

# Confirmation Spring Newsletter

March 2010

*"Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:3-4*

## Must-Know Information for Parents

It is hard to believe that our 9th grade Candidates for Confirmation are so quickly approaching the Big Day. As the ceremony approaches, there are a number of important details that are important for you as parents to make note of. Please read this newsletter thoroughly.

As always, we in the Youth Ministry Office are here to

support you and answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

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May the Lord Bless you  
and your family.



*Russian Orthodox Icon of Pentecost.*

### Mark Your Calendar!

- APRIL 16 - CANDIDATE SUPPORT LETTERS ARE DUE
- MAY 1 - ALL DAY MANDATORY RETREAT
- MAY 12 - REHEARSAL AND PARENT MEETING
- MAY 15 - CONFIRMATION CEREMONY AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PAUL

## Candidate Support Letters Due on April 16!!

During the final retreat in May, we will be handing out letters of support to the candidates that their parent's and friends have prepared for them. In years past, this activity has been one of the most powerful times during the candidate's final retreat.

In order for this to continue to be a powerful message for our young people, we are asking for parents' cooperation. For this to work effectively, this project must begin preparation weeks in advance. Begin now to contact individuals that are or

have been important in your son's or daughter's faith lives and ask them to prepare a letter for support for your young person. I cannot stress enough what an important and powerful exercise this is. In fact, I still have the letters I received at my confirmation over 13 years ago.

Please contact grandparents, godparents, sisters, brothers, parents, sponsors, other relatives and friends, giving them information on this project and ask if they will prepare a letter to be

given to the candidate. Our goal is that each young person receive a *minimum* of 5 letters. **The letters must be turned into either the Small Group leaders or our offices no later than April 16 in a package or envelope clearly marked with the candidate's name.**

We hope that the presentation of these letters will be a surprise, **so please try your best to keep this secret...**

The letters should communicate the writer's support to

**"WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RECEIVE THE 'SEAL' OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? IT MEANS BEING INDELIBLY MARKED, INALTERABLY CHANGED, A NEW CREATION. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED THIS GIFT, NOTHING CAN EVER BE THE SAME!"**

-POPE BENEDICT XVI, WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

*continued on pg 2*

# Looking for great Confirmation Gifts?

Look no further

CHECK OUT OUR GIFT SHOP ('LIFE TEEN MINI-MALL') RIGHT AT ST. MARY'S!

EVERY CONFIRMATION NIGHT (WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 8:00 PM) AND EVERY LIFE TEEN NIGHT (7:00 - 8:30 PM)

NO NEED TO DRIVE IN TO THE CITIES!

Great Books  
Catholic T-shirts and hats  
Purity Rings  
Crosses  
Bibles  
Music  
And MORE!



ALL MERCHANDISE PROVIDED BY

**St. George**  
Catholic Books and Gifts  
BLAINE, MN

OR GO TO THE STORE AND TELL THEM YOU ARE FROM 'ST. CROIX VALLEY FAITH FORMATION'

15% OF YOUR PURCHASE WILL BENEFIT THE CATHOLIC YOUTH PROGRAMS OF THE ST. CROIX VALLEY.

## Confirmation Spring Newsletter

### "Candidate Support Letters..." continued

the candidate as they approach this important time of Confirmation. These letters offer friends and relatives a chance also to affirm the candidate. There are no set guidelines to make a letter effective, just be sincere. If you are looking for more direction, we have included a sample below.

Please feel free to contact us in the SCVFF office if you are having any difficulties or questions.

This activity will have a tremendous impact on our candidates. Thank you for all your efforts to make this a success.

#### Sample Letter:

Dear Jill,

Since you were a little girl, we have watched you grow and become a beautiful young woman. Now that you are making your Confirmation, we wanted to tell you how much we love you and are proud of you.

Every day you amaze us in your graciousness and your care for the world. Even with your little brother, you have learned the great virtue of patience. Your beauty shines from your heart. Your compassion for others and passion for life amaze us daily.

We love you and we will pray for your continued development as the stunning faith-filled young woman you have become. God has truly blessed us with you.

Love,  
Mom and Dad

## Mandatory Retreat: May 1

Please make sure you have marked your calendar for the mandatory retreat for our Confirmation Candidates on Saturday, May 1.

If there is an unavoidable reason you will not be able to attend, please contact Annie as soon as possible to make arrangements for a make-up retreat.

The retreat is primarily for the youth who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, but **family members are invited to join us for closing Mass on the day of the retreat at 5:00 pm in St.**

**Mary's Church.** This Mass will count for your Sunday obligation.

#### What to bring:

Nothing but yourself and a heart open to the Lord. (Text books and binders are not needed for this day.) Lunch and a snack will be provided.

