

## Important Dates

### Parent Evenings of Formation

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO DATES TO ATTEND: Monday, November 7, 2011—6:15-7:30 P.M.  
Tuesday, January 17, 2012— 7:00-8:15 P.M.

ALL CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES AND PARENTS TOGETHER ATTEND ON: Thursday, March 15, 2012—7:00-8:30 P.M.

### Seventh-grade Rite of Acceptance

NOVEMBER 6, 2011 - 9 am Mass  
First-year program participants will be presented with Bibles at the Rite of Acceptance.

### Confirmation Retreat

THE RETREAT HAS BEEN CHANGED TO AN 8th GRADE ONLY RETREAT.

Please reserve the evening of FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012 and most of the day SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012 for the possibility of an overnight retreat. If not overnight, then SATURDAY only.  
A second retreat will be offered on SEPTEMBER 22, 2012, FOR CANDIDATES UNABLE TO ATTEND IN APRIL.

### NINTH-GRADE Presentation of Faith Portfolios

SEPTEMBER 9, 2012 - 9:00 am Mass in the Church  
All second-year candidates will present their completed Faith Portfolios to the Parish at this special Mass.

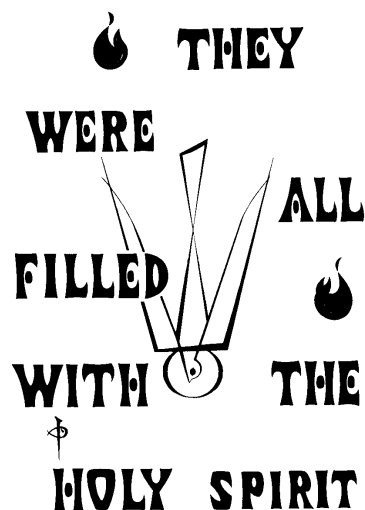
### Confirmation Readiness Interviews

Some time between late August and early October for second-year candidates who successfully complete the program of preparation.

### Fall Confirmation Rehearsal and Liturgy

Dates are dependent upon Diocesan schedules and are announced in the *Shrine Herald* as soon as they become available.

**Be sure to watch the Shrine Herald for additional events and calendar updates!**



### *The Celebration of Confirmation*

The Sacrament of Confirmation is an invitation and celebration of the Spirit's presence in our lives. In faith, we expect to be filled anew with grace and power. Confirmation at the National Shrine is usually received in the fall of the ninth-grade year after successful completion of a two-year period of intense preparation during grades seven and eight. Older candidates can also be accommodated. The preparation aims to lead candidates to ownership of their Faith and active ministry involvement including participation in the Shrine C.R.E.W. (Catholic, Relationships, Evangelization, Worship) Youth Group.

*Do not let people disregard you because you are young, but be an example to all in the way you speak and behave, and in your love, your faith, and your purity. You have in you a spiritual gift which was given to you when the body of elders laid their hands on you; do not let it lie unused.*

*--Paraphrase of 1 and 2 Timothy*

National Shrine of the Little Flower



# Confirmation

## Sacramental Preparation

2011-2012

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### OFFICE HOURS

Monday 8:15 am — 7 pm  
Tuesday—Friday 8:15 am — 3:15 pm  
Appointment hours available

## Confirmation Preparation

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a personal Pentecost celebrating the Holy Spirit's role in our lives and in the Church. Building upon the Christian formation received at Shrine Catholic Academy or the Shrine Religious Formation Program, Confirmation preparation provides opportunities to learn about the workings of the Holy Spirit in the Catholic Church. These include forming communion with other candidates and putting faith into action through Service Projects. Confirmation preparation is designed to help youth discern God's plan for them and allows coordinators to assess the candidates' understanding of and desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## Adolescent Spirituality and the Role of Parents

As youth mature, they often enter a questioning phase of spiritual development. Properly respected, this phase can ultimately lead to the internalizing and owning of the faith. Understanding that parents and families play the most important role in faith formation, the Confirmation preparation program is designed for parental involvement and support. We invite parents to be involved in Service Projects. These activities, along with celebrating Sunday liturgies and sharing faith experiences as a family, help reinforce the critical importance of fully living the Catholic faith.

