

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL / BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH - FALL 2018

**MORE**

# **GOOD NEWS**



## **Lord, send out your spirit**

**17 young people receive Sacrament of Confirmation**

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# Newly confirmed hopefully will remain active in faith

Those among us of a certain vintage recall making the Sacrament of Confirmation probably at the tender age of 8 or 12.

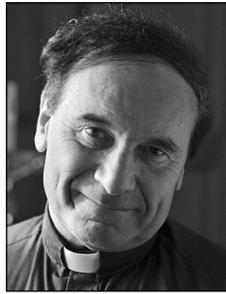
Learning to sing "Tantum Ergo" and lining up for the procession and finding out what the bishop's gentle slap on the face was to signify the sometimes hardships following Christ – this was the preparation for Confirmation.

Recently, our parish celebrated the confirming of 17 young people, gifted and a much-appreciated group within the larger assembly.

Confirmation always was a fortunate time to celebrate and highlight the gift of the Holy Spirit. But like with any other gift – birthday, Christmas, anniversary – a gift needs to be unwrapped and opened to be enjoyed and cherished.

Any gift is a two-way street. The gifts of wisdom, fortitude, devotion or courage would remain just an empty thing if not received and opened by the one for whom the gift is intended.

Some of those wonderful young people choose to make their Confirmation experience a moment to "grow up" as Catholic friends of



FATHER JIM

Jesus and walk in our Catholic way. Others, sadly, feel it is a time to "graduate" from being a church-going, active part of the faith community. They become absent on weekends.

Those confirmed – supported, reinforced in this powerful sacramental experience – hold so much potential for any parish household with their youth and energy, ideas and talents. Confirmation sponsors, parents, guardians and grandparents have so much influence with these young Catholics because of their love and concern and friendship for them. Their gentle encouragement of the faith and invitation to weekend worship can work wonders. The good example of living and walking and practicing our faith is so much more valuable even than a nice gift of a wristwatch for Confirmation.

Congratulations to those who in the last few years have been confirmed in this parish setting. May the good blessings and graces that began in their baptism grow stronger and livelier as they continue to mature and journey along the path of their awesome lives.

***Some of those wonderful young people choose to make their Confirmation experience a moment to "grow up" as Catholic friends of Jesus and walk in our Catholic way. Others, sadly, feel it is a time to "graduate" from being a church-going, active part of the faith community.***

## ST. THOMAS BECKET

Feast Day Dec. 29

A strong man who wavered for a moment, but then learned one cannot come to terms with evil, and so became a strong churchman, a martyr and a saint who was Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in his cathedral on Dec. 29, 1170.

His career had been a stormy one. While archdeacon of Canterbury, he was made chancellor of England at age 36 by his friend King Henry II. When Henry felt it advantageous to make his chancellor the archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas gave him fair warning: he might not accept all of Henry's intrusions into church affairs.

Nevertheless, in 1162 he was made archbishop, resigned his chancellorship, and reformed his whole way of life.

Troubles began. Henry insisted upon usurp-



ing church rights. At one time, supposing some conciliatory action possible, Thomas came close to compromise. He momentarily approved the Constitutions of Clarendon, which would have denied the clergy the right of trial by a church court and prevented them from making direct appeal to Rome.

But Thomas rejected the Constitutions, fled to France for safety, and remained in exile for seven years. When he returned to England he suspected it would mean certain death.

Because Thomas refused to remit censures he had placed upon bishops favored by the king, Henry cried out in a rage, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome priest!"

Four knights, taking his words as his wish, slew Thomas in the Canterbury cathedral.

Thomas Becket remains a hero-saint down to our own times.

Source: [www.franciscanmedia.org](http://www.franciscanmedia.org)

## PARISH WEBSITE

Visit [www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com](http://www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com) for the latest parish news and announcements. There's even a mobile version for your smart phone. You can donate online and check out our social media sites and more.

## PHOTO GALLERIES



## BULLETIN

### St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Blessed Sacrament Parish




**Weekend Masses**  
 Saturday 4:00pm  
 Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am  
 Reconciliation Saturday 3:45pm

**Weekly Masses**  
 Mon. Tues. Thurs. 8:30am  
 Friday 8:30am - Mass or Communion Service  
 Rosary for the Laborer and Divine Mercy Chaplet  
 Thursday after Mass  
 Holy Day Consult Bulletin

**CONTACTS**  
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 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - Noon Friday  
 648 1st St.  
 648 1st St.  
 All bulletin items are to be submitted in writing by 12:00 noon  
 Friday 10 days before publication.

