



CHURCH OF THE  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

May 11, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

After consideration with other parishes in our region, and with our Confirmation Team, we will now offer the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Ninth Grade instead of the Eighth Grade. Therefore, our next Confirmation Class will begin in the spring of 2018 in order to celebrate the Sacrament in the spring of 2019. Preparation in the previous grades is still required in the years prior to registering for Confirmation. This will be offered in Grades Seven and Eight. If someone does not feel prepared to receive Confirmation in Ninth Grade, they are welcomed to enroll in the Confirmation Program in a later high school year.

This decision will allow for stronger maturity on the part of the student. It is our hope that this will deepen the spiritual and catechetical readiness of our candidates as well as encourage greater participation in service opportunities and in the overall life of the parish.

As the Vatican II document "Ad Gentes" 14 states, this sacrament should help the confirmandi, "by the witness of their lives and by the profession of their faith, learn to cooperate wholeheartedly in the spread of the Gospel and in the building up of the Church."

Our parish Confirmation Team plans for an improved catechetical, experiential, and spiritual opportunity to help enrich the life of the confirmandi as the Holy Spirit works within our youth. More opportunities will be presented to our youth, as well as for parents, sponsors and family members alike. These additions to the program will be an essential part to reinforce this spiritual journey.

We ask for your prayers and support as we take this next year to implement these changes and improvements to the Confirmation Program. Our sincere hope is that the Confirmation Program here at Immaculate Conception is as Spirit-filled as possible.

Fr. Joe Barr  
Pastor

Jenny Scott  
Coordinator of Religious Education  
Sacramental Preparation

### **Requirements to Enter the Confirmation Program for the year 2018-2019**

A teen that is in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year or above will be suitable to be a candidate in the Confirmation Program when the below requirements are met between May 2017 and April 2018.

- Attending Mass on Sunday Holy Day of obligation with their family
- Must be a parishioner of the Church of the Immaculate Conception
- Have desire to seek spiritual maturity and catechetical readiness for the Sacrament of Confirmation
- At least 10 hours of community service between May 2017-April 2018
  - In Parish ministry or outside organization during the above months.
  - Camp Smile does not take service hours for confirmation.
- Two years prior of religious education in a Catholic School or parish faith formation
- Seeking a sponsor
- Seeking a confirmation name
- Pre-Confirmation interview in the spring of 2018.

### **Requirements to Receive Confirmation from the Bishop in May 2019**

A teen who enters into the Confirmation Program during the year May 2018-May 2019 will then be suitable for Confirmation with the Bishop when the below requirements are met.

- Parent, Sponsor & Candidate Workshop(s)
- At least 10 Hours of parish ministry or liturgical service
  - Ministry includes events and services within the parish during the year
    - Does not include Vacation Bible School or Camp Smile
  - Liturgical includes altar server, lector, Children's Liturgy of the Word assistant, greeter during the year
- Completion of Saint 1-2 page essay of whom the candidate chooses for their Confirmation name
- Pilgrimage with their sponsor to a shrine or holy site and write a paragraph on the experience.
- Attend a Confirmation Interview
- Attend a Confirmation Retreat