Confirmation Then and Now:

- ☉ Life is a journey. Adolescence can be a rocky road on that journey. It is a period of transition from dependency in childhood to responsibility and interdependence as adults. Think about your life right now: Is the pathway smooth or rough? What peaks and valleys are you experiencing? What obstacles or opportunities are there for your spiritual growth? Who are the fellow travelers that might assist you on your way?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

You are being initiated into a Catholic Christian Community. Through others you come to know God and experience the many characteristics of God: compassion, kindness, mercy, generosity, courage, peace, love, forgiveness and understanding, to name a few. Think about one or two of the most significant strengths and weaknesses of your family relationships and write about them.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- ☉ Then think about your circle of friends. Good friends fill our lives with positive experiences and help us to feel good about ourselves and our actions. They want what is best for us. Do you have a lot of friends or just a few really good ones? Do they help you walk the road that Jesus walked or lead you on a different path? Take a good look at the people with whom you share your life, your heart and your time. Write honestly about your most important friends and the authenticity of these friendships.

---

---



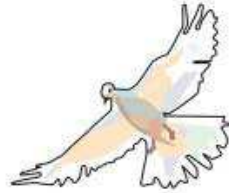
Reflection Three:

## Sponsor and Candidate Meeting



# *Confirmation Sponsor and Candidate Meeting Connecting with the Spirit of God*

*Not a flame,  
Not a dove,  
But a PERSON,*



*The Third Person  
of the Trinity.*

*Isaiah 11:1-4ab*

*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*

*The Spirit of the LORD shall rest on him:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.*

*He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.*



# Confirmation Meeting

## Laying on of Hands and the Anointing at Confirmation:

- ❖ After the gathered assembly prays for the candidates, the Bishop “lays hands on you” by extending his hands over you while asking God to send the Holy Spirit to be your helper and guide. Then he asks God to give you the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge and reverence, and to fill you with the Spirit of wonder and awe in God’s presence.
- ❖ Then the anointing with oil of chrism takes place. Your sponsor places his/her hand on your shoulder and introduces you by your confirmation name. The bishop, with his thumb moistened in the sacred chrism, makes the sign of the cross on your forehead saying: “(Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” You answer “AMEN.”

## Who is the Holy Spirit?

- ❖ Try to picture the Blessed Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
  - You have seen pictures of God the Father as an elderly man with white hair and beard. You could very well image God as the loving Father embracing the prodigal son. Since God is really neither male nor female, you could also image or draw God as a loving Mother gently holding a child on her knee.
  - Jesus, because He became human, is usually painted as a young Jewish man with long hair and a beard, or as the Good Shepherd, or the suffering Savior.
  - Most artists have been content with using images from the Bible to represent the Holy Spirit: a dove, a flame, the wind, a splash of color. Is this adequate?
  - Jesus' description of the Holy Spirit is that of a PERSON. "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. (John 14:26) . “When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you to all truth.” (Jn 16:13)
  - The best image of the Holy Spirit might be that of the Russian Icon by Andrei Rublev, a 15th century artist. He portrays three images that are identical in appearance except for their clothing. The point is that God the Holy Spirit is a loving, caring and beautiful person: advocate, guide, consoler, liberator, defender. The Holy Spirit should be treated in the same way as God the Father and God the Son; we need to nurture and develop our relationship with the God, the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ In Hebrew there is one powerful word that means breath, wind and spirit. It is RUAH.
  - In the creation story of Genesis, God breathed into Adam the breath of life and he became a living being in the image and likeness of God.
  - The Holy Spirit is as close to us as our very own breath because God breathed into us the divine life and spirit.
  - The Holy Spirit animates all creation, awakens our faith, enables communication with Christ, helps us to grow spiritually, is the master and source of prayer. The Catholic Catechism states that the Church regards the Holy Spirit as *the source of all holiness*.
  - The Church is the dwelling place of the Spirit, who unites, directs and supports it.
  - Confirmation is only given once because, like baptism, it imprints the soul with an indelible mark, which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of His Spirit by clothing him/her with power from on high to be his witness.
  -