**PARISH STAFF**  
 Pastor: Rev. Jim Cesta  
 Coordinator of Faith Formation: Terri Panaccio -K-C-4  
 Coordinator of Faith Formation: Anne Carlson-Escaque 7-10  
 In Residence: Rev. Luis Olguin  
 Music Director: Peter Ulanow  
 Business Administrator: Mary Beth LaNeve  
 Maintenance: Patrick Zasa  
 Parish Publicist: Fran Perriano

A Community on a Journey of Faith

## ... AND MORE

- Father Jim's "Wise and Otherwise"
- History of the parish
- Lector, minister, altar server schedules
- Mass schedules
- Parish news
- Ministries
- Event calendar
- Weekly reflection on Sunday's readings
- "More Good News" magazine
- Links to our social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.



Seventeen young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation Tuesday, Oct. 16. With Bishop Robert Cunningham and Father Jim are: Isabella Cecilia Adamo, David David Chan, Joseph Michael DiMasse II, Nicholas Michael Elacqua, Antonio Vincent Fanelli, Joseph Joseph LaPaglia, Austin Luigi McCarthy, Hannah Joan McCarthy, Shar Kaw Sylvester Moo, Lin Thun Sebastian Nya, Robert Peter Ollerenshaw, Antonio Thomas More Ricco, Fallon Elizabeth Siniscarco, Russell Gregory Sortino, Trent Sebastian Thomas, Trinity Philomena Ward and Prie Bee Philip Ya.

# Confirmation: What's involved

By ANNE ELACQUA

So, you have a teenager ready to make his or her Confirmation. And you're not sure of the process or how and why it happens here at St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Our Confirmation program begins in the ninth grade.

We like our students to attend a two-year program in order to prepare them to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in the fall of their junior year.

We have found in recent years that waiting until their junior year has really made a difference in the maturity of the candidates. It has truly helped them to see the meaning of the sacrament and how it will help them in their everyday lives. They can fully understand the depths of this beautiful sacrament and what it can mean to them.

Our students are required to all give of themselves in service to our parish or the community. They give a minimum of 10 hours of service as ninth-graders and then 20 hours as 10th-graders. So many of them do more than the required hours. They also give a brief reflection on it and how they share their skills and talents to others in need.

Our candidates also have some other written

Please see CONFIRMATION, Page 7

## What does the sacrament mean to me?

Bishop Robert Cunningham of the Diocese of Syracuse conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 17 young people from our parish on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

Prior to that special ceremony, "More Good News" asked the candidates two questions: "What does Confirmation mean for me?" and "What will I do to become a practicing Catholic for the rest of my life?"

Here are their responses:

### Isabella Cecilia Adamo

"The Sacrament of Confirmation is a very important step in my faith and in my life. It makes me feel more connected to God and leads me to become a better adult in the church."

"I will continue to go to Mass on Sundays and sing in the choir. I will also cantor for Mass on occasion."

### David David Chan

"Confirmation means ... that I'm committed to my religion and get closer to God."

"I will go to Mass more often and read (the) Bible. I might go to Bible study camp to learn more about the Bible."

### Joseph Michael DiMasse III

"Giving yourself to God and Jesus; committing yourself to the Catholic Church."

"Go to church every Sunday, say my prayers, give to people and be the best I can be."

### Nicholas Michael Elacqua

"The Sacrament of Confirmation is an important step in my faith for me. It's a way for me to become closer to God and to build my faith."

"I plan on becoming a Eucharistic minister and I will continue playing in the choir loft. I also plan to altar serve for special Masses."

### Antonio Vincent Fanelli

"It means a lot to me because it allows me to get closer to God. I finally become an adult in the church world and it makes my family extremely happy. It helps me get to the next step in life."

"I will pray for my family and friends for their health and happiness. I will attend church to learn more and more about my religion. I will keep the gifts of the Holy Spirit in mind as I grow into adulthood and further."

### Joseph Joseph LaPaglia

"A transitioning in life of becoming a devout Catholic; committing myself to the Catholic Church."

"I will attend Mass regularly."

