

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas, Auxiliary to the Archbishop of Philadelphia, will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on **April 18, 2013 at 4 PM** for our 6th grade candidates.

Through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is indeed a time of great joy for each child, for each family, for the sponsor and for the entire Parish Community. In order to more effectively receive God's great gift of His Spirit, sacramental preparation is necessary. Sacramental preparation should be seen as a "teachable moment" for everyone involved. It is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the Lord. It is a time to deepen our involvement in the life of the parish. For some, sacramental preparation can be an instrument of grace and reconciliation if someone has been away from the sacrament for a lengthy period of time.

Instruction is given through the school, the parish religious education program, or a private Catholic school. Anyone in 7th grade or older who has not been confirmed should contact Ms. Jeanette Paul, Director of Religious Education, (j.paulspn@gmail.com) for further information.

What is the role of a sponsor?

A godparent or sponsor in the early Church was the one who introduced the candidate to the practice of Christianity, helped him/her in the instructions that were required, offered an example of genuine Christianity to the candidate, and attested to the candidate's authentic practice of the faith.

A sponsor should be someone who has an active prayer life, an active life of worship, and an active life of service and charity. A sponsor is someone who attends Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, receives the Holy Eucharist and celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently. The sponsor should be available to help and encourage your child in the practice of the Catholic Faith.

SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS ACCORDING TO THE CODE OF CANON LAW (CIC 874, 892-893)

- A. The sponsor must be baptized, confirmed, and have received First Holy Communion.
- B. The sponsor must be a practicing Catholic. A letter of eligibility from his/her parish will be required. A sponsor who is a member of St. Philip's will not need a letter; however he/she must fulfill all the requirements listed here. Parish records will be used for this.
- C. The sponsor must be at least sixteen years of age. The sponsor's sex need not be the same as that of the candidate.
- D. The sponsor may NOT be the parents of the candidate. One of the original godparents of the candidate is recommended.

- E. The sponsor may not be the subject of a canonical impediment. An example of such an impediment would be an invalid marriage.

It is our hope and prayer that this time of sacramental preparation will be a time of growing in our faith in Jesus. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit that each one of us will be examples of Christian living!

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.