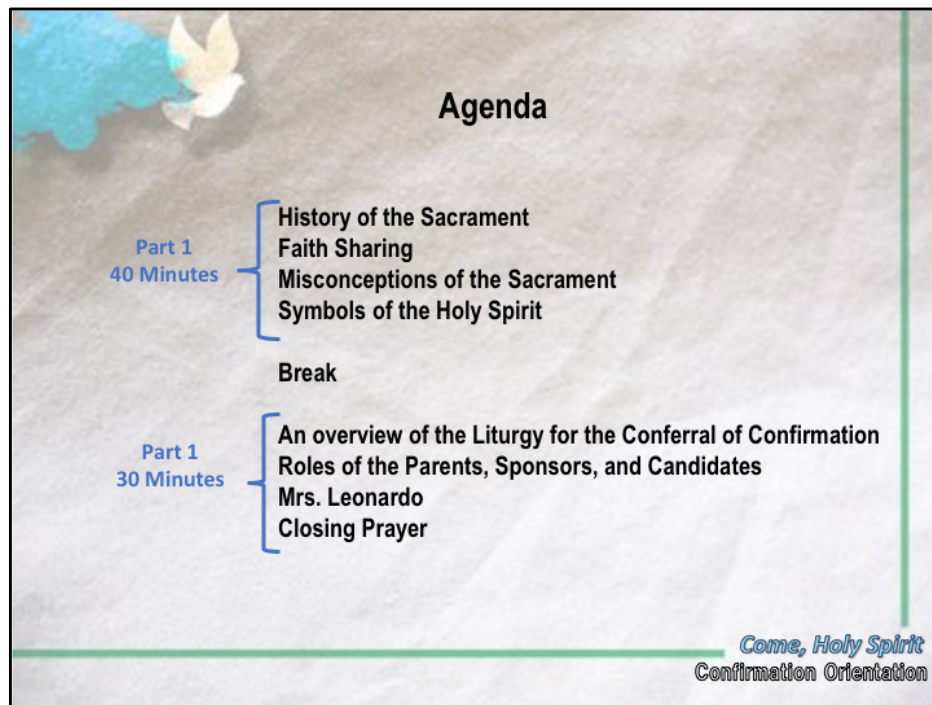


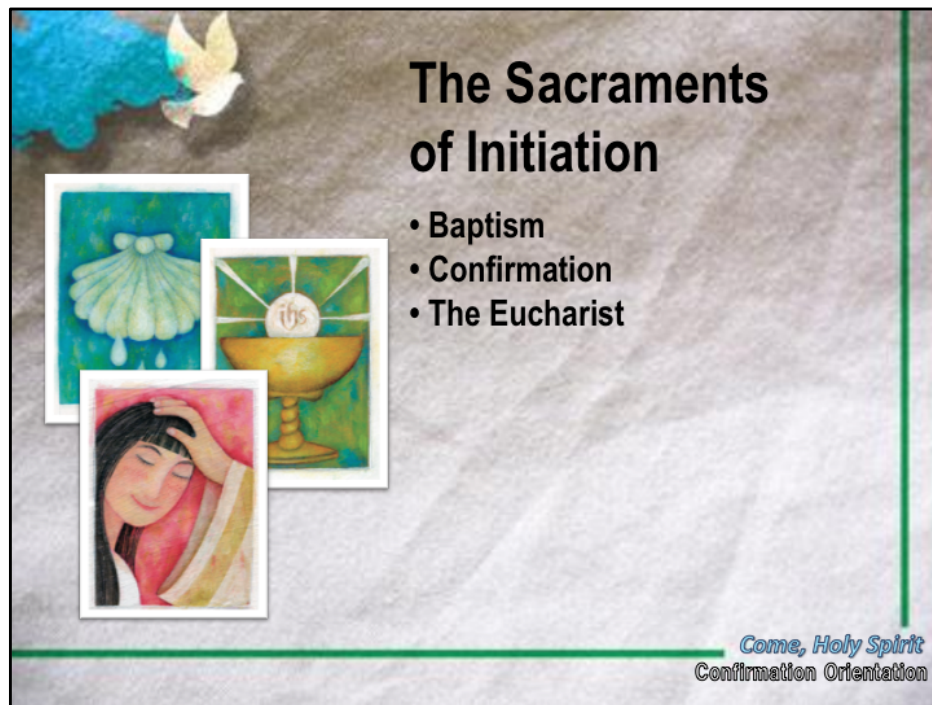




Introduce self....



