



## St. Patrick Confirmation Program 2010-2011:

*“Fount of Life and Fire of Love”*

Come Holy Spirit!

July 21, 2010

Dear Parents and Confirmandi,

May the Lord give you His peace!

It is a great joy to work with you throughout this year as we prepare for such a magnificent sacrament! The grace of the Holy Spirit that we first received at baptism is strengthened and sealed in the sacrament of Confirmation which not only helps us avoid sin (the biggest misfortune in life), but also enables us to live the Christian virtues, i.e., the means to be happy! After Confirmation, we as Catholics, should not only be joyful (a fruit of the Holy Spirit), but also be inclined to spread it to others through service and sacrifice. Here is a quote from St. Therese of Lisieux which describes the duty of service *in* self-surrender:

*Love consumes us only in the **measure of our self-surrender.***

Furthermore, along with self-surrender to God and neighbor, the Church goes on to state that man can only be truly fulfilled and happy if he gives his life as a sincere gift to another:

*This likeness reveals that man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through **a sincere gift of himself.** (Guadium et Spes, 24)*

In conclusion, the requirements for this sacrament should not be seen as a burden imposed upon us, but instead, as a great gift from God to **those who wish to be happy.** God’s grace is what perfects us as human beings so we should take the opportunity to grow in it everyday, especially through this holy sacrament.

The Confirmation program will consist of classes, retreats, youth groups, service projects, and prayers which will help us be open to all the graces the Holy Spirit wants to bestow upon us. A packet of detailed information and events will be distributed at the first Parent/Youth Confirmation meeting (i.e., 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders with their parents) on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 7:30PM in the Parish Hall.

I (Fr. Joseph Aytona) will oversee sacramental preparation for Confirmation with a team of volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact me at 454-7178.

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Fr. Joseph Aytona, CPM  
Associate Priest for St. Patrick Catholic Church

CC: Fr. Ted Dudzinski  
Kelli Conlon  
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