



Why Young Christians Leave the Church

A five-year research project, published in 2018, from the Barna Group, highlights six reasons why young Christians leave Christianity. This project was comprised of eight national studies and interviews. The study of young adults focused on those who were regular churchgoers during their teen years.

Overall, the research uncovered six significant themes why nearly three out of every five young Christians (59%) disconnect either permanently or for an extended period of time from church life after age 15.

This first statistic is startling – just under 60% of all young Christians are leaving the faith. We aren't losing a generation – they are lost. The question now is, what do we do about it? Actual quotes of the study are in italic.

REASON #1 – Churches seem overprotective. *A few of the defining characteristics of today's teens and young adults are their unprecedented access to ideas and worldviews as well as their prodigious consumption of popular culture. As Christians, they express the desire for their faith in Christ to connect to the world they live in. However, much of their experience of Christianity feels stifling, fear-based and risk-averse. One-quarter of 18- to 29-year-olds said "Christians demonize everything outside of the church" (23% indicated this "completely" or "mostly" describes their experience). Other perceptions in this category include "church ignoring the problems of the real world" (22%) and "my church is too concerned that movies, music, and video games are harmful" (18%).*

The problem here? Young Christians aren't responding to the harmful parts of culture and analyzing them. Rather, they absorb them, accept them as valuable, and then have their faith tell them something different. The Church, in response, isn't forming them into disciples of Christ first, and then releasing them into the culture. Rather, we allow the culture to evangelize and form them. This means the prevailing culture has the upper-hand in guiding them where happiness is found.

REASON #2 – Teens' and twentysomethings' experience of Christianity is shallow. *A second reason that young people depart church as young adults is that something is lacking in their experience of church. One-third said "church is boring" (31%). One-quarter of these young adults said that*

"faith is not relevant to my career or interests" (24%) or that "the Bible is not taught clearly or often enough" (23%). Sadly, one-fifth of these young adults who attended a church as a teenager said that "God seems missing from my experience of church" (20%).

Too often we seek to "engage" teenagers instead of entering into their lives, so that we have the chance to challenge them to follow Jesus and live a life of faith. I am not proposing that the two are mutually exclusive (in fact they can't be if we do both successfully), but we do seem to have a desire to entertain teens more than anything else. This is also indicative of modern parenting. Too often parents do not model or teach the faith in the home. Do we need to make church relevant to the culture? Certainly. But, never at the expense of the Gospel and the call to mission, prayer, and holiness.

REASON #3 – Churches come across as antagonistic to science. *One of the reasons young adults feel disconnected from church or from faith is the tension they feel between Christianity and science. The most common of the perceptions in this arena is "Christians are too confident they know all the answers" (35%). Three out of ten young adults with a Christian background feel that "churches are out of step with the scientific world we live in" (29%). Another one-quarter embrace the perception that "Christianity is anti-science" (25%). And nearly the same proportion (23%) said they have "been turned off by the creation-versus-evolution debate." Furthermore, the research shows that many science-minded young Christians are struggling to find ways of staying faithful to their beliefs and to their professional calling in science-related industries.*

I don't think this is as big a problem in the Catholic Church as it is in fundamentalist, Pentecostal, and Evangelical Protestant denominations, but it is still an issue. Too many Catholics think of Galileo (as taught by anti-Catholics), contraception, and fetal stem cell research as anti-science issues. History shows that much of modern science has the Catholic Church to thank for the advancements we take for granted today. The Church believes science is a search for truth about the world God has given us, but is at the service of the good of humanity. We must not only ask "can we" but "ought we."

Why leave the Church?

Continued from page 1

REASON #4 – Young Christians’ church experiences related to sexuality are often simplistic, judgmental. Immersed in a culture that values hyper-sexuality over wholeness, teen and twenty-something Christians are struggling with how to live meaningful lives in terms of sex and sexuality. One of the significant tensions for many young believers is how to live up to the church’s expectations of chastity and sexual purity in this culture, especially as the age of marriage is now commonly delayed to the late twenties. Research indicates that most young Christians are as sexually active as their non-Christian peers, even though they are more conservative in their attitudes about sexuality. One-sixth of young Christians (17%) said they “have made mistakes and feel judged in church because of them.” The issue of sexuality is particularly salient among 18- to 29-year-old Catholics, among whom two out of five (40%) said the church’s “teachings on sexuality are out of date.”