Confirmation is very closely tied to Baptism. Along with the Eucharist, it is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation—through which we become full members of the Body of Christ. Confirmation completes, seals, and confirms the grace we receive in Baptism. In the early Church, adults were baptized, confirmed, and received the Eucharist together at one time at the Easter Vigil in a liturgy presided over by the bishop. As the Church grew and even infants began to be baptized, it was no longer possible for the bishop to be present at all the baptisms taking place.



There are 7 Sacraments in the Church, 3 of which are considered the Sacraments of Initiation. Baptism and Confirmation are closely related . Along with the Eucharist, we become full members of the Body of Christ. The order and timing of when these sacraments take place has changed throughout history due to cultural events and changes in the understanding of the theology of the Sacrament. So, the first thing tonight is just to give you a quick history lesson so that you can see why we are preparing for confirmation at this time.

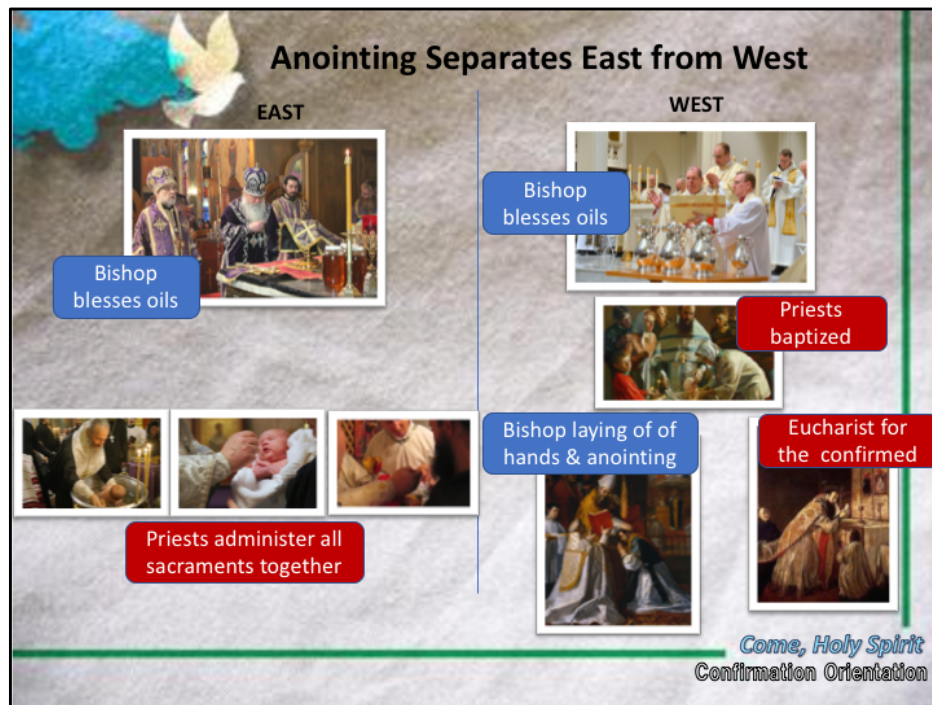
The Sacraments of Initiation



- Baptism- water poured
- Confirmation- oil anointed
- The Eucharist – bread of life

Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

In the early Church, adults were baptized, confirmed, and received the Eucharist together at one time at the Easter Vigil in a liturgy presided over by the bishop. Even at the time of the Apostles, entire households were baptized “in the spirit”. By the 3rd century, as the Church grew even infants became more popular to be baptized, as In the 4th century, Constantine’s proclamation making Christianity the state religion meant that even more people were being baptized, including infants. Christianity spread from the cities into the countryside. It became impossible for bishops, who were now also involved in governing, to preside at every Baptism.



The bishops of the East solved the problem by delegating the Sacraments of Initiation to the presbyter, reserving for themselves only the blessing of the oil used in the rite. To this day the Eastern churches initiate with all three sacraments at once.

The bishops of the West also delegated Baptism to priests, but retained the function of performing the initial anointing and laying on of hands. This they would do whenever they visited a particular locality. Thus, in the West the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation was done at a later time than the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.

