



SAINT PETER ✚ SAINT MARTIN CATHOLIC PARISHES

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To those inquiring about the sacrament of Confirmation:

Our Lord Jesus, after He ascended into heaven, sent the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, and then upon the whole Church at Pentecost to grant every member of His body the grace of strength to be missionaries and witnesses of the Gospel, and to live with strength the Christian Life. These graces are given to each follower of Christ in the sacrament of Confirmation, as the completion of the sacraments of initiation, preceded by reception of Baptism, Reconciliation, and First Holy Communion. The graces of Confirmation specifically bring about a spiritual maturity to be live and be witnesses of the Resurrection, to proclaim the Gospel to those who have not yet heard or embraced it, and to be able to suffer for the sake of our Faith like the martyrs.

Recently, Bishop Hying has reformed the program of preparation for the sacrament and helped us refocus on the essential aspects of being ready for receiving this anointing of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. To that end, I have outlined in this letter the relevant information for all those who are not yet confirmed, or their parents if they are minors, to consider whether they are ready to receive this great sacrament. Please read this letter carefully and contact Michelle LeVeque or I with further questions. May God bless you!

In the Peace of Christ,

Rev. Fr. Christopher Gernetzke, Pastor
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Who can be confirmed? Is there a minimum age?

"Every baptized person not yet confirmed and only such a person is capable of receiving confirmation" (CIC, c. 889 §1). "The sacrament of Confirmation is to be conferred on the faithful at about the age of discretion" (CIC, c. 891), also known as the age of reason, considered to be seven years old.

What makes one ready to be confirmed?

Those to be confirmed are to demonstrate their personal, sincere desire to live the faith that they profess, including striving to live the commandments, to worship God, to develop and maintain a personal life of prayer, and a desire to love and serve their neighbor. Those who are ready should be able to have an appropriate understanding of the baptismal promises that they will be asked to renew. According to the Code of Canon Law, "[t]o receive Confirmation licitly outside the danger of death requires that a person who has the use of reason be suitably instructed, properly disposed, and able to renew the baptismal promises" (CIC, c. 889, §2).

How is readiness for the sacrament determined?

CIC, Canon 890 states: "The faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the proper time. Parents and pastors of souls, especially pastors of parishes, are to take care that the faithful are properly instructed to receive the sacrament and come to it at the appropriate time." Therefore, the preparation process will include three (3) interviews with the Pastor, Faith Formation Director, and/or Youth Minister to ascertain if you or your child is ready for Confirmation, along with the formation in preparation for the sacrament. Parents are expected to be engaged in this formation both in class and in the home.

What does the preparation process look like?

We will offer six sessions for formation and reflection, along with the three interviews. If needed, we will break these sessions into smaller groups by age, depending on the makeup of the candidates who seek the sacrament.

What if I am an adult who has not yet been confirmed?

In short – the Lord wants you to have the grace of the sacrament of Confirmation and to complete your initiation in the Christian Life. Please inquire with Fr. Chris or Michelle LeVeque for more information!