

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation was celebrated at St. Mary's in the spring of 2009. It will be celebrated again in the spring of 2011 for the youth in level 7 and 8.

Our approach to the process for celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation is rooted in the belief that Confirmation completes the sacramental *initiation* into the Catholic Christian faith community, and renews and strengthens the graces and gifts of the Spirit first received at Baptism. It calls the candidate to fuller participation in the life of the faith community, to contribute and to receive at a deeper level. It communicates anew and in a deeper way the gift that God is in our lives and in the world: in the Father in the daily unfolding of Creation, in the person of Jesus who is always there as companion and friend and in the Spirit enriching and guiding our celebration of life.

Our program is based on the principle that Confirmation is a threshold event, not graduation. With the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation the confirmand is better prepared to understand and study the message of Christ as presented by the Roman Catholic Church and better prepared to meet the challenges that come in the teen years and adulthood.