A new theology for the sacrament...



Soldiers of Christ

Confirmation in the Middle Ages seen as providing spiritual strength to fight and die for faith. Confirmation became a sacrament of maturity.

Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

By the Middle Ages, as it became commonplace for bishops to confirm young people close to adolescence, more emphasis began to be placed on Confirmation as a sacrament of maturity. Those receiving the sacrament were seen as gaining the spiritual strength needed to fight, suffer, and even die for the faith. It became popular to think of Confirmation as the ritual that makes one a soldier of Christ. In fact, the bishop extended a symbolic and gentle slap to the face of each confirmand to signify his or her readiness to accept the challenges that come with living a life of faith.

It is interesting to note that prior to the 20th century, no one was allowed to receive communion who was not baptized and confirmed, showing a connection between the two sacraments.



The Sacraments of Initiation

- Baptism (infant)
- The Eucharist (age 7)
- Confirmation (availability)

(mature age)

Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

In 1910, Pius X put the age of First communion at seven (seen as an age of reason in the Church), a practice that had started to develop in the western culture, permitting Eucharist to precede confirmation. . In the Western Church (Roman Catholic), priests baptized infants and initiates, but delayed the rest of the sacraments until the bishop was available to “confirm” the initiation.



The Second Vatican Council (1962–1965)

Returning to Our Roots

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- The Eucharist



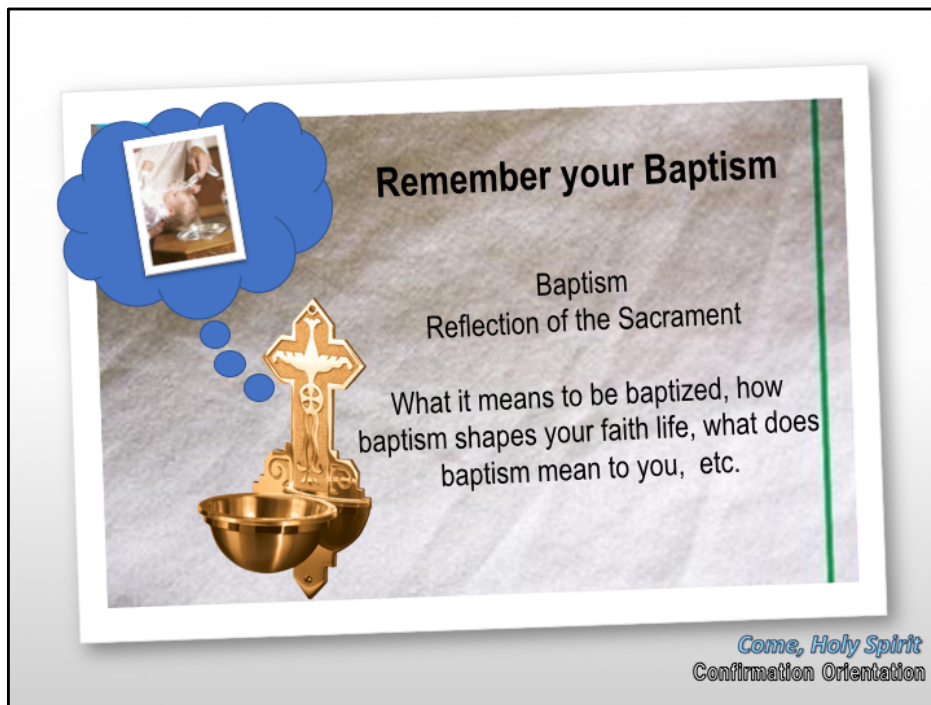
Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

Since the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, the Church has once again placed more emphasis on Confirmation as a Sacrament of Initiation with a closer connection to Baptism and the Eucharist. In fact, whenever someone of catechetical age—seven or older—approaches the Church for Baptism, that person is welcomed into the Church after completing a catechumenate (the RCIA) and is baptized, confirmed, and receives the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. The bishop authorizes local priests to confirm in these instances, restoring the order of the sacraments for adults. However, By 1972, bishops were postponing confirmation to a more “mature age”. This has placed confirmation further away from baptism in many dioceses.



Bottom line... there have been different ideas of where to place confirmation.