## How do the gifts of the Spirit help me?

- ❖ Confirmation is referred to as the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit because we are “sealed by the Gift of the Spirit.” The Spirit IS the GIFT and is a generous bearer of gifts.
  - The Catechism says that Confirmation “increases the gifts of the Spirit within us” as we receive “the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.” Once we receive this magnificent gift, we assume great responsibility, as did the apostles before us.
  - The Scripture reading from Isaiah describes some of the gifts or blessings the followers of Jesus receive when we are “gifted with the Spirit.” We receive the same magnificent gifts that Jesus Christ possessed. As we actively make use of these gifts, we become more Christlike and become Christ-bearers to the world.
  - These gifts are not given just for our benefit, but for the good of the entire parish, for the whole Church and for the world at large. The gifts of the Spirit are given to build up the Body of Christ and to make it holy.
  - The gifts of the Holy Spirit give us all that we need to become active members and total participants in the Christian life.
  - When we actively immerse ourselves in the building of God’s kingdom on earth, we reap the fruits of our hard work and personal growth: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faith, modesty, self-control and chastity.
  - When we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we begin a new journey of growth toward Christian maturity so that we can live full human, Christian lives and become loving, compassionate, peace-filled, justice-oriented, Gospel-centered people.
  
- ❖ **Wisdom:** Helps us see God and God’s goodness in all things.  
The Spirit’s gift of Wisdom enables us to see things with God’s eyes. The gift of Wisdom helps us interpret life through the lens of Jesus Christ and his vision and teachings.
  
- ❖ **Understanding:** Gives us insight into our faith and helps us teach others by word and action. The Spirit’s gift of Understanding enables us to understand God’s plan for our life and our world. The gift of Understanding helps us to interpret God’s plan for us in the daily events of our lives.
  
- ❖ **Right Judgment/Counsel:** Helps us make to right choices in life.  
The Spirit’s gift of Right Judgment helps us to make good choices – to make God’s choices and to seek God’s counsel, God’s advise. Right judgments are made in light of God’s laws.
  
- ❖ **Courage/Fortitude:** Strengthens us to do what is right and to be faithful despite difficulties. The Spirit’s Gift of Courage enables us to see where our real strength lies: God is our strength. The gift of Courage enables us to face danger and overcome fear with confidence.
  
- ❖ **Knowledge:** Helps us know God and God’s saving plan for us; what is important and what is not. The Spirit’s Gift of Knowledge helps us to know the right things. The gift of Knowledge helps us to know which things are important and which are not. It helps us to know Jesus and what he teaches us.
  
- ❖ **Reverence/Piety:** Calls us to love God and to respect God and all creation; we obey out of love, not fear. The Spirit’s Gift of Reverence helps us show our gratitude for all that God has done for us. It moves us to worship God, to offer God praise, to pray always in confidence.
  
- ❖ **Wonder and Awe/Fear of the Lord:** Inspires us to marvel at the power and beauty of God’s creation. The Spirit’s Gift of Wonder and Awe enables us to see the beauty of God’s creation and the beauty in each person we meet

# Journal Reflections

## The Rite of Confirmation:

- ② What does it mean to be anointed by the Spirit, to be "an anointed one"?
- ② How might your life be changed once you are sealed with "the gift of the Holy Spirit."

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## The Gift of the Spirit:

- ② Pray for a greater awareness of the Holy Spirit inside you and ask God to fill every part of your being with His Spirit.
- ② Use your imagination to place yourself in a quiet, peaceful spot near a lake, under a tree, in front of a fire, at the base of a mountain. Allow yourself to take in your surroundings and to be brought into the sense of peace around you.
- ② A line from scripture tells us that God is found in a gentle breeze. Feel the breeze of the Spirit around you. Ask the Holy Spirit to bless you with the gift(s) you need the most.
- ② Be still. Listen to the Spirit. Be open to whatever God asks or tells you. Spend several minutes listening to the Spirit, being open to the Spirit's gifts and God's hope for you.
- ② After the Spirit reveals the special gift(s) you are given, thank the Holy Spirit for being with you and for giving you peace, happiness and holiness.
- ② Write about your conversation and your experience.

