**“What is Confirmation?”**

* Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments, the third Sacrament of Initiation in the Roman Catholic Church. (Baptism is the first Sacrament of Initiation and Eucharist is the second.)
* A sacrament is a sign of God’s love and presence in our lives. Sacraments give grace – the free gift of God’s love.
* At Confirmation, the candidate receives the fullness of the Holy Spirit that was given to us at Baptism. This is the same Spirit that filled the Apostles on Pentecost, with the drive and the courage needed to be disciples, or students of Christ.
* The first encounter with the Holy Spirit takes place at Baptism, when we are born again in water and the Spirit. Baptism creates a personal union with God and Confirmation deepens our relationship with God by having the Holy Spirit strengthened within us.
* On the day of Confirmation, Christians become public witnesses to Christ and his work. You are saying to the community…in public…I believe in the Mission of Jesus Christ and I am making the commitment to continue HIS work.
* Confirmation is not just another one of those things that we do because we are of age or because all our friends are doing it. Confirmation needs to be done because we want to live a more Christ centered life, as a mature Christian and accept all the responsibilities of being a disciple of Christ.
* Sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, Christians strive to live in the image of the Lord and work toward building up of the body of Christ through both their actions and their words. Confirmed Catholics live out Christ’s mission of serving others becoming involved in church and community service by giving of time, talent and treasure.
* Confirmation is NOT the end or “graduation,”…to the contrary… it is the beginning of a life of full participation and responsibility in the Church.