In our diocese, the diocese of Syracuse, Confirmation has been placed at 10th grade, as teens enter a more mature adult approach to receiving the catechism or teachings of our church. Though it is seen as beneficial to be mature, but advocates a strong connection to baptism. From the time of baptism, the individual has been learning and growing in the faith through their primary catechists...the parents,.... as well as participating in the life of the Church, being exposed to service, participating in worship opportunities, studying the catechism of the Catholic Church in religious education classes, developing a prayer life, and fostering a relationship with Jesus Christ. As the young person of the Church matures in faith, needing more than ever the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the sacrament of Initiation is completed by the Bishop through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and anointing. The sacrament is therefore closely connected to Baptism as the completion of the Sacrament of Initiation and what that means as the person becomes fully initiated into the Body of Christ, sealed with the gifts of the Spirit.



Everytime we enter church, we bless ourselves with holy water. We do this to remind ourselves of our baptisms, to acknowledge we are all part of the Body of Christ through our baptism..

How many have seen baptisms during the liturgy with Fr. Mesmer or in other places?

What do you recall in being done or said?

(River Jordan...parents this happens only once...light of Christ...Chrism...someday when you are older... parents you are the teachers of faith....welcome...)

What other experiences of baptism have you encountered?

What is your understanding of the significance of baptism?

Permit 10 minutes for sharing.

WHAT EXACTLY THEN IS CONFIRMATION?

It is **NOT**... “graduation”.

It **IS**... a new beginning!

It is **NOT** ...a time to “confirm” or “accept” your faith.

It **IS**...the Church confirming what happened
at Baptism, completing the reception of grace

It is **NOT**... the arrival of the Holy Spirit

It **IS**...the intensification or activation of the
Holy Spirit that already dwells within



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

WHAT EXACTLY THEN IS CONFIRMATION?

It is **NOT**... the culmination of the sacraments

It **IS**... like all other sacraments, one that points to the Eucharist, which continues to strengthen and nourish

It is **NOT** ... the end of learning about your faith.

It **IS**...the grace to empower life long learning

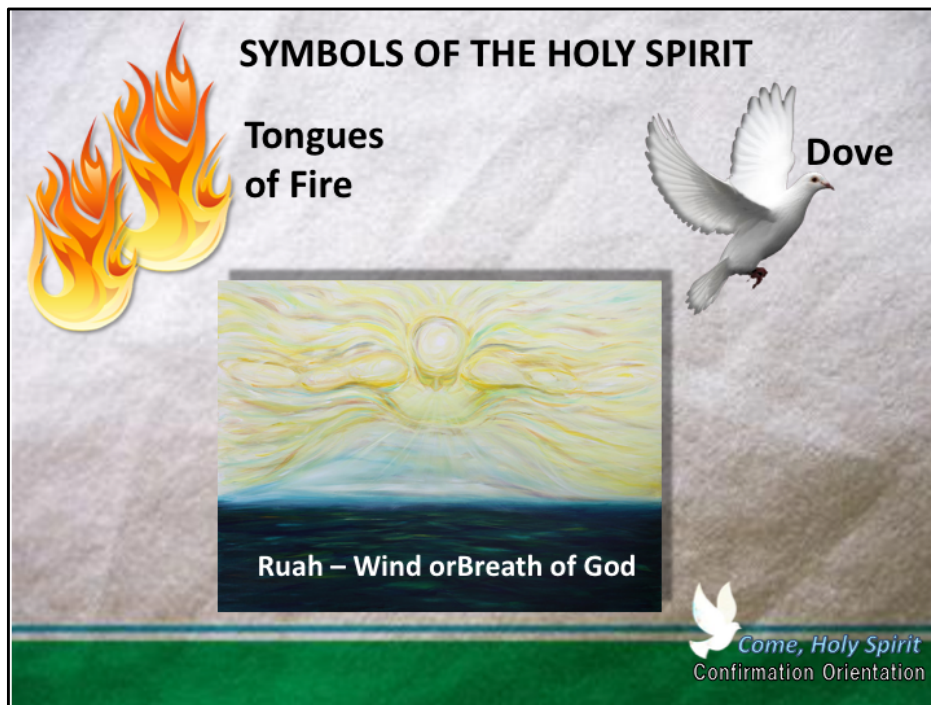
It is **NOT**... necessary for marriage in the Catholic Church