---

---

---

---

---

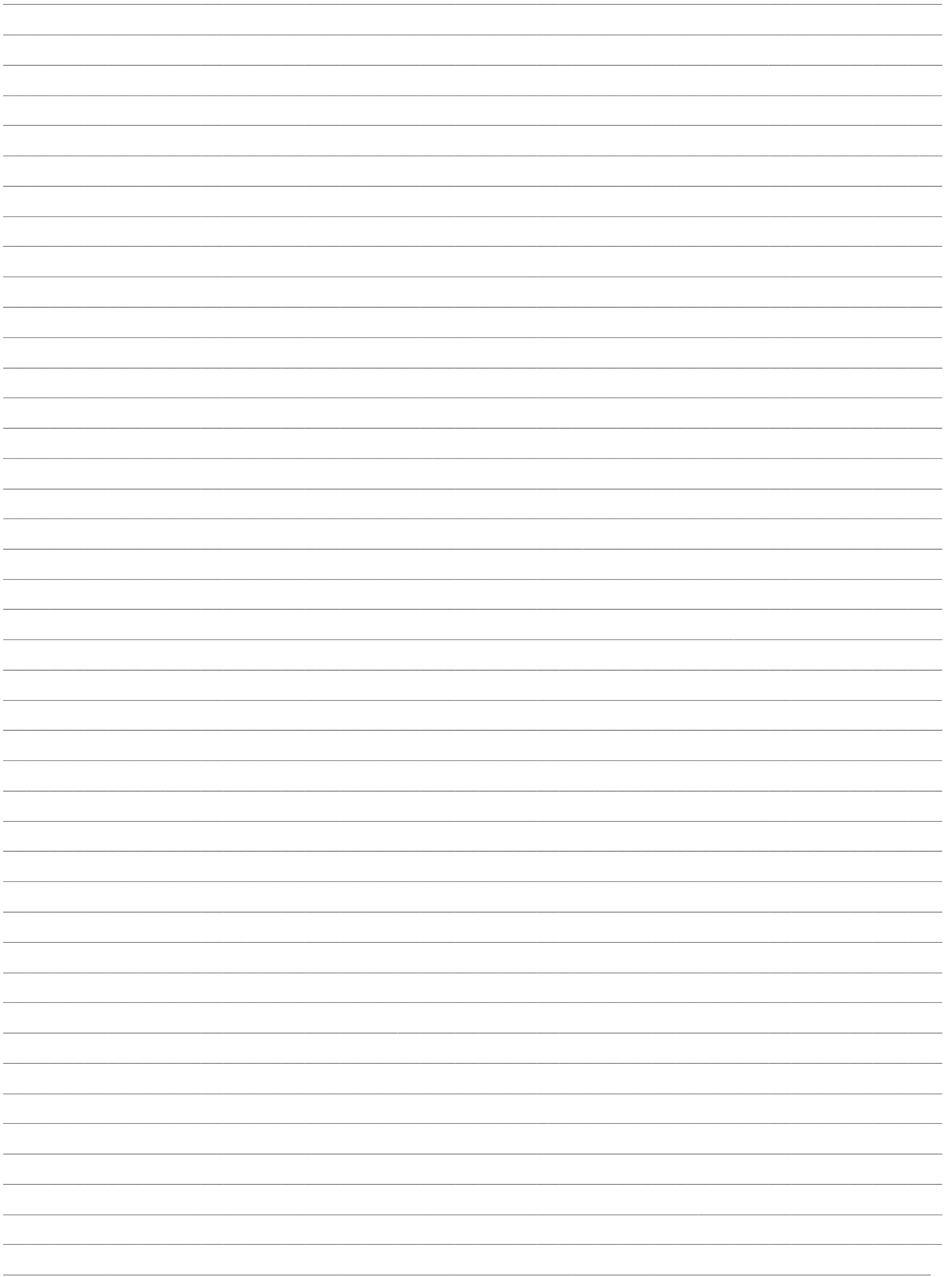
---

---

---

---

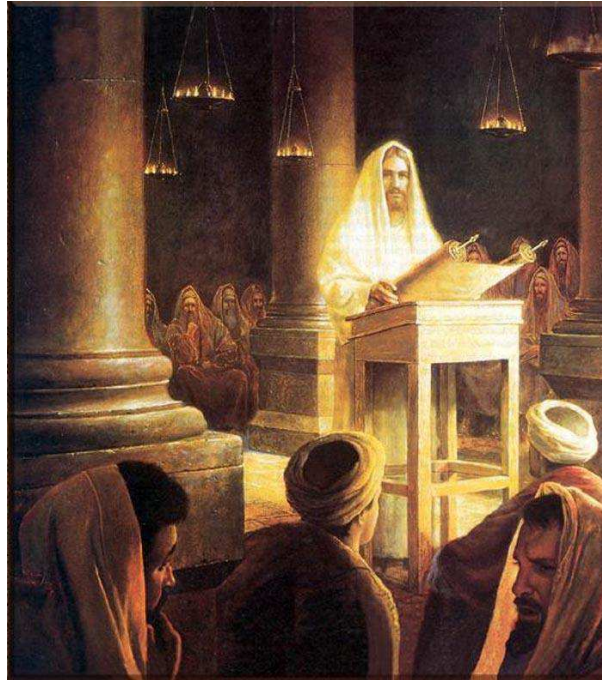
---



Reflection Four:  
Images of Jesus



# *Confirmation Images of Jesus Meeting Putting on the person of Jesus*



## *Luke 4:18-19*

*When Jesus came to Nazareth...He went to the synagogue...*

*The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him...*

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,*

*because He has anointed me*

*to bring good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives*

*and recovery of sight to the blind,*

*to let the oppressed go free,*

*to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

*He rolled up the scroll...the He began to say:*

*"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

# Reflections

## The Mission of Jesus:

When Jesus was baptized, He was *confirmed* in his mission on earth.

- After being baptized, Jesus went into the desert for 40 days of prayer and fasting to ponder what his call meant and how He would fulfill his mission.
- Jesus spent time alone trying to understand what it was that God was asking of him.
- Through the power of the Spirit, Jesus returned to Nazareth prepared to dedicate his life to spreading the Good News – his mission on earth.

## Christian Witness: Doing the work of Jesus:

- ❖ Jesus has a mission and the mission has you.
  - It is the Church's mission to do the work of Jesus to bring about the kingdom of God.
  - If the reign of God is to be real on earth, every confirmed Christian and the whole Christian community must be committed to the mission prophesied by Isaiah and understood by Jesus as his mission.
- ❖ After being sealed with the gift of the Spirit in confirmation, you will commit yourself to the mission of Jesus Christ, to become more fully involved in the life of the Church.
  - In your own way you will be expected to make Jesus' mission your mission too.
- ❖ Much of Jesus' mission was service to the poor, the outcasts, the abused and neglected, the sinners, the ignorant and the spiritually deprived.