#### What NOT to bring:

Cell phones  
iPods, mp3 players, etc.  
Personal gaming devices

#### RETREAT DETAILS

**Saturday, May 1**

**9:00 am - 6:00 pm**

**(Mass begins at 5:00 pm)**

**St. Mary's Church**



# Must-Know Info

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## Confirmation Ceremony Details

The Rite of Confirmation will be taking place for our candidates on Saturday, May 1 at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

### SEATING & GUESTS:

Each candidate will be reserved a 1/2 pew at the Cathedral for the candidate, sponsor, and approximately 2-3 other people (parents, siblings, etc.)

However each candidate is NOT limited to only 4 guests. Guests who do not fit in the reserved seating may sit anywhere else in the Cathedral. Please feel free to invite as many people as you would like.

### REHEARSAL:

It will be important that both teens and at least one parent attend the rehearsal

scheduled for Wednesday, May 12. At this time we will be going over important information from parking to what to expect at the ceremony itself.

“IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT BOTH TEENS AND AT LEAST ONE PARENT ATTEND THE REHEARSAL SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 12.”

## What to Wear, What to Wear: Help for Choosing an Outfit for the Ceremony

Though it may seem trivial, what the candidates wear to Confirmation is tremendously important. By what we wear we communicate respect, reverence, and preparedness. Thus, we have provided some helpful guidelines for choosing a great outfit for this tremendously important occasion.

### For Women:

- Jeans are not allowed, but women may wear dress pants if they prefer.
- Skirts/dresses must be at

least 3 inches past the knee.

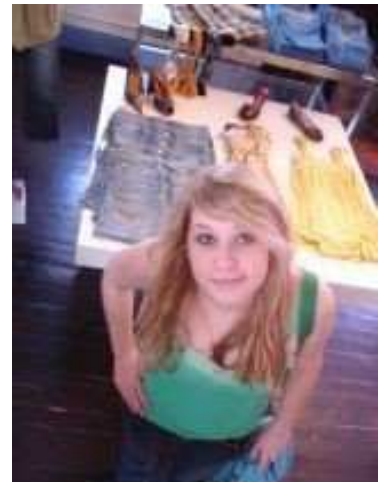
- No cleavage may be showing whatsoever.
- Shoulders must be covered. If you choose a dress that has thin straps, please wear a sweater over it.
- Please no flip-flops, sandals, or tennis shoes.

### For Men:

- Jeans are not allowed.
- A button-up shirt and tie are a must. A suit coat is optional but

suggested.

- Shirts must be tucked in.
- Pants must be worn at the hips, not sagging.
- Please no flip-flops, sandals, or tennis shoes.



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## Deadlines for Assignments



*Holy Spirit window  
St. Peter's Basilica, Rome*

Please make note of the following dates for assignments. The color noted in the parentheses refers to the section of the binder where you will find assignment guidelines and necessary forms.

Saint Report WAS due **January 6.** (Purple)

**March 10** - Statement of

Intent (Gold)

**March 24** - Sponsor Activity #2 (Yellow)

**April 14** - All Service Experience Reports (Blue) and Homily Reports (Green)

**April 21/28** - Teen must bring a signed permission form for the Cathedral Tour (Tan)

**April 21/28** - Clergy inter-

views will be taking place. Please dress nicely. Practice questions are in the Gold section of the binder.

**All assignments must be turned in in order to be Confirmed in May.**


### *A Prayer for the Youth*

Jesus, the Bread of Life,  
**taken, broken, and given away**  
so that all may be healed and have life.  
Father, **take** the lives of our teens.  
We offer them to you with open hands.  
Through the example of Jesus,  
teach them to surrender their lives fully to You.  
**Bless** them with the knowledge that they are  
Your beloved ones and they truly belong  
to a community of love and mercy.  
**Break** open their hearts so that the seed  
of the Word and the power of the Eucharist  
can be planted in fertile ground, take root,  
and transform their lives.  
**Give** these teens to the world  
with the power of the Holy Spirit  
to witness to the love of Jesus  
and serve Him in each person they meet.  
Let this confirmation ministry be bread for the world.  
As Christ gave You thanks and fed many,  
may we give You thanks for this ministry  
and ask You to multiply it  
and nurture its growth for Your glory.

*St. Mary, pray for us.  
St. Michael, pray for us.  
St. Charles, pray for us.*

ST. CROIX VALLEY

LIFE



TEEN

Leading Teens Closer to Christ ®

**Keep your kids connected BEYOND  
Confirmation**

Life Teen is our Senior High youth group

Every Sunday September - May  
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
St. Mary's Upper Room

**Parents, take some time to read a Homily of  
Pope Benedict XVI  
on this great sacrament:**

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/homilies/2008/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_hom\\_20080720\\_xxiii-wyd\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/homilies/2008/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20080720_xxiii-wyd_en.html)