It **IS**...however, necessary to be a Sponsor for a Confirmation candidate and recommended for marriage



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

Marriage is one of the Sacraments of Service for the Mission of the Church. There are two sacraments of service...Marriage and Holy Orders. These sacraments give the grace to share the joy of the Gospel to world through the witness of love and pastoral leadership. When you celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in the Church, you are uniting with each other to witness God's love through your relationship with each other. If you are celebrating marriage as a sacrament of service, it only makes sense that you would want to have the gifts of the Holy Spirit to strengthen your marriage and faith as a couple. It is recommended, but not required to be confirmed. Remember, you were baptized in the Catholic Christian tradition and as such are members of the Catholic Church.



We here the tongues of fire descending on the Aposltes at the time of Pentecost... 50 days after Jesus resurrects.

The dove descends on Jesus at the time of his baptism... in which he was baptized with the Holy Spirit. Ruah or breath hovered over the waters in the creation story, and a wind entered the upper room when the Apostles were gathered at the time of Pentecost.

Click the link to watch the following video,
"Breathe" by Rob Bell.

<https://youtu.be/-EFLRDNAx-Y>

no-ma

What struck you most in the video?

BREATHE...

 *Come, Holy Spirit*
Confirmation Orientation

BREATHE...

Open Discussion:

- What struck you most in the video?

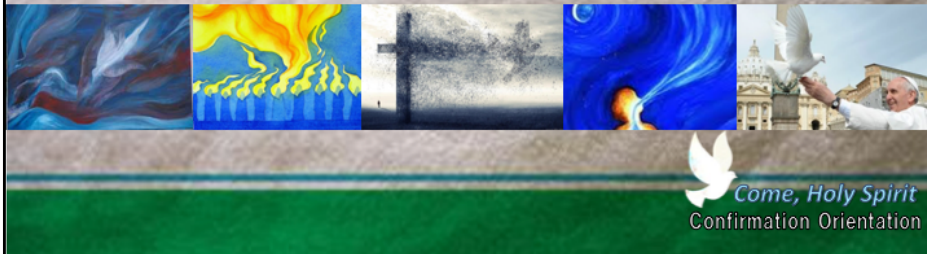
Personal Reflection:

- Where is your “Holy Ground”?
- With what image of the Holy Spirit do you most identify?

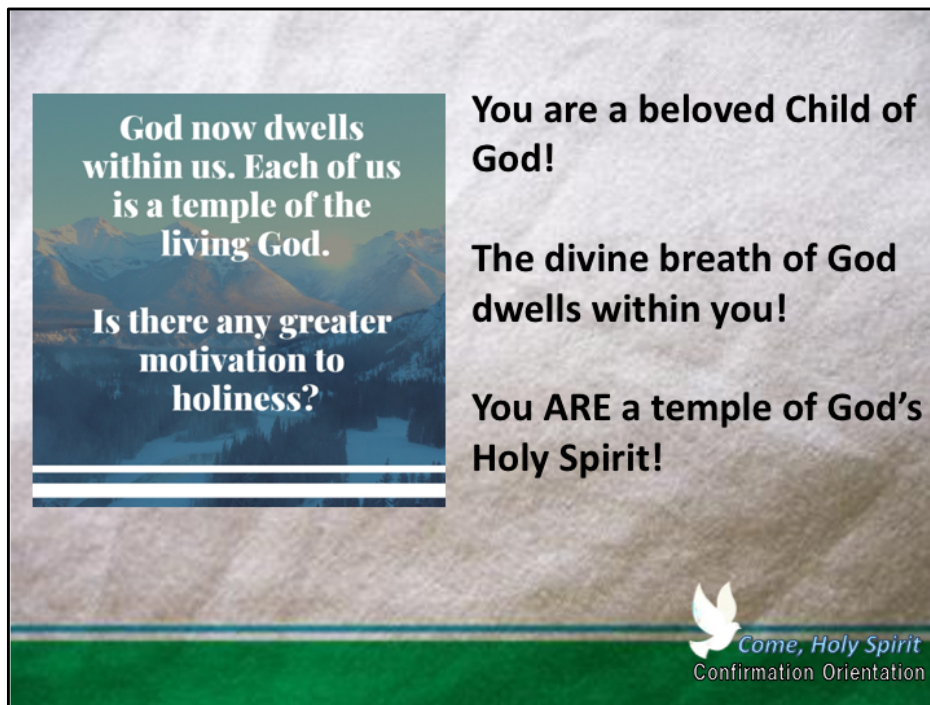
Dove

Rain

Fire



.You may want to share this personal reflection with your sponsor and parents later.



