



## **ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE PARISH CANDIDATE PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION**

There are two primary goals with regard to the preparation of the candidate for Confirmation:

1. To enable our candidates to make informed decisions as to the meaning of being members of the Catholic church;
2. To foster the development of candidates' relationships between their faith in Christ and their personal lives, in the hope that these young people will knowingly and freely choose to be confirmed in the Catholic Church.

### **Requirements to Receive the Sacrament of Confirmation**

- Received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Reconciliation
- Weekly participation in Eucharist (attends Mass regularly)
- Regular attendance at religious education classes during the years prior to Horizons high school program
- Attend all scheduled sessions in each of the 2 ½ years
- Submit make-up work for all class(es) missed for any reason
- If three classes are missed in a year, the parent and candidate will meet with the pastor and youth minister to determine the candidate's continuation in the program
- Provide at least 10 hours of community service (verified) per year
- Participate in an overnight retreat in the fall of junior year prior to Confirmation
- Meet annually with pastor, deacon or youth minister to discuss progress
- Complete a questionnaire each year prior to interview
- Choose a Sponsor who is at least 17 years of age, fully initiated into the church (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation), a practicing member of the Church and not a parent of the candidate
- Choose a name for Confirmation
- Attend a meeting in both 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades for sponsors and candidates
- Participate in two Rites of Confirmation (one in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and one in 10<sup>th</sup> grade)

As a parish, we are concerned with the formation of a person's faith and want to help each person develop a relationship with God. This formation is truly the work of the Holy Spirit. We assist in that activity by presenting the tenets of faith and the gospel values in a clear, relevant and understandable catechesis. Experience shows that with the help of the Holy Spirit and the invaluable participation of our volunteers, candidates are given the opportunity to explore their faith in a way that is very real to their lives. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that candidates live out their faith during the preparation process. The most important aspect of this faith development is coming to the table of the Lord weekly to be nourished by the Eucharist.

The commitment to prepare for and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is intended to be free, conscious, individual and personal. We seriously question the value of a sacrament celebrated merely as a matter of routine or merely because the family insists that their child participate.