When you don’t say “Yes” to sexuality, then you will only hear the Catholic message about sexuality as a big “NO”. But, this isn’t what the Church has ever taught. We teach that the NO to premarital sex, contraception, and other sexual sins is really a big “YES” to God, life, purity, chastity, healthy relationships, spiritual wholeness, bodily integrity, etc. But, if all a kid knows is NO, then the other stuff doesn’t make sense. The solution to this one is age-appropriate teaching of sexuality by parents, backed up by the Church’s teaching of Theology of the Body.

REASON #5 – They wrestle with the exclusive nature of Christianity. Younger Americans have been shaped by a culture that esteems open-mindedness, tolerance and acceptance. Today’s youth and young adults also are the most eclectic generation in American history in terms of race, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, technological tools and sources of authority. Most young adults want to find areas of common ground with each other, sometimes even if that means glossing over real differences. Three out of ten young Christians (29%) said “churches are afraid of the beliefs of other faiths” and an identical proportion felt they are “forced to choose between faith and friends.” One-fifth of young adults said “church is like a country club, only for insiders” (22%).

This certainly isn’t what the Catholic Church teaches, but it certainly is the message given to others by many believers. The Church is made up of sinners who can find common-ground with many other faiths. Certainly there are some exclusive claims in doctrine that are non-negotiable, but if we don’t teach the basis of what those are, then they are easy to shoot holes through. In addition, many parishes are not very welcoming and are hard to get involved in. The people of God should always be looking outward, not inward. Now, the final problem here is found in a culture where open-mindedness is esteemed more than truth. Relativism is to blame and we need to continue to fight this false philosophy at every turn.

REASON #6 – The church feels unfriendly to those who doubt. Young adults say they do not feel safe admitting that sometimes Christianity does not make sense. In addition, many feel that the church’s response to doubt is trivial. Some of the perceptions in this regard include not being able “to ask my most pressing life questions in church” (36%) and having “significant intellectual doubts about my faith” (23%). In a related theme of how churches struggle to help young adults who feel marginalized, about one out of every six young adults said their faith “does not help with depression or other emotional problems” they experience (18%).

Too often we sell Christianity to others as a package-deal – in other words, it seems we tell others they should accept every challenge Christianity has for them NOW or else. We have little patience for the free will of others to have doubts, fears, and different conclusions than our own. We need to be more open and patient when dealing with the struggles of others. Jesus didn’t get the apostles completely on board even after three years with them!

WHAT TO DO?

We need a change in several areas of our Church to recapture this generation of young people: We need to evangelize more and more effectively. We can’t wait for others to go and get young people, we need to do it ourselves. This is the purpose of the Church – to make disciples of all nations.

We need better Catholic parenting. Formation of parents should be the focus of our parishes. Then they in turn can form their children. This is what the universal church has always taught – evangelization, discipleship, and formation should focus on adults, not children. But, we get it backwards in our parishes. If we get the adults, we will get their kids too.

We need better youth ministry that is more about forming disciples of Christ. When I say formation, I do not mean more class time. Students get enough of that. But, when teaching social justice, take them to a soup kitchen. When teaching sexuality, have young married couples come model life for them. When teaching why the Incarnation is so important, bring them to Adoration. Teach them to pray. Teach them to love Jesus. Preach the Gospel, again, again, and again.

We need better campus ministries. Many campuses have nothing. Most have little. Only a few have good ministries and even these capture less than 50% of Catholics on-campus. We need more dynamic young adult ministries. We need something more than a singles’ group or young married couples groups.

All these are fine, when done well. But we need amazingly attractive ways of ministering to them that think outside of the box. Ultimately, we need people to deeply invest in others. Walking with another person, earning their trust, bringing them to conversion, helping them follow Jesus, etc. is hard and long-term work. But, it is just what the Lord taught us to do – pour our lives deeply into a few people.

