



## ***Our Lady of the Ridge Confirmation Program***

### ***Why is Confirmation Important?***

Sacraments are movements of God in our lives. Sacraments also presume that movement and change are also on going in the life of the person experiencing the sacrament.

Confirmation is not about deciding to be Catholic. By virtue of one's baptism they are already Catholic. Confirmation, a sacrament of initiation, completes baptism.

Confirmation is a response to God's generous outpouring of grace. The Church invites Catholics to stand up before their families, their parish, their bishop and their God and state for themselves the commitment – made at baptism – to live the Catholic faith. In response to their desire, through the bishop and prayers of the community of believers, the Confirmandi is gifted by the Holy Spirit who empowers them to live out their faith.

The youth of today is in great need of pathways that lead them to a faith that is stronger than the faithless values of contemporary society. Presently too many of our young people speak their vows with no

intention to live them out and many cease practicing their faith after their Confirmation. We, Pastor, Catechists, Parents and all Parishioners need to assist them, before they make their commitment, to discover firsthand the empowerment of a life lived in grace.

### **Four readiness criteria will be used in determining Candidates for Confirmation**

- **WORSHIP**

Those seeking Candidacy must regularly attend and participate in Mass and the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation

- **MESSAGE**

Those seeking Candidacy must display an understanding of the role of a follower of Jesus Christ and an adequate grasp of the basic content of the teachings of the Catholic faith

- **COMMUNITY**

Those seeking Candidacy must be able to freely request the personal desire to belong to the Catholic Church and the local parish

- **SERVICE**

Those seeking Candidacy must be open to growth their through opportunities of Christian service and be able to recognize that he/she is a unique individual with gifts to offer and be willing to assume the responsibility for ministry and service to the parish and the environments in which they are engaged.

### Confirmation Process Requirements

- **Confirmation requires the full intention and willingness of the young person entering into this sacramental preparation who chooses to freely profess the Catholic faith and chooses to take on the role of a disciple of Jesus Christ.**
  - **Young person entering the sacramental process must be a baptized Catholic who has received the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.**
  - **Candidate is in 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade and has successfully completed 8 years of religious formation either through Catholic school or religious education program.**
1. **Completed registration form**
  2. **Copy of Baptismal certificate, sacramental records and transcript of successful completion of religious formation from parish school or religious education program**
  3. **Sacramental fee \$50**

4. Selection of a Sponsor – Each person is asked to choose a mentor from within the Catholic community to act as a sponsor during the Confirmation journey. Parents may not be sponsors:
  - *A Sponsor is a Confirmed Catholic who is at least 16 years old*
  - *A Sponsor must be active in the faith by participating regularly at Mass and is involved in parish life*
  - *A Sponsor must be in right order with the Church regarding marriage, annulment and/or cohabitation*
5. Young adult must attend the scheduled sessions – **more than 2 absences require the person to postpone the process until the following year.**
6. **Sessions are September through March held on various Sunday evenings at 4:30pm (Mass) – 6:30pm. Pizza and soda will be offered to students. Sessions will conclude in school. Parent must pick-up students at entrance of school.**  
Sessions are a combination of large and small group formats that include teaching, discussion, prayer and reflection through the use of speakers, activity, media and liturgy. Sessions will be held in the parish school and in the Church.
7. Young adult will choose a Saint's name and will write a reflection on the Catholic Saint they have chosen.
8. **Mandatory attendance at a February Confirmation retreat is required.**
9. Attend Confirmation rehearsal prior to the Celebration of the Sacrament.

10. Have an interview with the Pastor/member of staff TBD.
11. Inscribe a Letter of Intent to the Bishop stating their desire for the completion of their Catholic initiation **TBD.**
12. **As a part of the preparation for Confirmation, young adults are required to complete 15 service hours. Catechist will give instruction on how to complete service hours. Must be completed by retreat day.**
13. **Students will be required to Lector at various masses.**

### **Reasons for the Requirements**

- Opportunity to develop an idea of what it means to live as a Catholic
- Explore different avenues of serving others and discover the God given talents you have been blessed and how they can be used to build the kingdom of God
- Challenge to go beyond your comfort zone and see the ways you identify yourself as a Catholic
- Vision yourself as a vital member of the Parish
- Discover that you are the future leaders and hope for the Roman Catholic Church

Please call 708-425-0250 TO REGISTER