  - As disciples and servants of Jesus, your challenge is to make the needs of others your primary focus.
  - You are called to change your hearts and become young men and women who lead lives of service, not when it is convenient, but when it is needed.
- ❖ The wonderful thing about service is that the rewards are great in heaven.
  - You will become less self-absorbed, less focused on your needs and wants.
  - The more you serve, the more you will love...and both will become a way of life for you.
  - As you serve, you will become joy-filled, peace-full, grateful people and will come to see God in the faces of those you serve.

## Encountering Christ in the Church:

- ❖ God is too great to be contained. Even heaven can't contain God. We meet God in the people of God, the Church is our primary place of encounter.
  - We see many faces of God through the great variety of people, and many facets of God through the great diversity of people's gifts.
  - In the first letter to the Corinthians St. Paul says:
    - There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ..varieties of services, but the same Lord...varieties of activities, but the same God who activates all of them.
    - To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.
    - To one the Spirit gives wisdom...to another faith...healing...miracles...prophecy... discernment of spirits...various tongues and the interpretation of tongues.
    - All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.
- ❖ Together these individual gifts of the Spirit are the gifts of the Church. Your individual gifts reveal the face of God to the people of the Church. You are Christ for others.

# Journal Reflections

## The mission of Jesus:

- Ⓞ Spend some time in prayer and fasting trying to understand what God's call means for you.
- Ⓞ What is God asking of you? How can you fulfill God's mission as Jesus did?
- Ⓞ Reflect upon various images of Jesus. Ask yourself, "which one speaks most clearly to me about the person of Jesus and helps me know him more fully?"