Excerpted from the blog [Catholic Missionary Disciples](http://CatholicMissionaryDisciples.com) by Marcel LeJeune. catholicmissionarydisciples.com

All Things Considered

It's not uncommon for students and parents going through the Confirmation process to fall into the mind-set that Confirmation is the last step of their religious education, after which they "graduate" from having to be involved in the Church (or even having to attend Mass at all!).

So when the formation classes are over, the volunteer hours are complete, and the Sacrament of Confirmation has been administered . . . What's next? According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit – his actions, his gifts and his biddings – in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life." (1309)

Confirmation is the START of life as a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church, the Body of Christ. With that comes a greater responsibility, not only to share the faith but also to be a continuing example of the faith in and OUT of Church. It is that simple and that challenging.

All of us who are confirmed are called to go deeper and deeper into our faith so as to grow in our relationship with Christ and his Church.

It is important for all of us to realize that our catechesis will never end. We will continue to be filled with questions, but our faith will grow by leaps and bounds if we respond with an eager pursuit of the answers. Spend time studying and reflecting on the faith. In the process, discover more about yourself, your relationships, your God-given desires, and God himself. And we have a guide and helper dwelling inside of us — the Holy Spirit.

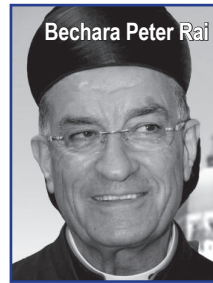
If anyone needs inspiration as to how this can happen, then read the prayers composed by our Confirmandi which you will find printed in this issue. They are some of the most inspirational expressions of trust and faith that you'll ever encounter.



Living on the lower east side of Detroit, it is inevitable that you have crossed paths with a number of Maronite Catholics. Historically, centered in Lebanon and Syria, the Maronite Church was formed by Syriac Christians who developed their own hierarchy and traditions from the mid-fourth century onwards. Migration over the course of the years has meant that most Maronites today live outside of the re-

gion where that church was born.

Just one year before St. Ambrose Parish was established, the Parish of St. Maron was founded on Congress street in downtown Detroit. In 1966, that parish moved to our western border – on Kercheval off of St. Jean street. Now, Maronite Catholics have expanded with a great parish in Clinton Township called St. Sharbel.



Outside of the Maronite liturgy being celebrated in an Arabic form of Aramaic, the only real difference between Maronites and Roman Catholics is that they belong to a different "Rite" inside the universal Catholic Church. Therefore, a Maronite can attend a Roman Mass and take Holy Communion and a Roman Catholic may do the same at a Maronite Liturgy. We both are in union with the Pope of Rome.

The head of the Maronite Rite world-wide is **His Beatitude Patriarch Bechara Peter Rai**. He is the Patriarch of Antioch and all the East. He will be making a pastoral visit to St. Sharbel on Tuesday, January 22nd for mass. The excitement emanating from our Maronite neighbors causes them to hold four days of prayers and parties between the 22nd and the 27th. For details go to www.stsharbelmichigan.com, or email the parish at stsharbelmichigan@gmail.com.

TRP

On January 12, 2019 as Bishop Thomas Gumbleton completed the Sacraments of Initiation for these young women and men of St. Ambrose, the gift and grace of the Holy Spirit was given in Confirmation to ...

- Lukas Joan of Arc Baer • Eleanor Joan of Arc Bernas • Jonathan Aloysius Biter
- James Patrick Dailey • Quinton Egan • Justin Lorenzo Flores
- Sophia Brigid Hugh • Meredith Francis Kramer • Madison Rose Kvintus • Kyle Rita Lorenzo
- Alexander Lutheran • Carrigan Sebastian McGraw • Henry Joseph McLean
- Maxwell Mitchell • Rebecca Dymphna Moin • Cullen Anthony O'Brien
- Emma Gianna Ottinger • Angelo Peter Profeta • Sarah Rose Riashi • Reagan Raphael Rybicki
- Rachel Dymphna Rybicki • Niall Jude Shine • Luke Swiatkowski • Julianna Perpetua Tague

Faith Formation Station

Our amazing group of confirmandi will be sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit this weekend, Saturday, January 12, 2019. It is my honor to share with you their heart-felt prayers to the Holy Spirit. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they continue their faith journey as confirmed members of our Church.

