

Preparing for Confirmation: Not a Whack on the Side of the Head

People have heard many different things about Confirmation and what it means. Youth in our parish will join together to prepare to celebrate Confirmation. These young people will learn and grow as they take time to reflect on God's call, the life of Jesus, the gift of the Spirit and their lives as young disciples. They will prepare for the Rite of Confirmation which includes a renewal of baptismal promises, being anointed with oil and the "laying on of hands." Some of you may have heard rumors about the tradition of "being slapped by the bishop." Actually the laying on of hands is a very strong but gentle sign of care and challenge; the minister of the sacrament either places his hands on the head of each candidate or holds his hands over the community and calls upon the Holy Spirit for a blessing.

Following are our program elements for Confirmation:

Program Element:	Date/Time	Location
Why Be Confirmed - Orientation Meeting	Sunday, September 7, 2008 9-10:15 a.m. Parents & Confirmation Candidates (Students)	St. Joseph Meeting Room
Retreat Day	Sunday, September 7, 2008 Attend 10:30 Mass until 4:30 p.m. Confirmation Candidates	St. Joseph Meeting Room
Session 1: One Body	Sunday, October 26, 2008 1-3 p.m. Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors	St. Joseph Meeting Room
Session 2: God's Loving Call and Food Drive	Sunday, November 9, 2008 1-4 p.m. Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors	St. Joseph Meeting Room
Session 3: Joined to Christ	Sunday, January 11 from 1-3 p.m. Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors	St. Joseph Meeting Room
Diocesan Confirmation Spectacular	Saturday, January 31, 2009 Confirmation Candidates (and chaperones)	at St. Joseph, Jasper (time to be announced)
Session 4: Acts of Disciples of Today	Sunday, February 15, 2009 from 1-3 p.m. Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors	St. Joseph Meeting Room
Rite of Enrollment	Sunday, March 8, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. Mass Confirmation Candidates	St. Joseph Church
Session 5 Baptism and First Communion	Sunday, March 8, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Confirmation Candidates and Parents	St. Joseph Cafeteria Lunch served
Session 6: Confirmation	Sunday, April 19, 2009 from 1-3 p.m. Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors	St. Joseph Meeting Room
Confirmation Practice	Thursday, May 7, 2009 from 7 – 8 p.m. Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors	St. Joseph Church
Rite of Confirmation	Saturday, May 16, 2009 at the 5 p.m. Mass	St. Joseph Church