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Christian Witness: Doing the work of Jesus:

- Ⓞ As you mature, you'll discover more and more ways that you can be an instrument God uses. You are vital to God's plan for the world. You can do something in some way that no one else can. As you look toward confirmation, you need to reflect on what kind of instrument you are.
- Ⓞ The Prayer of St. Francis calls us all to be instruments of peace: to sow love, faith, hope, light, joy; to console, understand, love, give, pardon and die to self.
- Ⓞ But you are also talented in other ways and blessed with other good qualities. Ask God to show you what kind of an instrument of His you might be: an instrument of kindness, an instrument of gentleness, of justice, of freedom, of honesty, of respect for persons, of compassion, of truth, of care for others and the earth...
- Ⓞ Pick one or two of these, or another which God shows you, and describe how you will live them out for the sake of God's mission to bring about the kingdom.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## The Work of the Holy Spirit in You:

- ② In thinking about any service you have given to date, how has it impacted or touched you? What emotions have you experienced as you served people that are different from or unfamiliar to you? How does this work make you more like Jesus?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- ② Describe how the Holy Spirit has been moving in you. How have prayer, reflection and journaling made you more aware of God's work in you? How are you being changed by the Holy Spirit?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

You will be asked to share these insights with one of the teachers or staff members in your interview.

Reflection Five:  
Making Choices Based on  
Our Beliefs



# *Confirmation Meeting*

## *Making Choices Based on our Beliefs*



*Romans 7:17-18, 8:1-5 and 14*

*Thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin,  
have become obedient from the heart  
to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted,  
and that you, having been set free from sin,  
have become slaves of righteousness.*

*There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.  
For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free  
from the law of sin and of death.*

*For God has done what the law could not do.*

*By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh,  
He condemned sin in the flesh,*

*so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us  
who walk, not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God!*

# Confirmation Meeting: Moral Decisions

## Handing on the Creed:

- ❖ The Nicene Creed expresses the core beliefs of what the Church professes. It is prayed during Mass; and, through it, Catholics say “amen” to all that they believe.
  1. This creed is over 1700 years old. It was put together at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. as an attempt by the Church to let the world know what the Catholic Church professes.
  2. When people recite the creed they “enter into communion with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and also with the whole Church which transmits the faith to us and in whose midst we believe.”
  3. The most common word used to profess belief in something is “Amen.” It comes from the same Hebrew root as the word “believe.”
  4. In our life of faith, this word is often repeated to affirm our beliefs. It is usually used at the end of prayers, before receiving Eucharist and to demonstrate our understanding of our faith.

## Making Choices Based on your Beliefs:

- ❖ In this session we reviewed some of the most important beliefs of the Catholic Community as revealed in the Nicene Creed, in guidelines set forth by sacred Scripture (Jesus’ Law of Love, the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes) and in directives of the Catholic Church (the Precepts of the Church and the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy).
  1. Study these teachings carefully. Make sure you understand the meaning of each statement.
  2. Do not hesitate to ask for clarification from your sponsors, parents, or teachers if something doesn’t make sense to you.
  3. When you ask questions, you open the door to greater understanding and growth.

## The “Everything” Skit:

- ❖ The skit you saw should make you think about the impact and consequences of your decisions.
  1. You witnessed one person’s struggle with several moral dilemmas in life.
  2. Think about the deeper meaning behind the person’s choices and actions.
  3. Consider the consequences of that person’s actions and the impact the choices had on relationships and self-esteem.
  4. Consider Jesus in the skit, how he never took his eyes off of the girl, how as soon as she turned to him, Jesus was there.





Reflection Six:

Retreat



*Confirmation Retreat  
Sealed with the Gift of the Spirit:  
Called to be Catholic*



*John 16: 5-7, 12-13*

*Jesus said to his disciples:*

*“I can see that you are filled with grief because I am leaving you.*

*But this is the truth: It is much better for you that I go.*

*If I don’t go, the Paraclete will never come to you;*

*whereas, if I go, I will send the Spirit to you.*

*I have so much more to tell you, but you won’t remember it.*

*When the Spirit comes, however, being the Spirit of Truth,*

*He will guide you to all truth.”*



# Confirmation Retreat

## Making a Commitment; Expressing Desire to be Sealed with the Spirit

- ❖ Now the responsibility for further faith development is shifting from your parents to you.
  - The decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is your decision.
  - Committing yourself to become a fully-initiated member of the Catholic Church is your personal – and public – proclamation that you choose to journey in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.
  - This is the point in your spiritual journey when you consciously and thoughtfully decide to live the mission of Christ and become more fully immersed in the life of His Church.
- ❖ The bishop will dip his thumb in the sacred chrism and make the sign of the cross on your forehead saying: “(Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” Your “AMEN” will proclaim your affirmation and belief.
  - Imagine that you hear God calling your name. Hear the love in God’s voice.
  - You will be marked by the cross; are you willing to suffer for Christ and the Church?
  - What does it mean to you to be sealed with the gift of the Spirit?
  - What difference will Confirmation make in your life?

