

## Introduction to the St. Bartholomew Confirmation Program

For the Fall of 2009, vital changes have been made to the way we prepare young people for Confirmation at St. Bartholomew Parish. In years past, preparation for the sacrament was a one-year program available only to 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. As of the Fall of 2009, preparation will be a 2-year process beginning with regularly attending 8<sup>th</sup> grade Middle School Faith Formation (MFF). The second year of preparation is completed in high school (usually the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year) and culminates in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring.

The advantage of the two-year program is that it brings continuity to the MFF and Confirmation prep programs and eliminates a one-year gap between the two programs. By regularly attending 8<sup>th</sup> grade MFF, candidates entering the high school preparation year will have gained the knowledge of their faith needed to fully enter the church. This also eliminates redundant teaching of MFF curriculum during the Confirmation prep sessions for candidates who did not attend MFF.

Another significant benefit of this program is that during the high school year we will be able to focus primarily on the candidates' spiritual development. We will provide the tools they need to go out and live their faith in today's world. We are also delighted to note that, once they are confirmed, the students will be able to serve as Lectors or Eucharistic Ministers at Mass. We are hopeful that more high school students will take advantage of this opportunity, particularly during the monthly Youth Mass.

In designing the two-year program, we have carefully considered the challenging schedules of many of our students; therefore, we have not increased the overall time commitment beyond what was offered in the past. The only difference is that candidates will be expected to attend 80% of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade MFF classes. This means that after the fifth absence during the year, students will need to complete make-up assignments for any other sessions they miss.

The FAQ section below addresses common questions about the program. We appreciate your continued support of St. Bartholomew's parish and remain committed to engaging those to whom we minister with the most interesting and effective methods available.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Crystal Frost, Youth Minister, at 650-347-0701, ext. 11, or visit the Sacramental Life section of our website [www.barts.org](http://www.barts.org).

## **St. Bartholomew's Parish Confirmation Preparation Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the requirements for Confirmation?**

Students must attend at least 80% of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade Middle School Faith Formation (MFF) classes and complete the one-year high school preparation program. The high school year of the program consists of 6 sessions and 2 half-day retreats.

### **When will I make my Confirmation?**

Students will receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of the year in which they complete the high school year of the preparation program.

### **When is MFF offered?**

MFF is offered on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:15 p.m. and Thursday afternoons from 4:00-5:15 p.m.

### **What if I miss more than 5 MFF classes?**

After missing 5 MFF classes, you will receive make-up assignments for any classes that are missed so that you can still complete the lesson. Complete the assignment and return it to the Youth Minister.

### **What if I don't attend 8<sup>th</sup> grade MFF?**

After May 2010, high school students who did NOT regularly attend 8th grade MFF may still register for the second year of the Confirmation preparation program. However, such students will be asked to complete a self-study guide (created by the MFF team) to insure all "academics" are fully grasped before entering the deeper spiritual journey of the second year of preparation.

### **What if I attended MFF at a different parish or catholic school?**

If the year of MFF is completed outside St. Bartholomew's Parish, please contact the Youth Minister for additional information.

### **What does the Confirmation Preparation Program cost?**

The current cost for 8<sup>th</sup> grade MFF is \$225 for one student.

The cost of the second year of preparation is the same as our previous preparation program at \$200.