Temple of the Holy Spirit

Saint Paul wrote, "You must know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is within—the Spirit you have received from God" (Corinthians 6:19). The concept of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit forms the basis for all that the Church teaches about healthy sexuality. But there is more to our being temples of the Holy Spirit. For one thing, "We are the temple of the living God" (Corinthians 6:16); that is to say, the Holy Spirit resides within the community of the baptized. There is both a communal and a personal aspect to this presence within the community: "The Spirit dwells in the Church and in the hearts of the faithful as in a temple" (*Constitution on the Church*, 4). The Church is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and each member of the Church is a temple of the Holy Spirit. We speak in a special way of "the Mother of the Son of God [as] the temple of the Holy Spirit" (*Constitution on the Church*, 53) because she carried God within her womb. This is the model for us to follow: carrying Christ within our hearts so that we can share him with others.

BREATHE...

Let us pray....

Respond: Holy Spirit, you dwell within me.

Holy Spirit, you dwell within each of us.

Let us be aware that we stand on Holy Ground, with you, in awe of you.

Holy Spirit, you dwell within me.

May we come to see that God is right here, right now.

That as we breathe, we are given the life and energy to share your love in the world.

Holy Spirit, you dwell within me.

Breathe in us that our thoughts be holy,

That our work be holy, and that our words be holy.

Holy Spirit, you dwell within me.

With each breath, strengthen us to defend all that is holy;

All life and creation that you provide.

Holy Spirit, you dwell within me.

AMEN



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

Cleansing breath....

Breath in the Goodness of divine love...

Let go of the stresses, the anger, the disappointments...

What guidance do you need?


Take time to Breathe...

What do you need? Perhaps this can be your prayer as you prepare for Confirmation....

How do you see the Holy Ground around you? The Holy ground as you wake up... the Holy Ground in school?

At work?

May you come to see that God is right here, the ground you are on is holy, may you become aware of the Breath of God within you.



Community of Saints...
What is your Saint name
you chose for
confirmation?

On your cell phone browser, go to
[menti.com](https://www.menti.com)
Use code: 77 60 89

Or, if you have a QR reader, use
the QR code on your sheet.



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

The Sacrament of Confirmation



The Bishop

Baptismal Promises

Laying on of Hands

Anointing

Sign of Peace

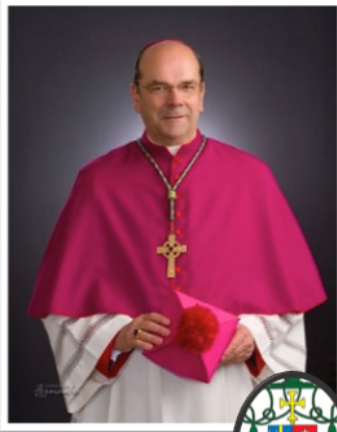
Celebration of the Eucharist



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

Notice the order in which the sacraments are celebrated within the liturgy itself...
Baptism (in blue)..... Confirmation (in red).....Eucharist!(in green)

Meet Most Reverend Bishop Robert Cunningham...



www.syrdio.org

Bishop Cunningham was ordained to the priesthood by Auxiliary Bishop Bernard J. McLaughlin on May 24, 1969 at St. Joseph New Cathedral in Buffalo.

In 1978 he received a Licentiate Degree in Canon Law from Catholic University of America.

On March 9, 2004 His Holiness Pope John Paul II appointed Msgr. Robert J. Cunningham as the 13th Bishop of Ogdensburg. Bishop Cunningham was ordained and installed as the Bishop of Ogdensburg on May 18, 2004 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

On April 21, 2009 His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop Cunningham as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Syracuse. He was installed as the Bishop of Syracuse on May 26, 2009 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse.