Please see CANDIDATES, Page 7

## A CONVERSATION WITH ... SHARON KUKOWSKI

# Faith, family, solid foundation

*Sharon Kukowski has many loves — pets (she has eight), primitive art, vintage movies, her family and her parish. She's always looking for the good in everyone and treating everyone with dignity and respect. She learned a lot of that from her parents and family growing up in Utica, and now she passes it along to her son and everyone she meets.*

**Animals have found a soft spot in your heart. You have five beagles and three kitties, all rescues from local area shelters. Why do you do it and from where does this love emanate?**

I had a beagle growing up that my brother rescued and an abandoned kitten that my aunt had saved from drowning and gave to me. It's in the genes. Our family will tell you that a rescued pet makes the best pet. They know that they were chosen and given a second chance to be loved and taken care of. When you look in their eyes and see the love they have for you, there is a bond there that is all that more special.

**What's life like in your house with all these animals running around?**

I can honestly say that if I wasn't able to work from home, the menagerie would not be quite so large. The older ones are just living out their golden years nested in their own comfy spot, and the younger ones keep each other busy playing or investigating the backyard. The kitties are self-sufficient and stay hidden; they choose to make their presence known at their convenience — usually when it's their dinner time.

**Your interests include collecting primitive folk art, decorating and being artsy in any way you can. Where did you learn to be so creative?**

This goes back to my childhood. School projects always provided a chance for me to display my creativity and be unique. My Dad had this gift to create things that my brother and sisters and I just seemed to inherit. If it was an idea, there was a way to bring it to life. Both of my parents always supported us and made sure we did our best to share our gifts and bring out the best in each other.

**You also love vintage movies, watching them with your husband and son? How did you get into this and what do old movies have that modern flicks do not?**

This is my Mom's gift to me. As far back as I can remember, I would sit and watch an old movie with her. She probably saw a great deal of these movies when she was a little girl back in the '30s and '40s at either The James Street Theater or, if she had the 50 cents, a trip to the Stanley on a Saturday for a special treat. She could tell me all about the actors/actresses, what other films they were in, who they were married to. Her knowledge became my hobby



Sharon Kukowski with her husband, Stephen, and son Keaton near the Christ anchor cross.

## Sharon (Nichols) Kukowski

**Age:** 50.

**Education:** Blessed Sacrament (1982), Notre Dame (1986), attended Marist College.

**Family:** Husband Stephen, son Keaton (19).

**Occupation:** Billing director for Custom-Tel LLC.

**What you like to do in your spare time:** Antiquing, watch old movies, walking our pups.

**Favorite TV shows:** "Downton Abbey," "Father Brown," "Sherlock" (with Benedict Cumberbatch). I really enjoy the BBC shows.

**Favorite movie:** Alfred Hitchcock's "Rebecca" and "It's A Wonderful Life."

**Favorite musical artist or genre:** 1940s Big Band/Swing

**Favorite quote:** "Live simply, remain grateful, be kind."

and our enjoyment. Those movies had original plots, music, just classic. They didn't require the language or the sex to be entertaining.

**Watching movies also seems to be a great bonding moment for your family. What's it like when you're able to get together for**

**these times?**

We have a cozy small family, just the three of us and we're all huge old movie buffs. Keaton's name is even taken from one of our favorite silent comedians, Buster Keaton. When we're at home, we take turns picking out a flick and it's almost always accompanied by a huge bag of buttered popcorn made the old-fashioned way, oil and pan on the stove. We also support The Capitol Theater at least once a month; they always have something of interest for us, pre-1950. It's a gem located in Rome.

**You attended Blessed Sacrament grammar school and Notre Dame High School. What were your school days like?**

I have happy memories of both. I grew up on Howard Avenue, so I was able to walk the eight blocks to and from school with a close group of neighborhood friends. My very first friend from kindergarten is still one of my best friends today and our vet — Dr. Suzie Petrillo. I met my future husband, Stephen, in our freshman year at Notre Dame. I can only recall the good times filled with laughter, '80s music and some pretty interesting fashion trends.

**You're also very involved in parish life,**

Please see SHARON Page 7

# Joseph knows what he wants

## And that includes a life of helping other people

*If you've ever wondered what the phrase "well-rounded individual" means, take one look at Joseph Rizzo. He loves golf, swimming and the outdoors; plays three musical instruments; is studying Latin and Spanish, and loves math and science in school; is working toward becoming an Eagle Scout; and wants to be neurosurgeon and help people. Not too bad for a teenager.*

**You attend Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse. Some of us don't know much about it. What's the school like and what do you enjoy most about it?**

Christian Brothers Academy is a Catholic LaSallian college preparatory school. We have a strict dress code and we start every class with a prayer. Every class has a cross on the door. Everyone is always cheerful, kind and genuine. The friends and teachers that I have are wonderful. I am grateful for my learning environment at CBA.