- Kelly Woolums, Director of Religious Education



Name

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

- I would simply like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- I desire to prepare for my Baptism into Christianity.
- I've been Baptized as a Christian and now desire to join in Catholic Communion.
- I'm non-Catholic, but married to a Catholic, and now wish to join the Catholic Church.
- I'm Catholic and I would like to complete my initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating Confirmation and/or Communion.
- I'm Baptized Catholic and would like to learn more about my faith and how to practice it.
- I want to propose someone for Catholic Church membership and offer to serve as their sponsor.
- I would be willing to help with an R.C.I.A. program.
- I have other needs, requests, and questions. Please contact me.

Return this to the Parish Rectory or place it in the Collection basket.

Dear Holy Spirit, on the day of my Confirmation grant me the Seven Gifts and help me to hold onto them forever. The Gift of Wisdom – that I can see God’s love in everything I do. The Gift of Counsel – that I can make difficult decisions while working alone and with my community. The Gift of Knowledge and Curiosity – that I will never stop learning and exploring. The Gift of Understanding – that I can walk in others’ shoes. The Gift of Courage – that I can live in faith despite difficulties and disappointments. The gift of Piety – that I can openly show my love to you and the people surrounding me. The Gift of Fear – that I can stay on the right path to God’s love and salvation. Amen. – **LUKAS BAER**

Come, Holy Spirit, thank you for your wisdom and guidance in picking my Patron Saint and Confirmation sponsor. Please bless my sponsor and her family. Please lead me on the right path in life. Help me to understand you better and grow in my faith. I have faith in you and will accept your will. Amen. – **ELEANOR BERNAS**

Come Holy Spirit, guide me through the light and the dark. Fill me with your love and assist me through this great step of faith. Help me love our God more strongly than assumed possible. Cleanse me of my sins as I step into your home. May I love my neighbors as I love myself and help them in times of need. O God, thank you for this wonderful life and this succession of faith. Amen.– **JONATHON BITER**

Dear God, fill my heart with love. Fill my will with courage. Forgive my sins. Let me serve. Thank you God for helping me believe. Amen.– **JAMES DAILEY**

Come Holy Spirit, Please guide me through this wonderful journey and I’d like to thank you for getting me this far. Also please push me and my classmates down the correct path and always keep you in my mind throughout my life. Thank you for all you have done and help me carry your rightness through my life. Amen. – **QUINTON EGAN**

Dear God, Thank you for always being there for me and blessing me with your love. Thank you for guiding me through my Catholic education all the way to my Confirmation. Please give me the power to stay faithful to the Church no matter what. Thank you for blessing me with my family and the guidance of my sponsor, Aunt Elizabeth. Amen.– **JUSTIN FLORES**

Oh Holy Spirit, You are light, grace, purity. You are love in its deepest form. Teach me with your immense understanding. Help me to trust in God, to follow and live for Him. We give you thanks and adore you. Amen.– **SOPHIA HUGH**

Come Holy Spirit, guide me through this journey. Be my flame that burns for others. Give me courage to do what is right. Set fire to the flame in my heart. Let me see the light of Jesus and be his face to others. Show me the path that I shall follow, so that I may lead a good Christian life. O Mary Mother of God, protect me from harms that may come my way. If I shall weep, be by my side. If I shall fall, help me up. And come the day I enter His Holy Kingdom, please welcome me with open arms. Amen. – **MEREDITH KRAMER**

Come Holy Spirit, our dear Lord who is wondrous and Almighty. Thank you for giving me life. Please I pray to always give me strength to be true to you, to myself and to others. Amen.– **MADISON KVINTUS**

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Journey of Hope

[God Is Love] Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (1Jn4:7).

