

*In Baptism God our Father gave the new birth of eternal life to His chosen sons and daughters.
Let us pray to our Father that He will pour out the Holy Spirit to strengthen His sons and
daughters with His gifts and anoint them to be one like Christ, the Son of God.”*
(from the Rite of Confirmation)

August 31, 2017

In the Archdiocese of Seattle, the age at which teens commonly receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is age 16. We are sending this to you because our records indicate you may have a son or daughter who has reached this age, and yet to be Confirmed. If our records are wrong, please ignore this letter. As we look ahead to the next class, please know that, we would love to walk with your son or daughter, about deepening their relationship with Jesus.

A few years ago the Archdiocese revised the policies for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, requiring a two year preparation process. The first-year requirement can be fulfilled in one of two ways: 1) Attend Youth Ministry on Sunday nights from 6:30-8:00 or 2) if they are attending a Catholic school, they should enroll in a Christian religion class for the full year.

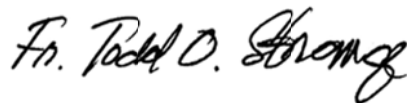
To be eligible for the second-year of formation, one must be baptized, have received First Holy Communion, have completed the first year of formation (mentioned above) and have reached 16 years of age by June 1st (exceptions to the age requirement can be requested). Classes will be on Sunday 1:15-3:00PM in Fr. McGill Hall, beginning September 24th at 1:15pm with parent and teen orientation. Cost for the preparation is \$160 (\$25 for materials and \$135 for the retreat. Scholarships are available for those in financial need).

Why be Confirmed? Contrary to how it's commonly understood, Confirmation is not meant to be an adult affirmation of one's faith. Instead it is a completion of what God began at one's Baptism—*being sealed in the fullness of the Holy Spirit*—the way by which one becomes a fully-initiated Catholic. Confirmation classes and youth ministry are a great opportunity for our parish sons and daughters to grow closer to Jesus and be strengthened by the Holy Spirit

Let's be honest: those of us who grow up, indifferent about our faith—those who are disengaged—tend to be those who never make a conscious decision to encounter it and know it. I trust that your son or daughter's willingness to look into it will foster a deeper appreciation of this faith that Jesus himself gave to us. When one does, life is never the same.

And to you parents: while no one can be forced to receive any sacrament, your son or daughter cannot adequately discern whether or not to receive it, if he or she does not sufficiently know what they are choosing to receive or not receive. So, while it is not good to pressure anyone to receive a sacrament, you could choose to obligate him or her to attend our scheduled formation activities. At the end of the preparation, he or she can decide. If you have any questions about the requirements please call or email Carlie Betz: 425-392-5516, cbetz@sjcissaquah.org.

Yours in our Beloved Jesus,



Father Todd O. Strange