

# Holy Name of Jesus Parish

## Overview of Confirmation

(Revised Sept 14, 2007)

### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

Confirmation is a sacrament through which we receive the Holy Spirit to make us stronger and more perfect Christians and true witnesses of Jesus Christ. It is a sacrament of our initiation, which began in Baptism and continues in the Eucharist. As the candidates decide to be open to the gift of the Holy Spirit given in Confirmation, they profess their faith in the Catholic Church and personally take on the responsibility for continuing their own spiritual and religious journey. At HNOJ, candidates prepare to make this important commitment through experiences of four types: liturgical, service, spiritual and educational.

**Liturgical:** Participating in Sunday Mass is a fundamental part of our Confirmation preparation and our life of faith going forward. This importance is demonstrated by celebrating two of our Confirmation rites (Welcoming Rite and Sending Rite) within our Sunday Mass at HNOJ.

**Service:** The Sunday Eucharist compels us to Christian service and ministry (“go in peace to love and serve”). Candidates will participate in at least 8 different service experiences, in a variety of settings (global, community and parish). The intent is for candidates to begin to develop a lifestyle of service to others and with others.

**Spiritual:** Our lifelong journey of faith is both with and toward God. A deepening awareness of and relationship with God, as well as a stronger connection to a faith community, is primary during Confirmation preparation. This will be supported in many ways, including at least one parish based Retreat experience each of the two years.

**Educational:** Confirmation initiates us into a lifelong process of learning. During the year, this will be experienced in large and small group talks and discussion. The range of topics covers many aspects of Catholicism and are listed on the Calendar.

### **Age for Confirmation Preparation**

In our Archdiocese, Confirmation is usually celebrated in high school for those who were baptized as infants. Most parishes have a two year of preparation program. At HNOJ, this is done during the first two years of high school. Since the Church respects people’s freedom to choose and since God’s grace works differently in different people, we do not presume that all 9<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in Passion Play, nor do we expect that all will be confirmed at the end of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year. Candidates may start their formation process later and conclude it in the latter years of high school or even later.

For most candidates at Holy Name of Jesus, however, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade year is the first year of Confirmation preparation, and the 10<sup>th</sup> grade year is the usual year to be confirmed.

### **Role of Parents**

Parents bear special responsibility for preparing their candidate for Confirmation. At their Baptism, you accepted the awesome responsibility of “training them in the practice of faith” (Rite of Baptism, 39). In the baptismal rite you were named as the first and best teacher of your child and were entrusted with keeping the flame of faith burning brightly in his or her life. You, along with your candidate’s sponsor, are partners with the HNOJ faith community in preparing your youth for this important time of Confirmation.