



faith PATH

CONFIRMATION

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the baptismal promise fulfilled

Confirmation is a special moment in life that marks a major spiritual milestone. The first thing to understand about Confirmation is that it is a Sacrament. And a Sacrament is “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace” (Book of Common Prayer, 857). In other words, Confirmation is a miracle of God’s love poured out upon your child.

WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

Quoting directly from the Catechism in the back of our Book of Common Prayer: “Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop” (Book of Common Prayer, 860).

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION CONFIRMING?

Confirmation is confirming one’s baptism. It is a way of taking responsibility *for*, and ownership *of*, the promises made on the child’s behalf at their baptism. During the ceremony, the bishop of the diocese administers Confirmation by the laying on of hands and often by anointing with oil. He also offers an invocation to the Holy Spirit for the child to receive strength and all the gifts of God’s grace. If baptism is the beginning of life in Christ, Confirmation is a moment in which we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit, and incorporated more deeply into Christ.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OIL?

The anointing with oil signifies and imprints a spiritual seal. Oil is an ancient biblical symbol of abundance and joy, of cleansing, healing, and strengthening. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, it is a symbol of consecration. Those who receive Confirmation share *more completely* in the mission of Jesus Christ and in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, so that their lives give off “the aroma of Christ” to the world (2 Cor. 2.15). Confirmation imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark, showing that we belong to Christ and are filled with the Holy Spirit to fulfill God’s calling on our lives.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF THOSE TO BE CONFIRMED?

Quoting from our Catechism again: “It is required of those to be confirmed that they have been baptized, are sufficiently instructed in the Christian Faith, are penitent for their sins, and are ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord” (Book of Common Prayer, 860). Here at Church of the Incarnation we offer our Confirmation class during sixth grade. It takes place on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour, from about 10:20am to 11am. The Confirmation class lasts the whole year. Adult Confirmands take the Canterbury Trail class. If your child is older than 6th grade but has not been confirmed, he or she can still take the class. To sign up, go to: incarnation.org/grow/confirmation.

INTENTIONAL FAITHPATH PLAN

CHILD'S NAME _____

How will you be intentional this next year?

- Pray daily for and with my child.
- Attend church regularly.
- Schedule and have regular family times.
- Create a habit of worship with my child, teaching them “why we do what we do”.
- Consistently spend time in God’s Word with my child.
- Help my child develop the habit of giving some of their money back to God.
- Schedule a time to serve the wider community together as a family.
- Talk with my child about the upcoming changes of puberty.
- Sign my child up for Confirmation.
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The next step on the FaithPath is *Purity*, recommended at age twelve. You will receive an email in the month of your child’s birthday, and the resource will be available for you with your child’s name on it at the Bringing Faith Home Center, right outside the Incarnation Bookstore.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- *YouCat Confirmation* is a small book for students that comes from a Roman Catholic perspective.
- *Life on the Edge* by Dr. James Dobson, gives insight from an evangelical perspective.
- *Spiritual Milestones* from heritagebuilders.com.

INCARNATION’S CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Bringing Faith Home: incarnation.org/bringing-faith-home

Children & Family Ministry: incarnation.org/grow/children