We are so grateful to God who loves us unconditionally on our journey of hope because he has led us into the new breeze of 2019. The source of our strength is the unceasing courage to love God and our neighbor. This indeed is a tangible tool! How so? It is the possible road to heaven. Jesus teaches that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do it for him (Mt25:40). Today we are called to emulate Christ's generosity who has poured out his overflowing love for us. We are invited to discern and seek him daily in the Word made flesh. We are called to give thanks in the Eucharistic banquet as we rejoice continually because Christ who is our model has empowered us to cross over into his tremendous grace of delightful blessing.

Now if Jesus is our model, how do we live out his unconditional love? In order to respond appropriately to the above question is to draw on Jesus' words themselves. Jesus tells us to "love since I have loved you first." We are also expected to love our neighbor. In fact, Fr. Timothy Pelc recalled in a homily that St. John the Evangelist legendarily repeated a homily at Mount Patmos in which he simply said: My beloved Children love one another. St. Basil the Great added: "The Lord does not say that the proof of his disciples' faithfulness will be the working of wondrous miracles....What does he tell them? You shall be known as my disciples if you love one another." Jesus shares his love by serving people. Jesus models for us a lifestyle of love, hospitality and service. The early apostles and church fathers are long gone. Christ has no body or hands. We are the body of Christ. We become the hands and legs of Jesus as we witness to save souls and transform a world torn by conflict, injustice and hatred into a hopeful paradise.

We welcome the affectionate gift that flows from the authority of Christ through the unction of the Holy Spirit. Because each religious community follows Jesus, we are all under the umbrella of God's divine supremacy. This command seems new because it is a command to live out the unconditional love of Jesus, which contains the power of love for one another. St. Augustine observed that "Love has hands to help others, it has feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. This is what love looks like." Out of love, Jesus becomes a servant in his human/divine identity and in his everyday deeds of compassion. Love and compassion are powerful tools of Christ. Thus, Christ invites us to love in order to have the power to hold fast to His enduring affection. Therefore, the basis of our relationship with Jesus is to embrace this divine love that Jesus demonstrated. Therefore, as we continue to grow in Christ's victorious love on our Journey of Hope, we also embody this sacrament of love.

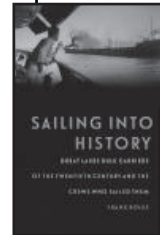
Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM Cap.

Spiritual Health for the New Year

On Saturday, January 26th, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., you are invited to participate in a variety of prayer experiences designed to refresh your spirit and provide tools to enrich your spiritual journey throughout the coming year . . . at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center.

Janene Ternes will be the presenter. As we begin the New Year we often make resolutions for improving our physical health. The state of our spirit is even more important to our health and well-being, but we fail to think about ways to strengthen it. Basic movements will be taught which can be done by anyone, regardless of age, experience, or physical limitation. \$50 per person includes a delicious hot lunch. Register online or by phone (313) 286-2800 or at www.stpaulretreat.org.

Marcellina's Book Club



The Great Lakes create a vast transportation network that supports a massive shipping industry. In [Sailing into History: Great Lakes Bulk Carriers of the Twentieth Century and the Crews Who Sailed Them](#), Frank Boles

relates seamanship, cargo, competition, cooperation, technology, engineering, business, unions, government decisions, and international agreements in a story of unrivaled interest.

We are in the process of connecting with the author to see when he can pay our book club a visit. That date will be announced here. In the meantime, pick up a copy of the book and get a headstart in reading this important work which was one of this year's twenty Notable Book Honorees by the State Library of Michigan.

The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the St. Ambrose Catholic Community Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

Assistant: Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM, Cap

Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski

Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums

Minister of Music: Dr. Norah Duncan IV

Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and

infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

Email address: stambrose@comcast.net

Religious Education: (313) 332-5633

Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, January 14

8:30 a.m. - Morning prayer

Tuesday, January 15

8:30 a.m. - Msgr. Lawrence (Scotty) Graven

Wednesday, January 16

8:30 a.m. - Morning prayer

Thursday, January 17

St. Anthony, abbot

8:30 a.m. - Mass - John Huffman

Friday, January 18

10:00 a.m. - Funeral - Sandra DeFour

Saturday, January 19

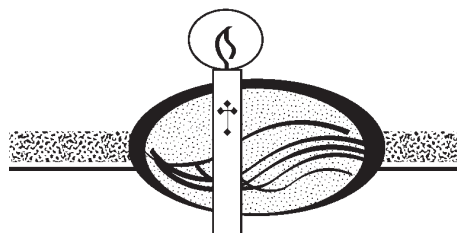
10:00 a.m. - Funeral - Mary Oberly

Sunday, January 20

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. - For All People

11:15 a.m. - For All People



Scriptures for the First Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, January 14

