



Saint Cyril of Alexandria

4725 E. Pima Street
Tucson, AZ 85712
520-796-1633

September 2011

Dear Confirmation Candidate,

We are so excited to continue your faith journey with you. You are about to embark on a spiritual journey to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. The hope is that you will not only be confirmed but allow the grace of this sacrament to truly become a part of you and the way in which you live.

During the first few meetings we will be exploring what it means to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation and what it means to be a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church. We will give you time to reflect on if this is truly what you want.

The rest of your preparation will dig deeper into the heart of the Gospels and begin your active service to the community, as well as encourage you to be an involved member of St Cyril's. Along with your parents and sponsor you will experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation, opportunities to be of service to others and a retreat.

As in most special occasions you will be receiving gifts during Confirmation, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. The bishop (or his delegate) will Seal you with these gifts. These gifts are freely given by God, out of Love, to help you on your life's journey. These gifts are Awe of the Lord, Piety, Knowledge, Strength, Counsel, Understanding and Wisdom. Pope St Gregory the Great placed these gifts in this order capturing the flow of these gifts, one to another, through our lives. Another Pope, John Paul II said "With gifts and qualities such as these, we are equal to any task and capable of overcoming any difficulties." It will be up to you to activate these gifts and use them to help guide you.

Below are answers to some commonly asked questions.

Possible Date for Confirmation:

It is too early for knowing the date of Confirmation for this year. Three dates have been suggested to Bishop Kicanas' secretary: Friday, January 27, Thursday, February 9 or Friday, February 10, 2012, each at 7:00 PM.

Bishop Kicanas' schedule is such that he is not able to celebrate confirmation in all the parishes of the diocese himself. As a result, sometimes two or three parishes are clustered together for one celebration of Confirmation or a delegate of the bishop is sent to celebrate the sacrament. When St. Cyril's receives the date for Confirmation it will be published along with whether or

not it will be here just for our members, be here with other parishes joining in the celebration, be at another parish, or here with a delegate of the bishop.

Baptismal Certificate:

A copy of each candidate's Baptismal Certificate (inclusive of full address for the church where the baptism was celebrated) must be on file no later than **December 16, 2011**. If a copy of this certificate has been given to the School Office or Religious Education Office, it may meet this requirement. Your files will be checked for this record. Please note, that because the custom in Mexico is to confirm within the first couple of years after birth, if the candidate was baptized in Mexico, this certificate must have been issued after the candidate was seven years old.

Confirmation Name:

With the reforms of Vatican II, taking a Confirmation name was omitted from the sacramental rite in favor of building upon one's name given at Baptism. In this way, greater emphasis is placed on the intimate connection between Baptism and Confirmation; and candidates are given the opportunity to develop a greater awareness of and reverence for the saint who bore their name.

If one's given name is not that of a saint, candidates should take a Confirmation name choosing a name of a saint who inspires them. If one's given name is that of a saint, you will not be prohibited from taking another name, but you are encouraged to develop a respect for the saint whose name you were given at Baptism.

Sponsors:

To serve in the ministry of sponsor, the person must be a fully initiated Roman Catholic who is in good standing with the Church. That is, he/she must be a baptized Catholic, and has celebrated Confirmation and First Eucharist. If a sponsor is married, their marriage must be recognized by the Church. (For more information, refer to the sponsor handout.) **Sponsor form is due on December 16, 2011.**

Letter to Bishop:

Bishop Kicanas likes each candidate to write him a letter of intent. Candidates should share some biographical information, why they want to celebrate Confirmation, what they did to prepare, why they chose their sponsor, what they have learned about their faith and how they hope to live out their faith in the future. **The final draft of this letter is due on December 16, 2011.**

Retreat:

All 8th grade and parish high school candidates will attend a retreat on **Saturday, January 21, 2012, from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM**. Each candidate will bring a snack or beverage to share. Permission slips are due by December 16, 2011.

If your last name begins with

A – L, please bring a beverage - juice, soda, ice tea or water.

M – S, please bring some type of chips.

T – Z, please bring some type of sweet - cookies, brownies, granola bars, etc.

Dress Code for Confirmation:

As this a special occasion in the lives of our candidates and community, our dress should show respect. On the evening of Confirmation, you will be asked to go home and change if your dress is not in line with the following guidelines. If you are unsure, please contact Lisa at 795-1633 ext 107.

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| Young men | Dress pants (no shorts or cargo)
Collared, button down shirt, tucked in
Tie (if possible)
Appropriate footwear for a dress-up occasion (e.g. no sandals) |
| Young women | Knee length dress or skirt (no cocktail type dresses)
Shoulders are to be covered (no strapless, spaghetti strap or halters)
Dress pants (no form-fitting pants)
Shoes - if with heels, no higher than 3 inches |

We look forward to meeting each one of you and encourage you to open your hearts to the total spiritual experience that the Sacrament of Confirmation brings.

Sincerely,



Fr. Ron Oakham, OCarm
Pastor

Lisa Darragh Astrouski
Director of Youth Ministry