**Your favorite subjects are math and science, something many students cringe about. Why do you like them so much?**

I like math and science because the two subjects come easier to me than many other subjects. I can't explain it, but the two subjects have always interested me. I guess that's the way God made me.

**Do you envision a future career using those skills you learn in those classes?**

Yes. I envision myself becoming a neurosurgeon. I want to help people, and I have had a calling for the medical field since I was 5 or 6.

**You also are studying Latin and Spanish. Many people speak Spanish, but why Latin?**

Many languages originated from Latin, and it is actually a required language in high school at CBA. Latin helps me to understand the base concept of English words.

**You're on the varsity golf and swim teams. What do you like about each sport and what do you learn from them?**

I have made so many great friends from each sport, and I find both sports relaxing and a great way to unwind after a long day at school. I have learned to always do my best whether I know I am going to win or if I am going to lose.

**Music also is a passion of yours. You play violin, trumpet and piano. Those are a**



### Joseph Rizzo

**Age:** 15.

**School:** 10th grade at Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse.

**Family:** Mom, dad and two dogs

**Things you like to do in your spare time:** Ski, play golf and hike.

**Favorite movie:** "Stargate."

**Favorite TV show:** "Turn."

**Favorite book:** "The Hobbit."

**Favorite musician or musical genre:** I like most music and many composers

**Favorite quote:** "Whatever you are, be a good one." —

Abraham Lincoln

**diverse set of instruments. How did you get interested in all three, and do you have a favorite?**

I do not have a favorite out of the three instruments. I started playing piano because my parents encouraged me to start taking lessons. My uncle plays the violin, and when the sign-up sheets for orchestra came around the classroom in fourth grade, I thought that it might be fun to try. In fifth grade, the sign-ups for brass instruments were passed around the classroom, and my father played the trumpet when he was younger, so I decided to put my name down for the trumpet. I have been playing all three and participating in school band and orchestra ever since then.

**Hiking, water sports, downhill skiing and camping. You enjoy them all. Why do you like the outdoors so much and how did you get interested in those activities?**

My parents introduced me to all of these outdoor activities. Every summer, we go camping together as a family, and I enjoy many outdoor activities with my parents and friends.

**You're a Scout. What has Scouting taught you?**

Right now, I am a Life Scout and I am working toward Eagle, which is the next rank of advancement. I will have completed my Eagle rank by the end of June 2019. Scouting has taught me to help others and to always be

courteous and kind to everyone I meet.

**In our parish, you've been an altar server for a few years and now you also help train new servers. Why did you become a server and what do you like best about it?**

I became an altar server because I wanted to help out the church. I feel closer to God when I am on the altar and I love serving at Mass.

**What does Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament mean to you?**

Mount Carmel is the community I grew up with. I was baptized at Mount Carmel and I am making my Confirmation at Mount Carmel as well. It means a lot to me to be a part of this church community.

**How do you think faith works in your life?**

My Catholic faith is part of my everyday life. My faith keeps me healthy and happy, and I incorporate it into my school day and in my free time. My grandmother always tells me to do one good deed every day.

**What do you hope the future holds for you?**

I firmly believe that it is important to give back to my community and help others. I hope my future holds the same blessings that my present holds for me now. I hope to get into a good college and have a career that allows me to help others every day.

# Paul of Tarsus: From persecutor to saint

In the last issue of “More Good News,” I wrote about the original Apostles of Jesus.

Some may have asked where is Paul? After all, seven of the 27 books of the New Testament are attributed to him. He might have contributed to another seven.

The fact is that Paul didn’t even become a Christian until sometime after Jesus’ death and resurrection. Paul himself describes in Acts 7:58-60, 22:20, how he persecuted the first Christians and even participated in the stoning of St. Stephen.

To understand his turnaround, we should go back to his origin story.

Born in the city of Tarsus in southern Turkey, he came from a strict Jewish family. Though not extremely wealthy, his family and he earned a respectable living as tent makers. This craft would help him support himself while he was on his many future missions. He also enjoyed Roman citizenship.



A.J. VALENTINI

Growing up in Jerusalem, he gained his education from Gamaliel, a member of the Sanhedrin. He also became familiar with Greek philosophers and was familiar with the Stoic philosophy of a virtuous life as a way to happiness.

When he became an adult, he was a member of the Pharisees, who administered the law of the Jews. (You may recall mention of this group criticizing Christ in the gospels).