- Heb 1: 1-6
- Ps 97: 1, 2b, 6,7c, 9
- Mk 1: 14-20

Tuesday, January 15

- Heb 2: 5-12
- Ps 8: 2a, 5-9
- Mk 1: 21-28

Wednesday, January 16

- Heb 2: 14-18
- Ps 105: 1-4, 6-9
- Mk 1: 29-39

Thursday, January 17

- Heb 3: 7-14
- Ps 95: 6-11
- Mk 1: 40-45

Friday, January 18

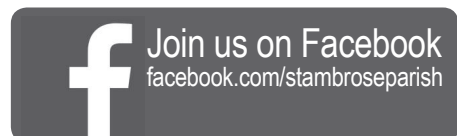
- Heb 4: 1-5, 11
- Ps 78: 3, 4bc, 6c-8
- Mk 2: 13-17

Saturday, January 19

- Heb 4: 12-16
- Ps 19: 8-10, 15
- Mk 2: 13-17

Sunday, January 20

- Is 62: 1-15
- 1 Cor 12: 4-11
- Jn 2: 1-11



The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 19th and January 20th

4:00 p.m. - Celebrant: Bp. Gumbleton **Lector:** Mary Urbanski
Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Della Cimini, Matthew Strong
Altar Servers: Andrew & Joseph Strong

8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Karlos Haynes
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Colleen Gatzke, Christopher Harrison,
 Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson, Steve Linne
Altar Servers: Erica, Corey, & Carrigan McGraw

11:15 a.m. - Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Michele Hodges
Eucharistic Ministers: Maria Cox-Borkowski, Joseph Hugh,
 Janis Ramsey, Cristina Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden
Altar Servers: Malvina Lubanski, Liam O'Byrne

Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

On Sunday, January 6, 2019

in envelopes we received \$5,622.00

in the loose collection \$744.00

in electronic donations \$1,390.00

for a total of..... **\$7,756.00**

Under budget for the week..... **\$2,344.00**

Number of envelopes mailed..... 900

Number of envelopes used..... 128

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” (Luke 3:16)

The Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” As baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – ourselves. Allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Karen Culver, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Arthur Stoyshin, Anna Noto Billings, Vilma Rivers, Vilma Marone, Eileen O’Brien, Martha Luna, Dina Engels, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Betty Greenia, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Darby O’Toole, Frank Gregory, Josephine DeCastris, Alex Billiu, Albina Checki, Gladys Bogos, Evan Tanner, Lou Rondini, Wayne Wallrich and Stephanie Sheets.

Vincentian Reflection

After Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a voice was heard saying “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” When we give and help our neighbors in need, we can hear our heavenly Father saying these same words to us. When you help those in need, know that you are a sign of God’s love to those who live in poverty and you give them reason to believe and trust in God’s love.

After the Christmas holidays the needs of the poor still continue. Regularly contribute to the parish SVdP.

G:ivelify

- Donations to our church have never been so easy!
- Give tithes and offerings from your smartphone
- Donate anytime, anywhere
- Track your donations
- Make us your home church on Givelify
- Free to download and use






givelify.com/app



GET IT ON
Google play



Download on the
App Store

Formation Station Confirmandi Prayers

continued from page 4

I adore you O Lord for your great power and everlasting love. Thank you for giving me life so that I may experience the joys of your wonderful creation. O God, bless those who do not believe, may their hearts be open to receive your word. Protect children from the cruelty of this world. Glory to you O Lord, for you are a merciful God. Only through you I may be saved. Amen. – **KYLE LORENZO**

