



## **Confirmation Sacrament of Initiation**

*Preparation for Confirmation should aim at 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. To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive 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 responsibility for the preparation of confirmands. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1309)*



### **Goals for Confirmation Formation**

- † That the candidates experience the meaning of initiation into a welcoming community at Saint Gerard Majella Parish.
- † That the candidates have a reasonable understanding of the person, mission and message of Jesus.
- † That the candidates recognize and appreciate the role and activity of the Holy Spirit in their life and the life of the Church.
- † That the candidates through their own choice understand and accept the Rite of Confirmation and prepare to celebrate it in a meaningful way.
- † That each candidate comes to a better understanding in our Catholic faith and recognition of their God given gifts.
- † That the candidates have a solid foundation and confidence in their Catholic identity.
- † That each candidate plans the next steps in the growth of their spiritual journey after Confirmation; especially by making a personal commitment to choose a ministry in which to use their gifts.

### **Expectations of the Candidates**

- † Must freely choose to be Confirmed
- † Will make prayer a daily habit
- † Must be practicing their faith with regular Mass attendance and regular celebration of Reconciliation
- † Are responsible for completing service hours
- † Will attend a retreat provided by the parish
- † Complete all items on the timeline



## Confirmation Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live in their lives more fully committed to Christ. These gifts are:

Wisdom	Courage or Fortitude
Understanding	Counsel
Knowledge	Piety or Reverence for God
Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord)	

**Wisdom** is a gift that comes over time. It is both the knowledge of and judgment about "divine things" and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth. Someone who is wise can see how everything is a part of God's love. (*Wisdom 7:14; Sirach 1:23, 14:2-27; Proverbs 2:1-6*)

**Understanding** is penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially those higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation—in effect, the ability to "see" God. (*Wisdom 3:9; Proverbs 24:3*)

**Knowledge** is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as to never wander from the straight path of justice. (*Proverbs 19:27, 24:3-5*)

**Courage or Fortitude** denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil, particularly when it is difficult or dangerous to do so, and the confidence to overcome all obstacles by virtue of the assurance of everlasting life. (*Psalms 118:6, 13-14; Philippians 1:12-14*)

**Counsel** allows a man to be directed by God in matters necessary for his salvation. (*Sirach 19:18; 32:16-19; 37:7-15; Proverbs 15:22*)

**Piety or Reverence** is honoring God and God's people. A pious person worships God. (*Psalms 118:23-24, 29; Sirach 42:15-25; 43*)

**Wonder & Awe** is the ability to be amazed by things in life, to be awake to the realization that we are always in God's presence. The gift of wonder and awe tells us that God created the beauty of the universe but also listens to us, cares for us, and loves us beyond all measure. (*Isaiah 29:23; Sirach 32:13; 43:28-33*)

*“The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him  
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
A spirit of counsel and of strength,  
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,  
and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.”*

*Isaiah 11:2-3a*



## Prayer

*“For me, prayer is a surge of the heart. It is a simple look turned toward heaven. It is a cry of recognition and love, embracing both trial and joy.”*

*-St. Therese of Lisieux*

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, prayer is *“The raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.”* Do we humble ourselves and pray with a contrite heart or do we pray with pride and our own will? *“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”* (Matthew 23:12) Humility is the action of allowing God’s will to work in us. Setting aside our own desires and uniting to the will of God.

Prayer comes in various forms:

- † Petition
- † Intercession
- † Thanksgiving
- † Blessing and Adoration
- † Praise

The celebration of the Eucharist contains and expresses all forms of prayer. Prayer is a vital necessity for spiritual formation and relationship with God. Prayer and Christian life are inseparable. The Christian family is the first place for education in prayer.