

Saint Joseph Roman Catholic Church
Parish Religious Education Program
Spring City, PA 19475

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

By our Baptism we are called.....

*“Let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace into which you were also called in one body.*

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...

*Whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”*

Colossians 4:15,17

The way you speak, act and treat all others should give witness that you are a follower of Christ. As a baptized Catholic you are already committed to serving God. The more you understand this, the better you are at serving others. This is what it means to be a true steward of Jesus – to first know Him, and then to serve Him by serving the needs of those around you. Candidates for Confirmation are expected to show their commitment through deliberate and voluntary acts of service. This shows that you are maturing in your faith. Take a look around at the people you know. The more mature they are the less selfish and more giving they are towards others. Your greatest opportunities for service are right within your community. A young person like you works wonders by volunteering in loving service.

Being a witness to Jesus is what Confirmation is all about. This is how it works:

- You pray (keep in touch with God)
- Once you are in contact with God, He leads you to live and act in ways that are obviously the ways of Jesus. This is witness.
- All around us are needs of every kind. Because you are in touch with God through prayer, He will lead you to reach out to some of those needs. This is service. You find yourself serving according to the gifts God has given you. For example, you might be encouraged to use some of your spending money to purchase items for a shelter that serves the homeless and needy. You might be asked to help in some way with younger siblings – helping with homework, reading to them, keeping them safe.
- Wanting to give to others because God has made you able to give is called stewardship.

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PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who has taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that by the gift of the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Here are some opportunities for you to be of service and to be a witness:

AT HOME:

- Offer to vacuum, dust, sweep
- Take the trash out and bring trash cans in
- Set/clear the table, load/unload the dishwasher
- Clean up an area of the house that needs some attention: Your own room, a closet, bathroom, some area that you usually don't attend to
- Offer to help with a sibling(s)
- Watch your attitude with the people in your family
- Be aware and look around for other ways to help

IN THE PARISH

- Read the bulletin and find opportunities where you can help
- Help out with the fair
- Serve Mass
- Join the choir
- Help with the Religious Ed Program
- Do yard work at the parish or school
- Make rosary beads for others in the church/school
- Assist with the Christmas pageant, May procession, etc.
- Help out with monthly clean up of Religious Education building

IN THE COMMUNITY

- Research the local newspaper(s) or telephone directory for community organizations asking for help
- Help a needy family
- Assist senior citizens with their chores
- Collect food for the poor
- Do volunteer work in a hospice
- Write letters or cards to hospitalized children or teens
- Create cards/letters for the elderly in nursing homes
- Baby-sit for someone who needs help
- Donate allowance or spending money to a charity for their use

