



# *Confirmation*



Through confirmation, those who have been baptized are strengthened by the Holy Spirit and called to make a stronger commitment to live as witnesses to Christ in their words and deeds. Confirmation is one of the three sacraments on initiation, along with baptism and Holy Communion. In the rite of confirmation, the bishop, who is the usual minister of the sacrament anoints the head of the one to be confirmed with oil called sacred chrism, and says, “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Confirmation connects us to the larger, global Catholic Church. The bishop leads the faithful in a large geographical area (diocese) comprising many parishes. Through the action of the bishop, those who are confirmed are joined in faith with that larger community. The oil with which he anoints them is blessed at a special chrism Mass. Oils from that Mass are taken to all the parishes of the diocese for the celebration of the sacraments during the year. Confirmation reminds us that we belong to the universal Church, and to a local diocese and parish.

At confirmation, we are called to participate fully in the Church’s work and mission — calling all to the love of Christ and taking part in building up the kingdom of God on earth. Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit at his baptism by John in the Jordan River, and was sent forth, strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit, to do the work of his ministry. Likewise, once confirmed, we are “sent forth” to bear witness to Jesus’ death and resurrection, to serve others as Jesus served, and to be living members of his Church.

Confirmation is celebrated in the spring with students who are at least in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and have completed the 2-year preparation process and all of the requirements in our PRE Program. Parents are asked to attend an information meeting which outlines the goals of our program. For more information, contact the Director of Religious Education.