



St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

# Confirmation

## THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

The gifts of the Holy Spirit given at baptism are enriched and brought to greater fruition in the Sacrament of Confirmation. The sacramental anointing with chrism and indelible sealing of the Holy Spirit "incorporates us more firmly into Christ, strengthens our bond with the Church, associates us more clearly with her mission and helps us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1316).



The Apostles and disciples locked themselves in an upper room out of fear for their very lives. For days, they prayed in anticipation for the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon them and they were empowered with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. That day, 3,000 people joined the Church and the Good News has



continued to spread to the ends of the Earth. From this time onward, confirmation has been celebrated through the laying on of hands by the apostles and bishops. Priests also, by delegation, are allowed to celebrate confirmation in certain cases.

The Holy Spirit's gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude or courage, counsel, love, fear of the Lord and many more are for the good of the community, to build up the Body of Christ. Take a moment to ask yourself: What gifts can I discern in others and myself? Am I prayerfully developing the use of these gifts for the good of the community? If not, why not?

If you are an adult Catholic parishioner who has not celebrated confirmation, contact Ann Marie at 489-3643.

### Biblical References

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ***Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.*** (Acts 8:14-17; RSV).

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ***And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them;*** and they spoke with tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:1-6; italic and bold indicate the part of confirmation).

### Teaching of the Church

Preparation for confirmation should lead the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit - his actions, his gifts, and his biddings - in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.... (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1309).