

SACRED HEART PARISH



*Many Families, One Heart*

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Faith Formation Office

August 1, 2018

Dear Parents / Guardians:

Grace and peace of God, the love of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you!

The primary task of catechesis is to have an intimate union with Jesus Christ, by knowing, loving and serving Him in this world and to be happy for all eternity. Within the Catholic Church, we receive Sacraments in order to strengthen that relationship with our Lord. The Sacrament of Confirmation is one of the seven (7) sacraments which strengthens the bond initiated at your child's baptism.

Over the past two (2) years, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia conducted a study regarding the grades for the reception of Confirmation. Overwhelmingly, bishops, pastors, principals and directors of religious education noted there is a much better understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation by older students. Archbishop Charles Chaput and the Council of Priests have determined that the new grades for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) and/or eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade/level of formation.

At the present time, Sacred Heart Church will be raising the reception of Confirmation from sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) grade/level to seventh (7<sup>th</sup>). Thus, all parish children will complete a full year of grade/level 6 formation prior to this celebration.

Students entering the grade/level 6 for the 2018-19 calendar year, will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Fall of 2019. Supporting formation will begin in the Spring of 2019; more details to follow.

It is the parish's desire that your child(ren) be spiritually equipped to face the challenges of this world and bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are confident that this change, with your family support, will allow for a deeper apprenticeship in the faith and a stronger relationship with God for your child.

Sincerely, yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Michael F. Hennelly". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rev. Michael F. Hennelly, Pastor  
and the Faith Formation Team

***"O'Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place our trust in You."***