

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church  
123 William Street  
Springfield MA 01105 – 1949  
413 – 734 – 5433

## ***Dear Candidates for Confirmation,***

Congratulations!

You have successfully completed our parish program, with classes, service hours, and three essays, its Catholic High School equivalent, or the Adult Diocesan Course. By doing this you have shown that you are ready to take a huge step towards a mature relationship with God with your Confirmation in Christ.

In Matt. 22:36-37 we hear these words, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Really think about that.

We cannot love someone we don’t know. Therefore, knowing Him should be our first priority. How do we get to know someone? We spend time with them, we eat meals with them, we share our lives with them, we help them in times of need, and cheer with them in times of joy. We are committed to our friends and family in these and many other ways. This is similar to the commitment you make when you are Confirmed. The interconnected Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation call us into relationship and lead us to the table of the body and blood of the Lord. By coming to Mass every Sunday and sharing in the Eucharist with your parish community, you will be taking a most important step for a full and happy life, a life in real relationship with God. This is how we can grow in love for God.

Remember, this is not a graduation, but an initiation, the beginning of your journey, not the end. A life-time journey of faith, love, service, and friendship. The more you get to know God, the more you love Him, and the more you have the ability to love others, which is the second great Commandment. This helps us live up to the commitments of our Baptism and Confirmation. And this is our way to holiness and to life everlasting.

Your Confirmation will be celebrated

## Sunday, October 9th at the 10:30 Mass

### ***Rehearsal is: Weds. October 5, promptly at 6:30 PM***

It will take about an hour. Your sponsor must come with you. Please arrange working hours to accommodate this one rehearsal. Note that it is not proper to use cell phones, or chew gum in church, or for men to wear hats.

Please notify your **sponsor** that they, with you, should receive ***Holy Communion at the Confirmation Mass***. *Anyone desiring the Sacrament of Confession can do so after the rehearsal, or any Saturday from 3:15 to 3:45 PM, or by calling for an appointment at another time.*

Please volunteer to be a ***reader or Offertory gift-bearer*** at your Confirmation Mass, offer to Fr. White, Mrs. DiVenuto or Sr. Betty at least one week before the rehearsal.

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## ***THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION GENERAL INFORMATION & ETIQUETTE GUIDE***

- ◆ Please arrive at 9:45 a.m. in the Bertoni Room. Sunday, October 9, 2016. At that time you will receive final instructions and details concerning the Confirmation Mass. Bishop Rosanski will meet the **Candidates** and their **Sponsors** (no parents or friends) in an informal and pastoral setting before the Mass. Please arrive on time!.
- ◆ Conduct yourselves in a manner that is appropriate for the Holy Mass. •
- ◆ TURN OFF all electronic devices – phones, Bluetooth devices, media players, etc. •
- ◆ SILENCE the sound functions of cameras. •
- ◆ NO chewing gum, eating or drinking. • When inside the church, please maintain a spirit of reverence and prayerful silence.
- ◆ Candidates, Sponsors, and families, please use the restroom facilities BEFORE the Mass begins.
- ◆ Candidates and Sponsors will be seated together. Candidates and Sponsors, please be prepared to receive Holy Communion.

**DRESS CODE** Dress should always be appropriate in church. We are in the presence of God and in his house. Candidates, Sponsors, and ministers should wear proper semi-formal attire similar to clothing for other important life events. □

**MALES:** It is preferred that you wear a suit, or blazer and slacks, with a dress shirt, tie, and dress shoes. Dress shirt hems should be tucked in, not hanging out. Ties, dress shirts, coats and slacks of any color are okay. Pants should come to your waist and over your hips.

**FEMALES:** Dresses and skirts should extend to the knee. Tops, slacks or suits of any color are fine. Shoulders must be completely covered front and back. Tops must completely cover your stomach. Hal-ter tops, strapless dresses and low-cut tops of any kind are NOT ALLOWED.

**EVERYONE:** Please refrain from wearing stiletto-type high heels, flip flops, sandals or tennis shoes. T-shirts, hoodies, fleece tops, and shirts with large logos, advertisements or inappropriate slogans are not allowed. Refrain from wearing low cut or midriff outfits, mini or micro-skirts, low-rise pants or Denim (jeans). If there is something you are not sure of, please contact a Confirmation Coordinator (Christine or Michelle) You are NOT expected to go out and purchase/rent clothes for your Confirmation. IF you cannot meet the above guidelines, please use your best judgment and wear the most appropriate clothes that you already own.