Paul couldn’t understand how Christians could follow a man who died like a criminal. In his mind a true Messiah would never be treated that way.

Paul told the story of how on the way to Damascus he was blinded by a great light, fell from his horse and heard a voice say, “Why persecutest thou me?” When Paul said, “Who art thou, Lord?” the voice answered, “I am Jesus whom thou persecutes.”

For three days he remained blind until a Christian, Ananias of Damascus, was able to heal him. It only was then that Paul recognized the divinity of Jesus. He proclaimed himself a servant of Christ and stated that his conversion was due to the grace of God and not reason or intellect.

Three years later he left Damascus to learn from the apostles in Jerusalem. He began to preach to Gentiles and carried his message to Syria, Turkey and Greece. The Jewish



Paul didn’t even become a Christian until sometime after Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Christians believed you had to be a Jew first to become Christian. Paul didn’t think that was necessary. Eventually it was agreed that Peter would be the main apostle to the Jews and Paul the principal apostle to the Gentiles. Paul would not have to change his approach, but he was tasked with collecting funds for the Jerusalem church.

In the late 50s AD, Paul returned to Jerusalem. He came with money he had collected from his flock but was arrested for bringing some of his Gentile converts too deep into the temple precincts. There were several trials. He was held in prison in Caesarea for two years. Eventually, Paul went to Rome. Tradition says he was beheaded there under the reign of Nero.

During his lifetime, after his conversion, Paul believed it was his mission to bring the Gentiles, Greeks and all the other “barbarians” to Christ. In reality, his mission was much more successful than that of the Jewish apostles. He did not consider himself to be a particularly brilliant speaker but it is said that he often would speak to interested listeners while he was working making his tents.

Perhaps the image of a working artisan, who lived by the sweat of his brow and carried a message of salvation appealed to the people.

Paul also kept in touch with his flock through his letters. They carried messages of his commitment to the church with passion, forthrightness and wit. His followers compiled these letters to pass on to successive generations of believers. These are the letters you hear so frequently read from the pulpit.

The tenants of Paul’s preaching proclaim that faith in Christ guarantees salvation. In words that his audience could understand about ancient sacrificial rites he explained that Jesus’ death was necessary so that they might be freed from sin (atonement).

In Galatians he explains that as soon as you are baptized into faith, you also are baptized into Christ’s death and freed from sin. Paul set a high standard for the faithful, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The saint had a rather conservative approach to women and helped promote the male hierarchy of the church. One of his female followers, Phoebe, however, is the first known deacon of the church.

St. Paul is the patron of missionaries, evangelists, writers and public workers. His feast day is June 29.

## SHARON KUKOWSKI

Continued from Page 4

**being a ninth-grade Faith Formation catechist, choir member and lector. Why do you choose to participate so much?**

I started in the children's choir at Blessed Sacrament under the direction of Sister Teresa Waldron in third grade. In sixth grade, they invited the students to become lectors. I was asked to assist in teaching the first-grade students while I was a Confirmation candidate in 1983. It has always been a part of my life, and when the parishes merged, it took me a little while to find my footing to see where I was needed. Each task provides a different level of faith to a specific area. I love singing and lecturing and the ninth-graders that I teach are a joy. I have to say that those that I volunteer with and for are an amazing team.

**What were the emotions when Blessed Sacrament Church closed and you had to choose to go elsewhere?**

My mother was born and raised on St. Agnes Avenue right next to the Blessed Sacrament convent so we always had a close bond with the parish. She was a child when the school was built and my aunt was in the first graduating class in 1937. It wasn't just a church; it was an entire

community of families and neighbors that grew up together. As we all know, many of those friends and loved ones have moved from the area or have passed on and the enrollment just wasn't enough to keep it going. Blessed Sacrament and St. Mary of Mount Carmel had already put a contingency plan into place for the changing times and the possibility of losing one of our pastors. Many of our organizations merged together before the closing and it was a chance to meet new friends. June 25, 2005, was a very somber day for goodbyes, but it was also the beginning of a new chapter of faith in our lives. I sometimes go to the Christ anchor that hangs in the side room off of the sacristy and offer up a little prayer. This came from the altar in Blessed Sacrament and I'm so glad that it is there. It's a happy reminder of where my faith began.

**What have you found at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament that nourishes your spiritual life?**

The new friends that we have made, in addition to those that made the journey with us, are such an important part of our lives. We have laughed, cried and prayed together. Our shared faith is the basis for our friendships and I feel blessed to have that. I look forward to being here because we are among family.

