

## **Confirmation Retreat II: Purify My Heart**

**Friday, February 9, 2024**

*Queen of Apostles Parish Confirmation Preparation 2023-2024*

- 4:30 Arrive / Pick up name-tags**  
**Meal Prayer** - Group grace prayer Rachel  
**Dinner** – *clean up after yourself*
- 4:55 Prayer – Guided Meditation “Pass the Cross”** Rachel  
*- each table gets a few hand crosses to pass*  
*- each candidate responds inwardly in prayer*
- 5:05 Talk – Pentecost / Symbols of Confirmation** Rachel w/ assistance  
*- Scripture reading from Acts 2:1-12 – Stella Peters*  
*- effect of the Spirit to transform the lives of the Apostles*  
*- teach refrain to “Refiner’s Fire”*  
*- so why do we anoint with oil and not with fire or wind? (“Duck Duck Goose”)*  
*- anointed not just as a witness, but chosen as priest, prophet and king*
- 5:30 Breakout Session / Chosen as Priest, Prophet & King** Catechists  
*- groups explore themes: - priest (Green, Blue): Hebrews 4:14-5:4*  
*- king (Red, Black): 2 Samuel 5:1-2 & Psalm 61:1-9*  
*- prophet (Orange, Purple): 2 Samuel 12:1-7*  
*- chosen (Pink, Yellow): Ephesians 1:3-6 & John 15:12-17*  
*- brainstorm what is needed for that role*  
*- read & discuss Scripture passage(s) and answer a few questions*  
*- each group will need to select a scribe to record brainstorming and answers*
- 5:50 Stretch Break / Share answers** Groups
- 6:00 Talk – Purification and Continuing Conversion** Rachel w/assistance  
*- Scripture reading from Malachi 3:1-4 – Justine Kessler*  
*- story of the woman & the silversmith: hottest part of fire, watched, own image*  
*- purification removes anything that is not of value, can feel like being “tested”*  
*- teach verses to “Refiner’s Fire”*
- 6:15 Impurities / Temptations & Challenges** Rachel Hohner & Roine Michaels  
*different kinds of impurities in different areas of our lives*  
*- relationship with God: sloth, pride, etc. (Deadly Sins) growing like weeds*  
*- relationship with others: to gossip, bully others, form cliques, lack compassion*  
*- relationship with ourselves: substance abuse: vaping, marijuana, alcohol abuse*
- 6:30 Talk – Witnessing to Christ** Rachel w/assistance  
*- Scripture reading from Revelation 3:14-22 – Keenan Fix*  
*- can’t be “lukewarm” in witness as we may have been in our preparation*  
*- how do we witness to Christ through Confirmation Prep? after Confirmation?*  
*- Rachel leaves to open the church & set up for Reconciliation*
- 6:45 Making a Good Confession** Roine Dryer-Michaels  
*- “Sacraments 101: Why We Confess” video from BustedHalo*  
*- how to pray during the Examination of Conscience*  
*- steps for confession (also listed on the back of the worship aid), lighting candles*

**CONTINUED →**

- 7:05 Clean up & Pack / Restroom / Coats on (bundle up!)** Catechists
- 7:20 Out the door – Walk to Church** - Roine & Stella remain behind to clean up  
 - walking to church w/ students: Scott, Keenan, Isabel, Leticia, Reina
- 7:30 Reconciliation Prayer Service** Fr. Jason, Fr. Michael, and 2-3 other priests  
 - *see **worship aid** for the order of service*
- Confessions Flow Management Isabel, Scott
- *prompt youth in line to go up when a priest available*
  - *prioritize Spanish-language confessions for Spanish-speaking priests*
  - *offer chance to do penance prayers, remind about lighting candle*
  - *direct to gathering space for evaluation* Leticia, Rachel
- *as they come back from individual confessions, candidates*
- *light a candle at center aisle to show that they've gone to confession*
  - *may then pray quietly in the church (if that is part of their penance)*
  - *then go to the gathering space at the back of church where they complete an **evaluation** (pencils available)* Reina, Keenan
- *catechists help with maintaining a prayerful atmosphere & managing "what's next?" interactions, but may also go to confession once candidates have gone*
- 8:25 Reminders and Closing Prayer from gathering space** Rachel
- 8:30 Dismissal**

**5:05 Talk – The Upper Room / Christian Witness**

Rachel w/ assistance

- *Scripture reading from Acts 1:1-14 – Stella Peters*
- *nature of the prayer of the apostles*
  - *teach first half of refrain to “Refiner’s Fire”*
- *difficult task ahead, the “witness of the martyrs” -- can’t be “lukewarm”*
- *Scripture reading from Revelation 3:14-22 – Daina Matusaitis*
- *how do we witness to Christ through Confirmation Prep? after Confirmation?*
- ***chosen (Orange/Black): Ephesians 1:3-6 & John 15:12-17***
- *Scripture reading from Acts 9:1-22 – Scott Michaels*