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

The bishop is called the ordinary minister of Confirmation. He is the representative of the universal church and reminds us that we are not only members of the local parish, but of the world-wide Church, His presence reminds us of our link to the Apostles and Pentecost through the succession of apostolic tradition. You will be asked to introduce yourself to the bishop via a letter. By canon law, the Bishop needs to know whom he is confirming and that you are asking for the grace of the sacrament, why you would like to be confirmed and how you have prepared.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises



Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?
I do

Do you reject the glamor of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin? **I do**

Do reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness? **I do**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's own Son our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? **I do**

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus, our Lord. **Amen**



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

After the Gospel, the pastor presents the candidates to the bishop who then delivers his homily. Following the homily, the bishop will lead the candidates and all who are present in the renewal of baptismal promises. The renewal of baptismal promises takes us back to our own Baptism, which for most of your children happened when they were infants. Back then, parents and the godparents spoke on behalf of your child, promising to reject evil and put faith and trust in God. Now your child is old enough to speak for him or herself. The renewal of baptismal promises is a great opportunity for them to stand on their own two feet and say, "I can speak for myself and yes, I do choose to accept Jesus' invitation to follow him."

Laying on of Hands



Isaac blessed his son Jacob by laying hands on him.

Moses laid hands on Joshua to appoint him as successor.

Jesus laid hands on those he healed, summoning the Spirit.



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

For the laying on of hands, ask the young people to recall playing “tag” when they were children. Invite a volunteer to explain in simple terms how the game is played. Emphasize that the key to the game is the idea that somehow you can transfer a quality (e.g. being “it”) to someone else simply by touching them with your hand. Tell them they are going to see how this idea of transferring a quality can be found in the Bible.

The laying on of hands has its roots in Scripture. The laying on of hands is a symbolic act that sets individuals apart and signifies the imparting of spiritual blessings, authority, and/or power. Isaac blessed his son Jacob by laying hands on him. Moses laid hands on Joshua to appoint him as his successor. Jesus, of course, laid hands on those he was healing. The Apostles laid hands on those to whom they were bringing Jesus’ healing powers. In the same way, the bishop and the priests will extend their hands over the candidates, a symbolic laying on of hands, as they solemnly pray for the Holy Spirit to descend upon them and fill them with his gifts.

Explain that in the Rite of Confirmation, the bishop and priests will extend their hands over the entire group (instead of laying hands on each Confirmand individually) as the bishop prays the following words (invite a student to come forward and read this): “Allpowerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.” Point out how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are being “transferred” to them in this ritual.

Anointed and Sealed with the Spirit



Chrism is scented oil.

Oil is known for healing, to bring luster, beauty and strengthening.

In ancient times, one was anointed with oil to “imprint” or seal God’s grace.

Confirmation...marks the seal of the Holy Spirit.



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

Scented oil, also called Chrism, strengthens, heals, and lubricates. In the Old Testament, oil was used to anoint kings. All of these qualities come into play in the anointing during Confirmation. The anointing symbolizes what the Holy Spirit is doing: strengthening, healing, assisting, and providing his gifts and fruits that will linger with people even after you leave the room, like a perfume or cologne leaves a pleasant scent even after you depart.

The bishop anoints by tracing the cross on the candidate’s forehead with Chrism as he says, “Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” to which the candidate responds, “Amen.”
(Perfumed with balsam)

Sign of Peace



Bishop:
Peace be with you...

Response:
And with your Spirit!



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

The bishop then offers each candidate a sign of Christ's peace saying, "Peace be with you," to which the reply is, "And with your spirit."

Eucharist



**The Eucharist is the the
central and most
significant action we
make as Catholics.**

**Response to our call
Give thanks
Share**



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

As we mentioned earlier, Confirmation is closely tied to Baptism and the Eucharist. After the Rite is completed, the Mass continues as usual, leading us to come forward to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. The Eucharist, nourishing and sustaining our new life in Christ, focuses our attention on our identity as members of the Body of Christ and as disciples to carry on the mission of Jesus.

Parents... BE Attitudes on the journey...

**Be a witness to your faith.
Be a support to your teen.
Be a listener.
Be a prayer with and for your teen.
Be forgiving.
Be forgiven.
Be a “doer” of faith.
Be there...**



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

Handout for parents.

Sponsors...

Share your experience of Confirmation.

Reflect on how the Holy Spirit has been active in your life. Share key moments when you felt the Holy Spirit calling you, guiding you or helping you.

