

## WHO CAN RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT?

Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that “faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time”, for without Confirmation and Eucharist, Baptism is certainly valid and efficacious, but Christian initiation remains incomplete. CCC 1306

## PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION

Preparation for Confirmation aims in leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit – his actions, his gifts, and his biddings – in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian Life. Thus, catechesis for Confirmation strives to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. The latter bears special responsibilities for the preparation of Confirmands. CCC 1309

## THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT ST. AGNES & ST. ANTHONY PARISH

The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated at a special celebration in the Mass with the Archbishop or his designate, after an extended period of special preparation and review of Catholic dogma and practices by the candidates.

The first step in this process of preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is to register your child/children to participate in the Confirmation process.

The sacrament is conferred on children of 12 years of age or in Grade 6 and older.

The primary requirements are the Baptism and First Communion Certificates upon registration.

The classes will start on **October 15, 2016** and **every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday** of the month at **1:00pm-3:00pm**.

The Confirmation celebration will be on **May 28, 2017 at St. Anthony-12:00NN Mass**.

**For further information:  
Please call Sr. Jane in the Parish Office at  
780-432-0611 for the registration of the  
Confirmation Session.**

## ST. AGNES AND ST. ANTHONY JOINT MISSION STATEMENT

*As sharers in the mission of Jesus Christ, we are committed to spreading the Gospel and building up the Kingdom of God in our homes, in our parishes, and in the communities in which we live.*



# SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2016-2017



*Therefore let us go on toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ, and not laying again the foundation: repentance from dead works and faith toward God, instruction about baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.*

**Hebrews 6:1-2 (NRSV)**

## TWIN PARISHES OF ST. AGNES AND ANTHONY

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## THE NECESSITY OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the “sacraments of Christian Initiation,” whose unity must be safeguarded.

The reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For “by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptised] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed”. CCC 1255

## THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION



The consecration of the sacred chrism is an important action that precedes the celebration of Confirmation, but is in a certain way a part of it. It is the bishop who, in the course of the Chrism Mass consecrates the sacred chrism for his whole diocese.

When Confirmation is celebrated separately from Baptism, the Liturgy of Confirmation begins with the renewal of baptismal promises and the profession of faith by the Confirmands. This clearly shows that Confirmation follows Baptism. When adults are baptized, they

immediately receive Confirmation and participate in the Eucharist.

In the celebration, the bishop extends his hands over the whole group of Confirmands. Since the time of the apostles this gesture has signified the gift of the Spirit. The bishop invokes the outpouring of the Spirit in these words:

*All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

The essential rite of the sacrament follows. The sacrament of Confirmation is conferred through the anointing with chrism on the forehead, which is done by the laying on of the hand, and through the words: “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit”. CCC 1297-1300



## THE EFFECTS OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation confers special graces of the Holy Spirit upon the person being confirmed just as such graces were granted to the Apostles on Pentecost. Like Baptism, therefore, it can only be performed once, and Confirmation increases and deepens all of the graces granted at Baptism.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists five effects of Confirmation:

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation [as sons of God] which makes us cry, “Abba! Father!”;
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross. CCC 1302

Because Confirmation perfects our baptism, we are obliged to receive it “in due time.” Any Catholic who did not receive Confirmation at baptism or as part of his religious education during grade school or high school should contact a priest and arrange to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.