

**WHAT SHOULD I DO TO  
HELP MY CHILD PREPARE  
FOR THE SACRAMENT?**

The Church takes all sacraments very seriously. Parents need to make sure their child is truly ready for what this sacrament means.

One needs to be in a state of grace prior to the sacrament therefore the Sacrament of Reconciliation should take place before Confirmation.

Help him/her study the sacrament.

Talk to your child about the meaning of the sacrament and ask them if they can articulate ways in which they think they are ready.

Do you see a mature sense of responsibility in your child? If not, how can you better foster this?

Do they (and you) take the faith seriously? If one receives the sacrament with no intention of practicing the faith, what is one really saying about him/herself?

Pray for your child.

Challenge your child (and yourself) to practice what they preach in regards to the sacraments and teachings of the Church.

Set an example.

**SPONSOR SELECTION**

1. Most desirable would be a godparent from baptism.
2. Must have completed 16<sup>th</sup> year.
3. Must be a practicing Catholic.
4. Must have received the initiation sacraments.
5. NO parent or step-parents.

**CONFIRMATION NAME**

Baptismal name is preferred or a new **Christian** name is acceptable.  
**Due Jan.23,2008.**

**SERVICE HOURS**

30 hours divided three ways: Home, Community and Church.  
**Due April 2,2008.**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Sacramental Info. & Fee due: Sept.19,2007-drop off at parish office**  
**Parent/Sponsor Meeting:** Oct. 14 – 7:00p.m. in the commons  
**Enrollment Mass:** Oct.28– 11:30 a.m. for parents, candidates and sponsors  
**Retreat: Nov. 10 –Sorrowful Mother Shrine-Bellevue,OH 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**  
**Saint report and Confirmation name sheet due – Jan. 23,2008**  
**.Service Hour Log – April 2,2008.**  
**Festival of the Spirit – May 7,2008.**  
**Practice:** May 15,2008 at 6:30p.m. in Church  
**Sponsor Evaluation Sheet – May 15<sup>th</sup> at practice.**  
**Confirmation:** May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Church.

**THE  
SACRAMENT OF  
CONFIRMATION**



St. Mary's Church  
Sandusky, Ohio

### **Where does the Sacrament come from?**

The sacrament dates back to the time of the Apostles. There is biblical foundation in the Acts of the Apostles when Peter and John went to Samaria to lay hands on those who had been baptized and accepted the Word of God, in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:14-17) This action perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church which is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the Apostles.



### **The Importance of the Sacrament of Confirmation**

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the grace that you received at Baptism is fulfilled and completed. For this reason, the sacrament is considered one of the three “sacraments of initiation”, along with Baptism and Eucharist. In this sacrament you are more perfectly bound to the Church, and you are filled with the special strength of the Holy Spirit. This Sacrament brings you to full maturity in the Church and places greater responsibility to be faithful to your baptismal promises.

This deeper binding to the Church is signified by the role of the bishop as the minister of Confirmation. The Bishop acts as the representative of the Apostles.

The anointing with the oil of Chrism is a sign that we receive a special character, or seal on our soul. This anointing consecrates you more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ you received at Baptism.

### **From the Tradition To What it is Today**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, the two rites of anointing and sealing began to take place along with the imposition of hands. This was added to highlight the name “Christian” which means anointed and derives from Christ himself whom God “anointed with the Holy Spirit.”

The practice today is the rite of anointing with the oil of chrism, along with the imposition of hands, and the words “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” The early church celebrated this sacrament together with Baptism. The western churches separates the two sacraments while the eastern churches still celebrate them together.

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century in the Council of Trent we see the Church beginning to wait for the child to “reach the age” of reason before the sacrament is conferred.

Each diocese makes their own judgment as to the age at which the sacrament is conferred. (Between the ages of 7-18)

Each diocese and parish makes own decision regarding requirements for services hours, parent and sponsor meetings, etc.