

## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Confirmation**

### What is the difference between a service project and a parish activity?

A parish activity can be anything that you do at our parish (for example, Youth Ministry socials). A service project must provide direct assistance to someone in need in keeping with the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (for example, serving the needy alongside other parishioners at the Pine Street Inn). So while serving food is a service project, attending the fun socials is a parish activity, and clearly does not fulfill the expectations of a service project.

### Do I need to be confirmed to be married in the Catholic Church?

No, Church law states that not being confirmed cannot prevent a Catholic from being married in the Church. Not being confirmed will not keep you out of heaven, either.

### How does the Bishop give Confirmation?

The Bishop extends his hands over those to be confirmed, prays that the Holy Spirit may descend upon them, and anoints the forehead of each with Holy Chrism.

### How many members of my family can attend?

The Confirmandi will sit with their sponsors in the front reserved pews of the Church. Families are encouraged to come early and sit in the unreserved section of the Church.

### How many sacraments or outward signs are there?

There are seven Sacraments:

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Holy Eucharist (Sacraments of Initiation Penance)
- Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick (Sacraments of Healing)
- Matrimony
- Holy Orders (Sacraments at the Service)

### My child cannot make the rehearsal. What do I do?

Please make every effort to attend the rehearsal. It is approximately one hour and attendance will ensure that your child knows what is going to happen on the day he or she is confirmed. If, due to an emergency, neither you, your child nor your child's sponsor can make the rehearsal, please contact the Religious Education Office.

### My Sponsor can't attend rehearsal. What should I do?

A parent or other adult may stand in for the sponsor at rehearsal.

### What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Knowledge
- Piety (Reverence)
- Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe) CCC 1831-1845

### What if I need to change the date?

If the Confirmation date and time that you are assigned does not suit your schedule, it may become necessary to be confirmed in another parish.

### What is a Sacrament?

A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace.

### What is appropriate dress for my child?

All Confirmandi should be modestly dressed appropriately for the reverence and dignity the gift of the sacrament is due. The boys should wear a white collared shirt and tie, dress pants and dress shoes. The girls should wear nice pants, skirt, or dress and dress shoes with modest heels.

### What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a sacrament in which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to make us strong and perfect Christians and witnesses of Jesus Christ.

### What is Holy Chrism?

Holy Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balm blessed by the Bishop on Holy Thursday or any day during Holy Week.

### When does St. Michael's celebrate Confirmations?

Traditionally the parish requests that Confirmation occur in April or May during the Easter season. However, we are assigned a date by the Archdiocese of Boston and

cannot confirm an actual date until we receive that information. Once an official date has been approved, you will be notified.

Who is the ordinary minister of Confirmation?

The Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation.

Why can't my parent be my sponsor?

Your parents have given you your faith since you were born. They have been, are, and will always be your sponsor in faith. Confirmation gives you the opportunity to have another person who's special to you sponsor your faith.

Why do I need a sponsor for Confirmation?

Just as you had sponsors (Godparents) at your baptism, you are required to choose a person to sponsor your Confirmation. Your sponsor is the witness who stands with you at your actual Confirmation. But even more importantly, a sponsor is a person who shares their faith with you because he/she is a person of faith. A good sponsor makes you feel comfortable sharing your faith with him/her. Their advice and guidance help you grow in your faith.