Engage with the candidate what he or she is doing to prepare for Confirmation. EX: review the candidate's letter to the Bishop, join your candidate for liturgical celebrations such as Sunday liturgy, Ash Wednesday, etc.

Share your saint's name from confirmation and why you chose it. Engage in conversation with your candidate about their saint.

Be ready to answer questions your candidate may have. If you don't have the answer, simply say you don't know. You can help him/her find the answer from a trusted source.

Journey with your candidate, as a mentor of the Catholic faith.

Sponsor the candidate at the conferral of Confirmation. Celebrate the Eucharist and share a life long relationship in Christ.



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

First and foremost, you are a role model in faith.

Second, you are a companion on the journey

Third, you are a sponsor, or witness for the candidate being presented to the Bishop proclaiming through your presence that candidate's readiness.

Candidates...

Learn

Reflect

Be open

**Participate in the
community of faith**

Pray

Celebrate



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation

Retreat... will be a time to “retreat” from daily activities so you can have time to do all of these. The retreat will give time to dive deeper into some of the concepts talked about today, time to reflect on your own relationship with God, Jesus and others, time to share, pray and celebrate our faith.

Jump into our roles...



**Parents...
Sponsors...
Candidates...**

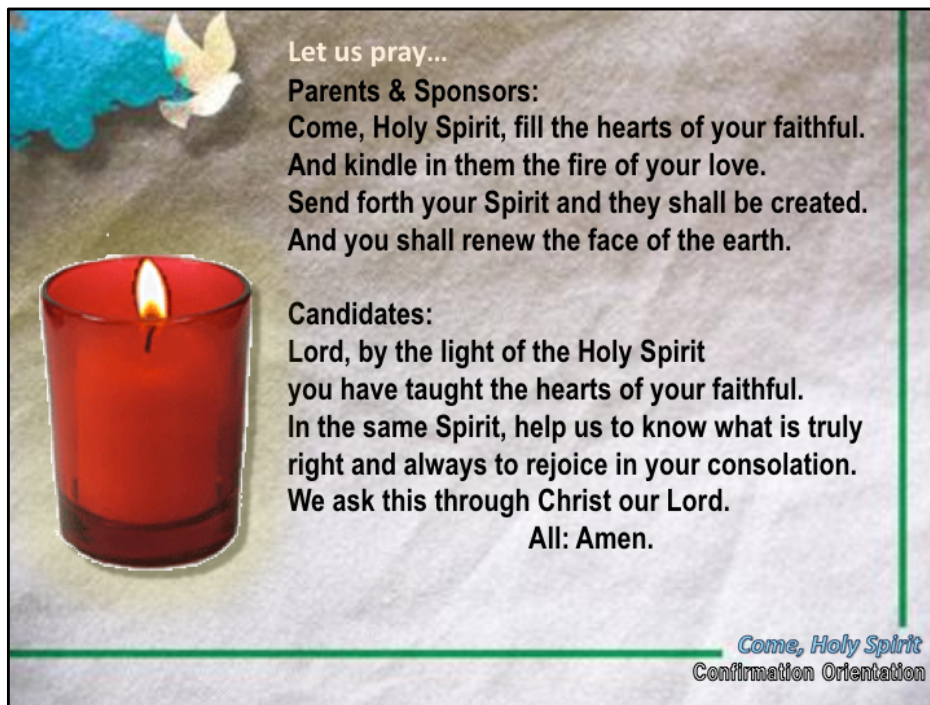
SHARING TIME

**What is important or special to
you about the Sacrament of
Confirmation?**



Come, Holy Spirit
Confirmation Orientation





Sponsors, you will be journey with this teen, mentoring him/her in the faith of the Church. Place your hand on your candidates' shoulder as a sign that you will be standing by their side as they prepare for Confirmation. Parents, when your teen was an infant, you and the god parents traced the sign of the cross on your baby's forehead. I would like you to think back on that moment, the joy that this child brought to you and the world. There is no other child, no sibling, no human like this child, a unique and beloved child of God. Parents, I would like you to do the same ritual you did at their baptism, and sign your child's forehead with the sign of the cross, blessing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Our church dismisses us with the following words... "Go in peace glorifying the Lord by your life!"
They will know we are Christians by our love! The people of God say....
AMEN!