

**"Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis
May his holy soul be on be on the right
side of God**



**Bishop Emeritus Patrick J. McGrath D.D., the second
Bishop of San Jose, who passed away on May 7, 2023**



**May the blessings of light be upon you,
Light without and light within.
And in all your comings and goings,
May you ever have a kindly greeting
From them you meet on the road.**

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

We had a great celebration last Sunday night as 72 of our young parishioners were confirmed by Bishop Cantú . The Confirmation Mass was solemn and beautiful and I offer thanks to the many who worked so hard to make it a wonderful celebration. In special way, we thank Bishop Cantú for his presence and ministry at our parish, and musicians for adding such beauty to the celebration, and the ushers who did a great job helping our many visitors to St. Christopher Parish

I also wish to thank our Religious Education Staff who helped to plan and prepare the candidates for this important day. We also thank the many teachers and catechists who taught the candidates over the years about Christ and His Church. They along with their parents who guide them in the ways of the faith are to be commended. Finally, we thank the newly confirmed for staying the course and committing to Christ as young adults.

This parish celebration of Confirmation gives the candidates strength in their faith and our parish and Church hope for the future. Now these newly confirmed must continue to grow in the faith and guide their lives by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I ask you to continue to pray for them that they will stay close to Christ and His Church and bear witness to the Lord in their lives. We encourage the confirmandi to continue to get involved in the life of the Church.

Pope Francis in one of his homily's to those that he confirmed said, "And here I come to my last point. It is an invitation which I make to you, young confirmandi, and to all present. Remain steadfast in the journey of faith, with firm hope in the Lord. This is the secret of our journey! He gives us the courage to swim against the tide. Pay attention, my young friends: to go against the current; this is good for the heart, but we need courage to swim against the tide. Jesus gives us this courage! There are no difficulties, trials or misunderstandings to fear, provided we remain united to God as branches to the vine, provided we do not lose our friendship with him, provided we make ever more room for him in our lives.

This is especially so whenever we feel poor, weak and sinful, because God grants strength to our weakness, riches to our poverty, conversion and forgiveness to our sinfulness. The Lord is so rich in mercy: every time, if we go to him, he forgives us. Let us trust in God's work! With him we can do great things; he will give us the joy of being his disciples, his witnesses. Commit yourselves to great ideals, to the most important things. We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals, my dear young people.

What are the effects of the sacrament of Confirmation?

The effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as it was once granted to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost. Pope Francis tells us that it is the Spirit who moves us to come out of our selfishness and to be a gift to others. For this reason, Confirmation confers growth and depth to baptismal grace:

It introduces us more deeply into the divine filiation.

Grant a special power of the Holy Spirit in our lives to spread and defend the faith by word and deed as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly and to never be ashamed of the cross.

Increase in us the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

It unites us more firmly to Christ because it grants us the special strength of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

It makes our bond with the Church more perfect.

It unites us more strongly to the members of the mystical Body of Christ, which is the Church. Thinking of the Church as a living organism, composed of people who walk together in community with the bishop, who is the original minister of confirmation and who links us to the Church.

Pope Francis – Catechesis on Confirmation

In this third catechesis on the Sacraments, we pause to reflect on Confirmation or “Chrismation”, which must be understood in continuity with Baptism, to which it is inseparably linked. These two Sacraments, together with the Eucharist, form a single saving event — called “Christian initiation” — in which we are inserted into Jesus Christ, who died and rose, and become new creatures and members of the Church. This is why these three Sacraments were originally celebrated on one occasion, at the end of the catechumenal journey, normally at the Easter Vigil. The path of formation and gradual insertion into the Christian community, which could last even up to a few years, was thus sealed. One travelled step by step to reach Baptism, then Confirmation and the Eucharist.

We commonly speak of the sacrament of “Chrismation”, a word that signifies “anointing”. And, in effect, through the oil called “sacred Chrism” we are conformed, in the power of the Spirit, to Jesus Christ, who is the only true “anointed One”, the “Messiah”, the Holy One of God. The word “Confirmation” then reminds us that this Sacrament brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace: it unites us more firmly to Christ, it renders our bond with the Church more perfect, and it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith, ... to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of his Cross (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 1303).

For this reason, it is important to take care that our children, our young people, receive this sacrament. We all take care that they are baptized and this is good, but perhaps we do not take so much care to ensure that they are confirmed. Thus they remain at a midpoint in their journey and do not receive the Holy Spirit, who is so important in the Christian life since he gives us the strength to go on. Let us think a little, each one of us: do we truly care whether our children, our young people, receive Confirmation? This is important, it is important! And if you have children or adolescents at home who have not yet received it and are at the age to do so, do everything possible to ensure that they complete their Christian initiation and receive the power of the Holy Spirit. It is important!

Naturally it is important to prepare those being confirmed well, leading them towards a personal commitment to faith in Christ and reawakening in them a sense of belonging to the Church.

