

Confirmation Curriculum

The outline for the whole year is the Apostle's Creed: The goal of the year is to make the Creed, professed for the child at Baptism, a living reality to which they themselves assent as they prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Unit 1: "I believe in God the Father Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth"

- God's Love and Creation
- Creation Story

Unit 2: Sin and its Effects

- Original Sin: Fall of Adam of Eve and Its Effects in Themselves and Us
- Sin as an Obstacle to Our Friendship/Relationship with God, Self, and Others

Unit 3: "I believe in Jesus Christ His Only Son Our Lord..."

- Conceived of the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary
- Suffered Under Pontius Pilate, was Crucified, Died and Was Buried
- On the Third Day He Rose Again

Unit 4: "I Believe in the Holy Spirit and the Holy Catholic Church"

- Jesus Christ Established the Church: The Keys to the Kingdom
- Pentecost: Coming of the Holy Spirit and Birth of the Church

Unit 5: The Power of the Sacraments: Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist

- Baptism:
 - Initiates Us into the Family of God, the Church
 - Washes away Original Sin and Unites Us with God
 - Imparts the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of Faith, Hope, and Charity
 - Parents made that choice for most of us: now is our opportunity to own our faith
- Reconciliation
 - What is sin and what are the differences of mortal and venial sin?
 - What are the consequences of sin in our lives?
 - This sacrament reunites us with God through His forgiveness of our sins
 - The children will re-learn the steps (and reasons behind why) of Reconciliation and have an opportunity to go at least once before their Confirmation.
- Holy Eucharist:
 - The Eucharist is the True Presence of Christ on earth.
 - The Eucharist was given for the first time at the Last Supper, which was the first Mass.
 - Christ has given man the opportunity to receive His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity at least every Sunday (which is required) and even every day if one so chooses.

Unit 6: What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?

- Confirmation completes initiation into the Church.
- “By the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” (CCC 1285)
- The child can recognize and explain the significance of the Confirmation rite:
 - *My sponsor - who supports me spiritually on my faith journey*
 - *Confirmation name* - either a baptismal name or the name of a saint who inspires us
 - *Seal of the Holy Spirit* - which marks or seals us as belonging to God
 - *Renewal of Baptismal Promises* - Confirmation completes our Baptism
 - *Laying on of Hands* - An action which invokes the Holy Spirit
 - *The Anointing with Chrism* - We are anointed to be witnesses of faith just like God's chosen ones were anointed as priest, prophet, king.

Throughout the Year

Experience of the Faith alive in our Church greatly contributes to the young person's formation for the sacrament of Confirmation. These experiences also have goal of integrating the child into the Church so that he/she remains after Confirmation.

- Heroes of the Faith: Saints, Mary's Meals, SCIAF, etc. as well as people who have impacted the Church
- Guest Speakers - to witness to their faith
- Opportunities for Parents and Students to Converse about the Faith
- Experiences of Prayer: Mass, Adoration, Lectio Divina, Rosary, Station of the Cross, Youth Rallies and Retreats
- Mystagogy (after the Sacraments)
 - Active ways to integrate into the faith more deeply:
 - How to prep for secondary school
 - Getting involved in the parish in a real way - Mass, youth group, etc.
 - Basic preparations for sticking up for their faith and some knowledge that goes before it.