## Recommendation from your Sponsor:

- ❖ This time of Confirmation, completing Baptism, gives you and your sponsor a chance to reflect on the all-pervading importance of our Catholic life.
  - Confirmation is a celebration of the ongoing power of the already-present Holy Spirit in our lives, the Spirit first received in Baptism. Confirmation deepens and intensifies the gifts of the Spirit.
  - Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation. It’s all about the beginning of our life of following Jesus. Our on-going learning about our faith, prayer, community worship and life of service are just beginning.
  - Sacraments do not affect just the candidate; sacraments affect the entire community. We grow and go to God together. There are no personal or private sacraments.
  - The Confirmation candidates are surrounded by the day-to-day living of the faith by adults in the parish community, especially their parents and sponsors.
- ❖ **Take some time now to sit down with your parents and your sponsor to talk about your desire to live your life as a committed Catholic.** Now is the time to verbalize your desires, your questions, and your doubts in light of your relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ❖ **Ask your sponsor to complete the recommendation form. Return it with your letter to Father Flynn by the March meeting.**





Reflection Seven:

## Commitment and Practice



# *Confirmation Commitment*

## *Here I Am, Lord!*



*Acts 8: 1bc, 4, 14-17*

*A great persecution of the church in Jerusalem had begun.  
All except the apostles scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.  
Those who had been scattered went about preaching the Word.  
When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted  
the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.  
The two went down and prayed for them  
that they might receive the Holy Spirit,  
for the Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of them;  
They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
Peter and John imposed hands on them  
and they received the Holy Spirit.*

# Confirmation Practice and Commitment

## The People in the Ceremony:

- ❖ Bishop Lennon (and Bishop Greis at his direction) is Christ's representative in charge of the diocese of Cleveland.
  - As successor to the apostles, the bishop has a special responsibility to guide and teach us in our efforts to be good disciples and to spread the Gospel.
  - By his ordination as a bishop of the Church, he shares in three apostolic functions: teacher of doctrine, priest of sacred worship, minister of church government.
  - It is the bishop's role to witness the willingness of the candidates to become lifelong followers of Jesus. It is his role to offer full initiation into the Church.
  - The miter (high hat) the bishop wears is a sign of his office as a bishop of the church.
  - The crozier is the staff the bishop carries as a sign of his office and his role as a shepherd of Christ's flock, the church.
- ❖ The pastor and other priests concelebrate the Mass with the bishop and participate in the confirmation by joining him when he imposes hands over you. As pastor, Fr. Caddy will be asked to testify to your preparation and your readiness to receive the sacrament.
- ❖ Other church ministers present at the ceremony include: master of ceremonies, deacon, servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, greeters and gift bearers.
- ❖ Your sponsor, as a person of faith and the role model who has walked this faith journey with you for the past seven months, is the person who will present you by name to the bishop for confirmation. Hopefully, your sponsor will continue his/her relationship with you as you grow in faith and help you fulfill your baptismal commitment throughout life.
- ❖ The parish community, along with your parents, relatives and friends, support you as a fully initiated member of the church by prayer, example, affirmation and encouragement.

## The Rite of Confirmation:

- ❖ Confirmation is set in the midst of a Eucharistic celebration, during the Liturgy of the Word. As usual, the celebration of the Eucharist begins with the gathering rite: the entrance procession, greeting, and penitential rite.
- ❖ The Liturgy of the Word is the proclamation of readings from Sacred Scripture: the Old Testament or Acts of the Apostles, the responsorial psalm, the New Testament letters and the Gospels. Special readings are selected for their relationship to the role of the Holy Spirit and the purpose of Confirmation. All of the readings that will be used at your Confirmation have been part of your reflections throughout your preparation experience.
- ❖ After the Gospel, the candidates will be presented to the Bishop by Fr. Caddy who will assure the bishop you have been properly prepared and have expressed your desire.
- ❖ The bishop delivers his homily as a way of instructing you in your role as a disciple of Christ and a witness to the Gospel
- ❖ After all have been instructed by the bishop, the candidates renew their baptismal promises as a reminder that confirmation completes baptism. This renewal is not just

words. You should mean what you say: you intend to reject evil and to live according to the beliefs and values of your Catholic faith.