Come, Holy Spirit pray for me. Watch over and guide me in my preparation for Confirmation. I want to follow in God's footsteps and have Him at the center of my life. I give thanks to God daily for everything He has given to me including my health, spiritual upbringing and the good life that He has provided me. I adore God for all that He is and believe that He has a plan for me in this world that I intend to follow. Come Holy Spirit, fill my heart with love and kindness and show me the way, the truth and the light. Amen. – **ALEXANDER LUTHERAN**

Come, Holy Spirit. You are so great within our hearts. You provide love and care for all among the world. Please help those who need love but do not ask. And please give me strength to persevere through bad times. Thank you for being by my side at all times. I praise you and pray that I will continue to learn and follow in your footsteps. Amen. – **HENRY MCLEAN**

Come, Holy Spirit, help me get through this time. Guide me to be the best I can be and help others to be their best. Thank you for guiding me this far and please use your wisdom to guide me through Confirmation – to respect God and my peers through this wonderful journey. Guide me to successes. Dear Father for everything you've done for me and thank you for confirming me. Amen. – **MAXWELL MITCHELL**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with your gifts of the Holy Spirit. Let these gifts be mine and others' guide to a true and faithful life. O God, strengthen your faithful with the 12 Fruits of the Holy Spirit. I am forever grateful for you putting me on the earth to help live by and spread your word. Amen. – **REBECCA MOIN**

Come Holy Spirit and give us power to overcome the daily problems in our lives. Thank you for giving me and my family the power to overcome challenges from our daily lives. May you do such for the future. Please forgive me for sinning against you and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Please give my family happiness to continue through our lives. Amen. – **CULLEN O'BRIEN**

Come, Holy Spirit please give me your blessing as I complete my becoming part of the Church. May God forever hold me in his heart as I do for him. May you bless me and

my sins as I may occasionally disobey you. And I thank God for all the good in my life from the past, present, and future. I would like to bless my other confirmands as we take this step in our faith together. I thank you God for all you are. Amen. – **EMMA OTTINGER**

Come, Holy Spirit, pray for me as I continue my journey with God. I am thankful for all the amazing opportunities I have been given in my religious and academic teachings. God please send down your love to all those who struggle to find their faith during this time. Help me to continue being the face of God to others. Amen. – **SARAH RIASHI**

Come Holy Spirit, bless me as I enter this Confirmation process. Bless all those who have helped me throughout this journey and who have helped me connect more with my faith. I pray for those close to me who struggle or who are having a hard time. Bless my sister, let her feel loved for she has gone through this whole process with me and deserves all the love you can give. Dear Lord, please help me to be my best self every day, to always make the right choices, and to be able to enjoy all the blessings you have given me. Almighty Father, creator of heaven and earth, thank you for guiding me along the path of Confirmation. Amen. – **RACHEL RYBICKI**

Come Holy Spirit, help to fill my heart more and more each day with love. Please bless me and help bring me peace as I continue to grow and love you more everyday. I thank you for the life you have given me thus far, and I am so grateful to live my life through God in new ways soon. Please help me to do what God would want me to do as I prepare for Confirmation. Please help me be to him what he is to me. I feel ready, please help me know and fill my heart with the feeling of "I am." Amen. – **RAEGAN RYBICKI**

Thank you Lord for everything you have done for me. Thank you for sacrificing for me. Lord I ask you to help me with decisions in life, protect my family and friends. Lord I ask you to please give me blessings as I give out blessings to others. Please help everyone who has lost a close family member or friend and anyone going through hard times, and bless people questioning your existence. Amen. – **NIAL SHINE**

Come, Holy Spirit, Come. Holy Spirit, Dynamic Person of Love, I know that the Father is You. I know that He sent you to the apostles so that they could become missionaries. Come to me, in the same way, so that I may be a missionary disciple, too. Set my heart on fire. I ask, as well, that you come thundering down upon my fellow confirmandi and the people of this parish. Fill us with your love. We thank the Father for His Mercy. We bless Him, adore Him, glorify Him. Remember your people, and set us on fire. I ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ, the light and love of my life. Amen. – **JULIANNA TAGUE**