## Confirmation Requirements

### Servant Ministry Program— (Service Projects)

Long Term Ministry and service projects help Confirmation candidates understand what it means to be an active member of the parish and how Christ works through us. Over the two-year preparation, candidates are required to take part in a minimum of one Long Term Ministry and 5 service projects OR 10 service projects.

*Long Term Ministries* allow candidates to use their individual gifts, such as singing, speaking skills, etc., and apply them to multiple opportunities. These include serving as lectors, Catechist aides, Ministers of Hospitality, Vacation Bible School volunteer, altar servers or members of the Youth Choir. While candidates may be involved in these volunteer roles as early as third

grade, Confirmation candidates are encouraged to commit to one by the start of eighth grade. Service projects are posted in the *Shrine Herald* and are one-day commitments designed for youth that include theological reflection. Examples are: visiting nursing homes or distributing food to the needy. To give candidates a broader experience, participation in service projects must be varied. Therefore, events that are offered repeatedly may not be selected more than twice. Candidates can sign up for all service projects by following the directions communicated in the *Herald*. Once the project has been completed, the candidates' theological reflections will be added to their Confirmation Faith Portfolios in the Religious Formation Office.

### Reception of Bibles - November 6, 2011

As a visible sign of their commitment to preparing for Confirmation, first year candidates will participate in a *Rite of Acceptance* during the 9 am Mass. Bibles will be presented to the candidates in attendance at this Liturgy. This is an important step in their journey - parents should make every effort to ensure their teen attends.

### Confirmation RETREAT

8th grade Confirmation candidates are required to attend one retreat prior to Confirmation. (7th grade students do not attend a Confirmation retreat.)

Specific details will be communicated to parents and candidates as they become available..

### Baptismal Certificates

The Sacrament of Baptism is the gateway to all other Sacraments. In order to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, baptisms of all candidates must be verified. The office will contact the parent if a Baptismal record is needed.

### Evenings of Formation

Two evenings of formation are required each year for parents of first-year and second-year candidates. Please see "Important Dates" for information. The Evenings of Formation are designed to give parents tools to help their teen on his/her journey of faith. Our Evening of Formation in March gives teens and their parents a chance to share their faith and grow as a family in the Catholic Church.

## Confirmation Faith Portfolios

First and second year candidates, both Religious Formation and Academy students, will participate in a prayer and reflection time every month. These items of reflection will be collected and added to their Faith Portfolio that candidates will present to the parish community at the 9 am Mass on September 9, 2012. These Faith Portfolios help students discover how God is active in their lives and how they will use their gifts and talents to deepen and share their faith through ministry.

**\*NOTE: Faith Portfolios are provided to students in the Spring of their 8th grade year. SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE A FAITH PORTFOLIO YET, but are completing reflections/activities for it.**

## Confirmation Sponsors

The selection of a Confirmation sponsor is an important part of the Sacrament. Please remember when choosing a sponsor that he or she must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic in good standing in the Church (i.e., people who do not participate regularly in the Eucharist, those living in marriages not recognized by the Church, or are living with someone who is not their spouse are not qualified). Parents may not be sponsors since it is their role to raise their children in the faith. A sponsor's role is to assist in this endeavor (Canon Law #874) and to ensure the confirmed person behaves as a true witness of Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations inherent in this sacrament (Canon Law #892).

## Confirmation Readiness Interviews

Upon successful completion of the Confirmation preparation, the pastoral staff will interview all second-year candidates. These interviews take place in the weeks prior to the Confirmation liturgy and provide insight as to whether the candidate understands and desires the reception of the sacrament.

## Communication: Staying Informed

Notice of all events and service projects can be found in the *Shrine Herald*. This will be the main venue for communication to all candidates and their families. Back issues of the *Herald* can be accessed on the church's website, [www.shrinechurch.com](http://www.shrinechurch.com). Parents should review this with their child each week to determine participation in upcoming events. Participants can sign up for all service projects by following the directions communicated in the *Herald*.