- ❖ At this point, the actual Sacrament of Confirmation is bestowed upon the candidates.
  - The bishop asks the assembled community to pray for the candidates.
  - The bishop then extends his hands over the candidates as a group or lays hands on the candidates asking the Holy Spirit to come in power over you. This is the time when the bishop call down upon you all the expressions of the Spirit's gifts.
  - The oil of chrism is then brought to the bishop. Each candidate is presented by name to the bishop by the sponsor who places his/her hand on the candidate's shoulder.
  - *The bishop, with his thumb moistened in the sacred chrism (oil), makes the sign of the cross on the candidate's forehead while saying: "Name, be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." The candidate responds "Amen."* The oil is a visible sign of what is going on spiritually and invisibly, for, at that moment, you receive the strengthening of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ The bishop gives the newly-confirmed a sign of peace. Respond, "**And, with your spirit.**"
- ❖ The Mass continues with the General Intercessions and the Liturgy of the Eucharist to show the unity of the three sacraments of initiation.
- ❖ The bishop concludes the liturgy and completes the Rite of Confirmation with a solemn blessing making the sign of the cross three times over the congregation.

## Practice for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation:

- ❖ ***We will meet on Thursday, April 16 at 7:00pm in church for practice.***
  - You will receive your seating assignment, your sponsor will be seated with you.
  - Father Flynn will walk us through t liturgy which will be celebrated on Friday night with Bishop Gries. We have invited the musicians to join us for practice. Consequently, we will have the opportunity to practice the musical selections for our celebration, as well.
  - Please make sure you remind your sponsor that he or she is expected to attend this practice with you. In the event your sponsor is unable to attend, please make certain that you let us know. Your parents, aunt, uncle or grandparent may stand-in for them.
  - The practice will take approximately an hour to an hour and a half.
- ❖ ***Sacraments are serious encounters with Almighty God; they are God's actions in our lives and our response.***
  - The parish has offered you many opportunities throughout this process to you're your faith a way of life. These things weren't just something you did to "get confirmed." They are part and parcel of what it means to be a baptized Catholic.
  - Go back and review the commitment you made as you entered the preparation process. How well did you fulfill your commitment to prayer, worship, scripture, study, service, Christian witness and community relationships?
  - Spend some time reflecting on the ways you will continue to stay connected to the faith community of St. Francis of Assisi and how you will be involved in the service of the church in coming years.
  - **Complete the "Pledge of Commitment" page and bring it with you to the Confirmation practice on the evening of April 16th. You will hand in this commitment form at this time.**

# Pledge of Future Commitment

Now that you have decided to respond to your baptismal call to follow Christ as a confirmed disciple, how will you continue to nurture your faith and become an active member of the Catholic Church?

Consider the following: prayer, worship, scripture, study, service, Christian witness, parish involvement, LifeTeen. Would you consider becoming a lector, greeter, choir member, or server? Could you contribute in some way to the ministries of the parish: hunger centers, parish festival, pancake breakfasts, fish fry, children's liturgy? These are some ideas for you to think about. You may think of others.

Please list three to five things you will do to get more involved in the church:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Reflection Eight:  
Confirmation Celebration



# *Confirmation Celebration Full Initiation into the Catholic Church*



*Isaiah 42: 1-4a*

*“This is my servant and my chosen one with whom I am pleased.  
Upon him I have put my Spirit.  
He will bring justice to the nations,  
not crying out, not shouting,  
not making his voice heard in the street.  
A bruised reed he shall not break,  
and a smoldering wick he shall not quench,  
until he establishes justice on the earth.*”



## Journal Reflections

As you go forth from here, reflect upon the words of St. Irenaeus, who wrote,  
"The glory of God is man fully alive."  
Now as a confirmed Catholic, your life has the capacity to shine brightly to the glory of God.