Confirmation, like every Sacrament, is not the work of men but of God, who cares for our lives in such a manner as to mould us in the image of his Son, to make us capable of loving like him. He does it by infusing in us his Holy Spirit, whose action pervades the whole person and his entire life, as reflected in the seven gifts that Tradition, in light of the Sacred Scripture, has always highlighted. These seven gifts: I do not want to ask you if you remember the seven gifts. Perhaps you will all know them.... But I will say them on your behalf. What are these gifts? Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety and Fear of the Lord. And these gifts have been given to us precisely with the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. I therefore intend to dedicate the catecheses that follow those on the Sacrament to these seven gifts.

When we welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts and allow him to act, Christ makes himself present in us and takes shape in our lives; through us, it will be he — Christ himself — who prays, forgives, gives hope and consolation, serves the brethren, draws close to the needy and to the least, creates community and sows peace. Think how important this is: by means of the Holy Spirit, Christ himself comes to do all this among us and for us. That is why it is important that children and young people receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Dear brothers and sisters, let us remember that we have received Confirmation! All of us! Let us remember it, first in order to thank the Lord for this gift, and then to ask him to help us to live as true Christians, to walk always with joy in the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. **Pope Francis.**

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Each day we will celebrate Mass and reflect on the gospel text appropriate to the place we visit. This will be a pilgrimage of a lifetime and it will forever change the way you read and understand the Scriptures. We hope you will be able to join us on what promises to be a grace-filled journey to the land from which has come our salvation.

PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Mt. Carmel & Haifa
- Nazareth—site of the Annunciation
- Cana—Renewal of Marriage vows
- Capernaum and Peter's Primacy
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Mount of Beatitudes
- Jericho & the Jordan River—renewal of baptismal vows
- Bethlehem and Shepherds' Field
- Mount of Olives and Garden of Gethsemane
- Mount Zion and the Upper Room
- Jerusalem—Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- Garden of Gethsemane
- The Old City
- Western Wall

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WE NEED YOU!



A big **Thank You** to the 494 families who have already replied to the 2023 ADA. YTD pledges are currently \$203,878.09. Which puts us at 89% of the way to this year's goal of \$226,904. We are doing great, however, we need everyone's participation in order to be successful. If you have not had a chance to return your pledge form please do it soon (including gifts of prayer) so we can avoid having to do a second mailing. And remember, all funds over the \$226,904 goal will be rebated back to the parish. Please make your pledge today.

Packets were sent to all of our parishioners in January. Extra sets are available in the back of the church or contact the parish office to have another sent to you. God Bless.

Festival Pre-Sale Tickets available now!

Please visit <https://www.stchrisfestival.com/tickets> to purchase

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- Chicken & Rib BBQ Lunch (Sunday)
- Food & Beverage Tickets (does not apply to Food Truck offerings)
- Game Booth Tickets

Ticket Pickup Information

You will receive a confirmation email with your order.

If you have any issues with ordering, please email info@stchrishns.org.

Parish Families - Orders can be picked up after Sunday Mass starting May 14th or after school on June 8th-9th after school near the Science Building, or during Festival at Ticket Booth Will Call.

General Public - Pickup your tickets at the Festival. Go to Ticket Booth Will Call at the south end of the Main Stage area.

Restoring our Church.

Dear Parishioners,

Since the first dedication of St. Christopher's on June 2, 1957, many generations of families have gathered at Saint Christopher Church to proclaim their faith and praise God together. We are excited to share our plans to restore our sacred sanctuary and our entire sacred space to ensure that future generations will continue to worship here, at Saint Christopher Church.

Today, we find ourselves between a rich and revered past and a future of great possibilities. It is now our time to make an investment in the future. Our community has always been a caring community. We care about sharing the good news of Christ with the world. We care about passing the faith of Christ on to our children, teaching them to share the Eucharist, prayers, and confirmation.

Our sanctuary is where those needs are met and where people hear the gospel proclaimed. It is where generations have prayed and share, Eucharist together, married, baptized their children, and watched them grow to confirm their own faith, and said farewell to their loved ones.

While our current space has been well cared for over the last sixty five years, today we have an opportunity to enhance and improve our Sacred space in which we worship. After consulting with Diocesan Art and Environment and Art committee we envision:

Sanctuary remodel, floors and walls, new pews, paint the whole church, put a new tabernacle back in the center of the sanctuary.

Remove the wood from the wall at replace with sheetrock and install Hearing Assistance System.

We already have \$200,000 toward the project to help us achieve this goal, I ask each family to prayerfully consider the sacrificial gift they are able to make. If every registered family in our Parish donated \$500, we would come close to our goal. However, knowing that some in our community are on fixed incomes, I am hopeful that those who are financially able, will consider donating a larger amount, such as \$10,000 or even more to help us achieve our goal.

Thank you for your past and present support of St. Christopher Parish. Please join with me and pray for the success of restoring our Church.

Blessings,

Fr. Chris



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