

## Confirmation

We are baptized and confirmed so that we are made able to participate fully in the Eucharist. Participating fully in the celebration of Eucharist includes being nourished on the Word of God and receiving the Body and Blood of Christ and being sent to live as the Body of Christ in the world. Our full sharing in the Eucharist is the event that draws us into communion of life in God.

Confirmation is not a sacrament of maturity; it is a sacrament of initiation. Those who seek to be confirmed are asking to deepen their relationship with Christ and the believing community. They are anointed with sacred chrism to seal their baptism. The candidate is confirmed using his or her baptismal name and is accompanied by a sponsor.

The sponsor is to be:

- a Roman Catholic,
- at least 16 years of age,
- a fully initiated member of the Church
- a faithful active participant at the Sunday Eucharist. (*Canon Law 893, 874*)
- The sponsor is a guide, witness, and companion for the candidate on their journey of faith. A parent may not be a sponsor.

Confirmation is the sacrament which empowers us to celebrate the Eucharist in a new and more dynamic way through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are sent out from the Sunday Eucharist as people whose mission it is to witness to Christ in the world. The Spirit given us in Confirmation enables us to give a powerful and effective witness to Christ's presence.

Immediate preparation for the celebration of Confirmation begins each year in September.

Adults who did not receive Confirmation as children, or adults or children who are not baptized in the Roman Catholic Church and desire to participate fully in Eucharist through reception of Confirmation are invited to speak with the parish priest about the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**.

*We would like to thank Catherine Ecker, Liturgical Catechist (catherineecker56@gmail.com) who is the principal author.*