## CONFIRMATION

Continued from Page 3

work that they also are required to do in the 10th grade. They have to research a name of a saint that they would like to take and explain why this saint is meaningful to them. They also have to explain who their sponsor is and why they picked this person.

There usually are about 18 classes each year that they attend where they learn about the sacrament and other topics about their faith. We help them to learn about relevant topics that a teenager would want to discuss and learn how the Catholic Church looks upon these topics and how they can use their faith to guide their lives. They participate in class discussions and learn from one another.

Also required by the diocese is a Confirmation retreat and direct prep classes. The retreat usually is a day-long event that can either be here or elsewhere. We have gone to Syracuse University's Newman Center for a retreat in the past. There, the candidates hear many witness

talks and see how other young adults are using their faith to center themselves in their lives.

Finally in the fall prior to Confirmation, we have our last direct prep classes to pull it all together. Candidates learn all about the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and how these gifts can help them in their future. They also are able to help plan their liturgy and make it personal for their class.

We have many talented students in our program and many will sing at their Confirmation Mass. It is a wonderful way to give their talents to their church. We hope that after they are confirmed, they will all find a way to share of themselves with their parish.

Our program is a way for our teenagers to learn about their faith, ask questions and see for themselves how wonderful this sacrament can be for them. We hope they will see for themselves how much their faith can guide them in their future and that God is the answer to all of their questions.

## CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 3

**Austin Luigi McCarthy**

"The Sacrament of Confirmation means I can get married in a church when I'm older; also, that I'm committing myself to our church and to the Lord."

"I will go to church on a regular basis and pray at times of need or just to pray. Also, I will continue to read the Bible."

**Hannah Joan McCarthy**

"Confirmation means completing Faith Formation classes but is only one step on a long journey of faith."

"I will go to church as much as possible. I will also try to help as any many people as possible."

**Shar Kaw Sylvester Moo**

"The Sacrament of Confirmation to me is accepting God at another level and helping the community and go to church ... and pray for people who are in need. (Also), be part of the Catholic Church and have loyalty."

"I will do my best to attend Mass every Sunday and help out in the Catholic community as well as I could."

**Lin Thun Sebastian Nyra**

"The Sacrament of Confirmation means I am committed to the Catholic faith. For me to complete Confirmation is the process of initiation into the Christian community. It will help and be my faith throughout my life."

"I will attend Mass on Sundays and pray to God for help and forgiveness. I will help others in need and encourage them to attend church."

**Robert Peter Ollerenshaw**

"The Sacrament of Confirmation means that I will be able to commit my life to my religion and practice my beliefs."

"I will attend Mass regularly and try not to swear."

**Antonio Thomas More Ricco**

"Confirmation is the continuation of my Catholic faith bringing me closer to reaching all sacraments. I will be able to be fully involved in my church community. It has allowed me to look inward and notice more about myself."

"I will go to church every Sunday. ... I will volunteer within the church to help out the parish."

**Fallon Elizabeth Siniscarco**

"The Sacrament of Confirmation is very important to me and it makes me feel closer to God. I want to do God's will and serve Him by becoming an adult in my parish."

"I want to continue to altar serve for Holy Week and Christmas and become a Eucharistic minister."

**Russell Gregory Sortino**

"The Sacrament of Confirmation means taking the next step to achieving spiritual enlightenment with my faith and being one with my creator as He passes through me on the fateful night of Confirmation."

"I will make sure to continue going to church and participating in church activities. I love volunteering at the pizza frita sales."

**Trent Sebastian Thomas**

"I can get married in the church and that I also belong to the church. I am also giving myself to the church."

"I will read the Bible. I will continue to go to church every Sunday and volunteer when I can."

**Trinity Philomena Ward**

"Confirmation means becoming closer to God. It is an important step in your faith journey. After someone is confirmed, they are officially an adult in the Catholic Church."

"I will continue to volunteer with the children in my church. I will also sing in my church and cantor."

**Prie Bee Philip Ya**

"What it means for me is moving more forward to your faith."

"I will attend Mass more and try to understand more about God's word."



# Young adults confirm their commitment

Bishop Robert Cunningham confirmed 17 young adults of the parish on Tuesday, Oct. 16, as they received the Sacrament of Confirmation. For more photos of the ceremony, visit [www.mount-carmelblessedsacrament.com](http://www.mount-carmelblessedsacrament.com).

