

## Confirmation Sept, 16<sup>th</sup> 2017

*"Remember, then, that you received a spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear. Keep safe what you received! God the Father sealed you; Christ the Lord strengthened you and sent the Spirit into you hearts as the pledge of what is to come." St. Ambrose*

*Dear Confirmation Candidate,*

*I hope your journey through the education portion of preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation was one of great awareness and understanding...I pray that the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Catholic faith penetrate not only your mind, but your heart! We cannot love that which we do not know, so you're off to a great start! Please remember, with 2017 years of Catholicism, there is ALWAYS MORE you can learn and love! Do not let your journey end with religious education classes.*

*"O Lord, our hearts are restless until they rest in you." St Augustine*

*Confirmation, as you know, is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. It is one of the three sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confirmation) that "lay the foundation of every Christian life" (CCC 1212).*

*The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of the baptismal grace that you received. Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:*

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation (being adopted sons and daughters of God) which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";*
- it unites us more firmly to Jesus Christ;*
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;*
- it renders our bond with the Church (the Body of Christ) more perfect;*
- it 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. (CCC 1303)*

*Congratulations on your upcoming Confirmation! You are truly blessed!*

*In Christ,  
Beverly Brintnell  
Director of Religious Education*

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.  
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.  
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy.  
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.  
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen*

## **The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

**The Gift of Wisdom** enables us to see the world from God's viewpoint, which can help us come to grasp the purpose and plan of God. It saves us from the illusion that the spirit of the times is our only guide.

**The Gift of Understanding** stimulates us to work on knowing ourselves as part of our growth in knowing God.

**The Gift of Counsel** or right judgement grows in us and we can sense the quiet teaching that the Spirit gives us about our moral lives and the training of our consciences.

**The Gift of Fortitude** or courage enables us to trust that we will be prepared to stand up for Christ and the Gospel when we are challenged.

**The Gift of Knowledge** directs us to a contemplation, or thoughtful reflection, of the mystery of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - as well as of the mysteries of the Catholic faith.

**The Gift of Piety** or reverence is an act of respect for the Father who created us, for Jesus who saved us, and for the Spirit who is sanctifying us.

**The Gift of Fear of the Lord** or wonder and awe in God's presence can infuse honesty into our relationship with God, a frankness that places us in awe before the majesty of God. Yet the gift also imparts an attitude of grateful wonder that God loves us and that we can share in His life.

*When we are responsive to the grace of Confirmation and the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit, we begin to bear the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. (CCC 1832)*

## **Confirmation Day Schedule**

**1:00-2:00 p.m.** - Gown fitting and rehearsal

**2:00-3:00 p.m.** - Confession, time for prayer, and refreshments downstairs

**3:00-3:30 p.m.** - Group photo and talk with Bishop Kagan

**4:00 p.m.** - Confirmation Mass

## **Dress Code**

**Ladies:** Please wear your Sunday best. Please do not wear anything that leaves you with bare shoulders. If you wear a dress or skirt, please be sure that it has an appropriate length and is not too short. Please do not wear sneakers or flip-flops. No jeans, please.

**Gentlemen:** Please wear your Sunday best: dress pants and dress shirt (a tie if you so choose). Please do not wear sneakers, sandals or flip-flops. No jeans, please.



