

CONFIRMATION ~ RITE OF PASSAGE

Opening Prayer

Let us begin our prayer marked by the sign of our faith: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray: God our Father, you knew us before we were born. You called us at Baptism to be witnesses of your love for us in Christ. Prepare our hearts and minds today to welcome the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that we may become everything you desire us to be as your sons and daughters in Christ. We make this prayer to you in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Candidates and their Sponsors stand. If present, Sponsors will place their hand on Candidate's shoulder.

Confirmation Candidates are asked to respond, "I will" to the following questions, as a sign of their intentions at this time:

- **Will you faithfully participate in this period of formation: at liturgy, in your preparation sessions, and in Christian service? *Candidates respond, "I will."***
- **Will you listen to the gospel proclamation of Jesus with a genuine openness of mind and heart? *Candidates respond, "I will."***
- **Will you journey with your sponsor and parents in a shared journey of faith and an honest search for truth? *Candidates respond, "I will."***

Sponsors and Parents of these young people are asked to respond, "I will" to the following questions:

- **Will you demonstrate the love and care of our entire community of faith for the Candidates as you walk with them on their journey of preparation? *Sponsors and parents respond, "I will."***
- **Will you freely share with your candidate the fruits of your own journey of faith – its joys and difficulties, its gifts and its challenges? *Sponsors and parents respond, "I will."***

All present, including family and the community of St. Michael the Archangel, are asked to respond, "I will" to the following questions:

- Will you support these young people in faith, prayer, and example during the process of preparation leading to Confirmation? *Assembly responds, "I will."*

We now invite all members of this community gathered here to extend their hands in blessing toward the Confirmation Candidates, as we pray,

*All loving God,
bless and help these Candidates
as they deepen their knowledge of the Gospel of Christ.
May they come to know and to love you
and always do your will with generous hearts and willing spirits.
Initiate them into a life of wholeness,
and count them among your Church
so that they may share your holy mysteries here on earth
and in the everlasting joy of heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

And now, Sponsors, trace the sign of the Cross on the forehead of your Candidate: + *You are a child of God, treasured and loved.* +

Closing Prayer

Lord God, we thank you for calling us to be Jesus' disciples. We ask you to inspire us with your truth, your love and your joy as we continue to prepare, as a community of faith, for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Make us each receptive to your Word; may it take root in our hearts and increase our joy as we await the fullness of your Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.