

St. Bridget Church
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September 16, 2009

DEAR JUNIORS AND SENIORS OF ST. BRIDGET CHURCH,

Greetings in the Lord! I hope your new school year has begun well and that you are enjoying your classes and activities. Here at St. Bridget's we are also beginning a full slate of Fall programs and activities.

One of them is the preparation program for the Sacrament of Confirmation, for which you are eligible. You are an important part of the Church. I am writing to you today to invite and challenge you to make a deeper commitment to Christ and His Church. This program is an opportunity for you to deepen and "confirm" the decision your parents made to have you baptized into the community of Jesus' disciples. When you were baptized, you had nothing to say about being Catholic. Now that you are old enough to begin to take personal responsibility for your lives, you are also called to take personal responsibility for your relationship with Jesus and your membership in His Church. When you do, the Church, through the ministry of the bishop, invokes the power of the Holy Spirit upon you to strengthen you as a faithful follower of the Lord.

I am inviting you to take this step this year. Please understand that the decision to do so is and must be yours along. Although I, the parish community, your parents and grandparents might like you to be confirmed this year, the decision to do so must be yours along because it is a step in your personal life of faith. And it is a step you must make only to please God and deepen your life with Christ, not to please or satisfy me, your parents or anyone else. It is about your personal responsibility.

To choose to be confirmed means that you are serious about living and actively practicing your faith: seeking to conform your lives and actions to the example and teaching of Jesus, and celebrating Him by your attendance at Eucharist in the parish each Sunday.

I encourage you to register for the program. When you register, this does not mean you have absolutely decided to be confirmed this year. It simply means that you are willing to participate in the preparation program that will help you discover if Confirmation is right for you at this time.

I have enclosed the schedule for the program, and an application form. The sessions and the weekend retreat are required, not optional. In order to be confirmed this year, you must be able to participate in the scheduled events of the program. We have scheduled the program for the Fall this year because we know how busy Spring becomes, especially for seniors. Note that Confirmation will be on Sunday, December 6. If you wish to receive the Sacrament this year, then you must make the preparation a priority in your schedule.

If you have concerns or questions, please call me or Joe or see us after Mass. Do not have your parents contact us. We want you to exercise responsibility for this and we want to speak with you. To sign up, just give the completed form to Joe or me after Mass or during the week. We need the form back by September 28. I look forward to sharing with you in this great journey to Confirmation.

My love in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Tim Sauer
Pastor