

ST MARY'S PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation program at St. Mary's is a 1&1/2 year program and usually begins in the 10th grade.

The Confirmation program at St. Mary's begins with study using the book "Catholicism and Reason", a study of the Creed, and the video program "Thy Kingdom Come" on the Gospel of Matthew. The second part of the program uses the Diocese of La Crosse program on the "Gifts of the Holy Spirit". This part of the program is for the direct preparation for reception of the Sacrament. A teaching on Jesus Christ and the Beatitudes provide an understanding of what it means to follow Christ and how it differs from the world-view. The students then see the need for the Sacraments and the Gifts that are received in Baptism. The program begins with the teaching of the Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity. The Holy Spirit and Pentecost are studied during the next session followed by a night on each of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. To better understand the Theological Virtues and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, video clips of saints, such as St. Therese, St. Thomas More, St. Maximilian Kolbe, are shown in order to see the saint living out the Gift in a particular circumstance.

Throughout the year, the students are always being helped to better understand the Sacrament of Confirmation: to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. All the sessions of this program are based on the application of the teaching to one's own life. We are assisted in this mission through the coming of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, Who strengthens the supernatural Gifts received in Baptism, so that we can be faithful in daily prayer, living according to the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes and be true witnesses to Christ.

The candidate must register with the Religious Education Office.

Copy of Baptismal Certificate if not baptized at St. Mary's.

Materials will be provided which must be completed by the candidate.

Materials will include lesson plans and written quizzes.

The Diocesan Proficiency Exam will also be completed by the student.

The candidate will attend Holy Mass each Sunday (or Saturday night)

*The Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian Life.

*The fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Jesus Christ. (CCC 1324)

The candidates are required to attend a Confirmation retreat approved by the Pastor.

*Retreats are a vital component of evangelization. They allow for an ongoing renewal of one's friendship with Christ; they allow time and support for hearts to open and for prayer; they draw forth young leaders willing to lead, plan and share.

The candidates are required to participate in service projects.

Confirmation preparation should help the candidates to understand that full initiation in the Catholic Church challenges them to a life of service.

Confirmation Service Projects: Do 1 project in each category: Church, Community, Family.

The candidates should choose a Confirmation sponsor and a Confirmation name.

*The Baptismal name is permitted, however another name may be chosen. The name should be the name of a saint. Saints are people who lived a holy life, died and are living with God in Heaven. The saint you chose will become a friend and intercessor for life.

***The candidate will be required to write an essay on the name they have chosen.**

1) Describe why you choose this saint, 2) what qualities he/she had that you admire, 3) in what ways was this saint committed to Christ, (4) how are they a role model for you.

The candidate must complete the Sponsor Booklet with their sponsor.

The sponsor must be a practicing, confirmed Catholic.

It is appropriate that the sponsor be one of the baptismal godparents.

The candidates will have an interview with the Pastor before Confirmation.

*This will help to discern the readiness of the confirmandi.

The candidate will write a letter to the Bishop stating readiness to receive Confirmation.

The candidate will be challenged to pray, read the Bible and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently.

*These will help the candidates prepare spiritually for the sacrament.

Be familiar with required prayers, especially the Creed.

A commitment ceremony will be held at St. Mary's Church in October at the 9:30 Mass.

CONFIRMATION IS NORMALLY IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.