

January 2012

Greetings!

You are receiving this letter because you or someone you know has informed us that you are interested in receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. This letter contains important information about **Adult Confirmation Preparation at St. Matthew's Cathedral.**

It is our hope that this process of preparation will renew your faith, deepen your prayer life, and strengthen your baptismal promises. The process includes the following:

### **Registration**

- A. **Registration Form**: Print and complete the two-page registration form.
- B. **Baptismal Certificate**: Contact the parish where you were baptized to request that a current copy of your baptismal certificate (including any other sacramental notations) be mailed to you. *A copy of your original certificate generally is not acceptable.*
- C. **\$50.00 Program Fee** (cash or check made payable to St. Matthew's Cathedral): Part of this fee covers the required text: *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. You will be able to pick up your text before the first preparation session. Please contact me in case of financial need.
- D. Submit the above items no later than ***Friday, March 23 to St. Matthew's Rectory*** during office hours (9am to 8pm Monday through Thursday, 9am to 4pm Friday through Sunday), or mail them to:

Heather Kinney  
Director of Faith Formation  
St. Matthew's Cathedral  
1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20036

### **Meetings**

- A. **Preparation Sessions**: We will meet on five consecutive ***Thursdays: April 19, 26 and May 3, 10, 17*** from ***7pm to 8:30pm*** in ***St. Matthew's North Conference Room***. [The conference room is accessible through the glass-and-iron door at the base of the driveway leading into the public parking garage next to the Cathedral. You can park in the garage for a flat fee of \$5.00 after 4pm. There is limited street parking in front of the Cathedral (free after 6:30pm). Farragut North (L street exit) on the Red Line is the closest Metro station.]

Our weekly sessions will explore sections of the Catholic Catechism in order to refresh your knowledge of the fundamentals of the Catholic faith. These sessions will be structured around assigned reading, lecture, discussion, and prayer. ***We presume attendance at all five sessions. If you cannot attend these sessions, you may not be able to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.***

- B. **Confirmation Retreat**: We will have a **required** day of prayer and reflection on ***Saturday, May 19*** from ***9am to 3pm*** in ***St. Matthew's Great Hall*** (accessible through the door next to the organ in the Cathedral). If you have a conflict, please contact me immediately.

We encourage your sponsor to attend this retreat with you. Your sponsor also may attend any or all of the Thursday sessions.

- C. **Confirmation Ceremony**: Confirmation will be celebrated on ***Sunday, May 27*** (Pentecost Sunday) at ***3pm*** at the ***Cathedral***. You are asked to arrive at the Cathedral no later than 2pm the day of the ceremony. ***Please note that Pentecost Sunday falls on Memorial Day weekend this year. You must be able to attend the ceremony to be confirmed.***

The Confirmation ceremony includes adults from parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Washington as well as St. Matthew's youth who are receiving the sacrament of Confirmation. Cardinal Donald Wuerl will preside at this ceremony.

### **Selection of a Sponsor**

It is necessary that you identify a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church (Latin or Eastern rite) to serve as a sponsor for you. This person should be someone with whom you have an existing relationship, who takes her/his faith seriously, who will support you in your faith journey, and who can be present for the Confirmation ceremony. If you wish, you may ask one of your original godparents, reinforcing the connection between Baptism and Confirmation.

The Church requires the following of a sponsor:

- ✓ Be an active, practicing Catholic who has been baptized and confirmed and has received the sacrament of the Eucharist
- ✓ Be at least sixteen years of age
- ✓ Lead a life of faith in harmony with the ministry s/he is undertaking and have the intention of undertaking this ministry. *If a potential sponsor is married, the marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church. A sponsor must also be able and willing to receive the Eucharist (Communion) on the day of the ceremony.*
- ✓ Not be a parent of the individual to be confirmed (We also discourage a spouse or significant other from serving as a sponsor.)
- ✓ Not be bound by a canonical impediment

Your sponsor must provide a letter from her/his parish, stating that s/he is a registered parishioner "in good standing" who is eligible to serve as a sponsor. Your sponsor should contact her/his parish directly to request this letter, which is due to me no later than **Thursday, April 26**.

If you cannot find a sponsor, please let me know.

### **Selection of a Confirmation Saint**

It has been the custom of the Catholic Church for each person pursuing Confirmation to select a saint of the Church to serve as an intercessor and patron. It also is customary that each person be presented to the (arch)Bishop on the day of Confirmation with this name. So we ask you to select the name of a saint you admire, a saint who is a model for you of living the Christian life. Doing so connects us more deeply with the Communion of Saints.

To help you select a saint, "Catholic Saints: A Guide to Choosing a Patron Saint for the Sacrament of Confirmation" is available. We will speak more about selecting a Confirmation saint during our preparation sessions.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance)**

You must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) prior to your Confirmation. Refer to the parish bulletin for times, or call the Rectory to make an appointment with Monsignor Jameson or one of the other priests. You also can consult the following website for the confession schedules of neighboring parishes: [www.adw.org/parishes/confess.asp](http://www.adw.org/parishes/confess.asp).

I look forward to meeting you in April. Until then, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org) or 202-347-3215, x530.

Peace,

Heather Kinney  
Director of Faith Formation



**ADULT CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2012  
CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED.**

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Full name (first, middle, and last): \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (preferred): \_\_\_\_\_

Email (preferred): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of birth (city, state, country if not USA): \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's full (maiden) name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's religious denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's religious denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

**SACRAMENTAL HISTORY**

Have you been baptized?       Y     N

*If yes* -- In what denomination were you baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address of church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

If you were baptized in another Christian tradition, have you made a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church?       Y     N

*If yes* -- Date of Profession of Faith: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of church of Profession of Faith: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address of church of Profession of Faith: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) in the Catholic Church?       Y     N

Have you received your First Eucharist (Communion) in the Catholic Church?       Y     N

*If yes* -- Date of First Eucharist: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of church of First Eucharist: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address of church of First Eucharist: \_\_\_\_\_

### CURRENT MARITAL STATUS

Please check the appropriate statement and provide any information requested beneath the statement.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am single and I have never been married.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am engaged to be married.

a. Your fiancé(e)'s name: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Your fiancé(e)'s current religious affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

c. For you:     This is my first marriage.     I have been married before.

d. For your fiancé(e):     This is his/her first marriage.     S/he has been married before.

e. Date of pending marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am married.

a. Your spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Your spouse's current religious affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

c. Is your spouse baptized?     Y     N    If so, what religious denomination? \_\_\_\_\_

d. For you:     This is my first marriage.     I have been married before.

e. For your spouse:     This is his/her first marriage.     S/he has been married before.

f. Date of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

g. Were you married in a Catholic Church?     Y     N

*If no -- Where were you married?* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am married but separated from my spouse.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am divorced and I have not remarried.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a widow/widower.

List the name(s) of any children or other dependents. Please attach a separate page if necessary.

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

### PARISH INVOLVEMENT

Are you a registered parishioner at St. Matthew's Cathedral?     Y     N

*If yes -- How long have you attended St. Matthew's Cathedral?* \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know any St. Matthew's parishioners (names)? \_\_\_\_\_

*If no -- What is your parish?* \_\_\_\_\_ Are you registered there?     Y     N

How long have you lived in the D.C. area? \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Sponsor's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor's email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of sponsor's parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address of sponsor's parish: \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

*Please do not write below this line.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment method:     cash     check    Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_