

WELCOME, CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE!

As you prepare for the sacrament of confirmation, the Church is full of joy for you. At baptism, you became an heir to the kingdom of heaven. Your parents, godparents, and the whole community of believers vowed to take part in your formation. Confirmation is how *you* take part in that formation. The sacrament deepens your baptismal grace, uniting you even more firmly to Jesus Christ.

Through the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit—which was instituted by Jesus when he conferred it on the Apostles at Pentecost—your bond with Christ’s Church is made more perfect. The Holy Spirit strengthens your ability to spread and defend your Catholic faith. The seven gifts of the Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord—are increased at confirmation. These gifts allow you to truly live in the fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, chastity, and self-control.

An indelible character is imprinted on your soul at confirmation, and you will forever be counted as a member of Christ’s one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

This journal will help you keep track of your preparation. But there’s much more here. First, as you participate in the highest form of prayer—the Mass—the study pages will help you deepen your experience of that hour you spend in church. By observing, thinking, and then completing the worksheet, you’ll discover things about the Mass you may never have known

before. You'll also discover things about yourself and your relationship to God. (Note that on each Mass worksheet you will find quotes from Scripture. These aren't necessarily from the Mass readings for the day, but are included to help and inspire you.)

Each worksheet page also includes either a quote from a saint in **So Say the Saints** or an **FYCI** (For Your Catholic Information), which are tidbits or helpful and meaningful facts about our Catholic faith.

The **Challenge Search Projects** will help you continue to seek out the truths and fruitfulness of your faith.

Finally, the **Service Project Self-Accountability Record** is a good starting point for you to participate in the apostolic works of the Church.

May this little booklet, along with your participation in your parish program, bring you ever deeper in love with God, your own Catholic faith and the faithful community around you.

May the Lord bless you!