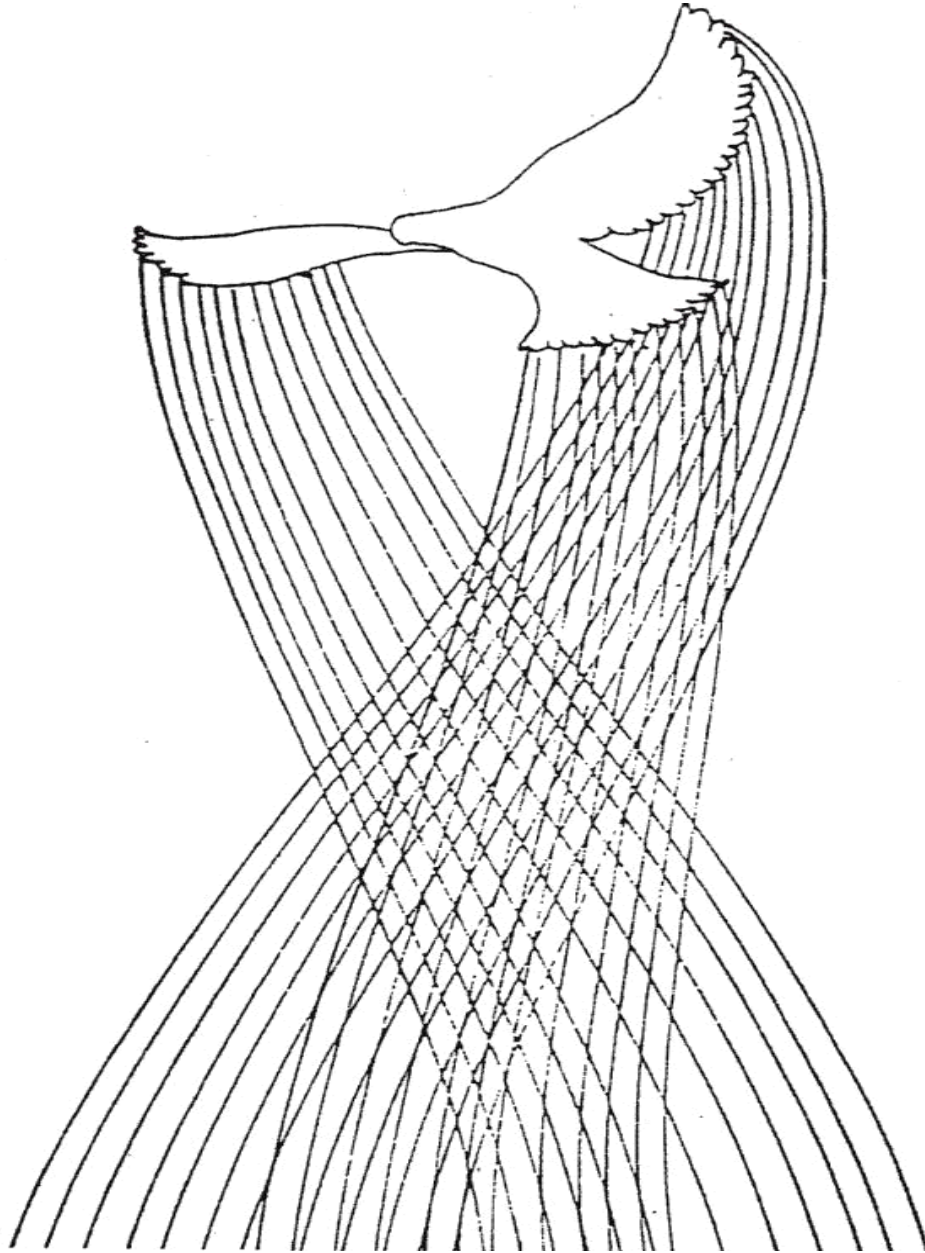


CONFIRMATION

Be Sealed With the Gifts of The Spirit



TRANSFIGURATION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Confirmation Resource Book

Transfiguration Parish is nearing the end of the very special process to prepare young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation completes the process of initiation into the Church and sets the newly confirmed on the way of Jesus.

Over the coming months, teens will be doing much reflecting, sharing, praying, celebrating, caring and growing. Transfiguration is committed to supporting these young people every step of the way.

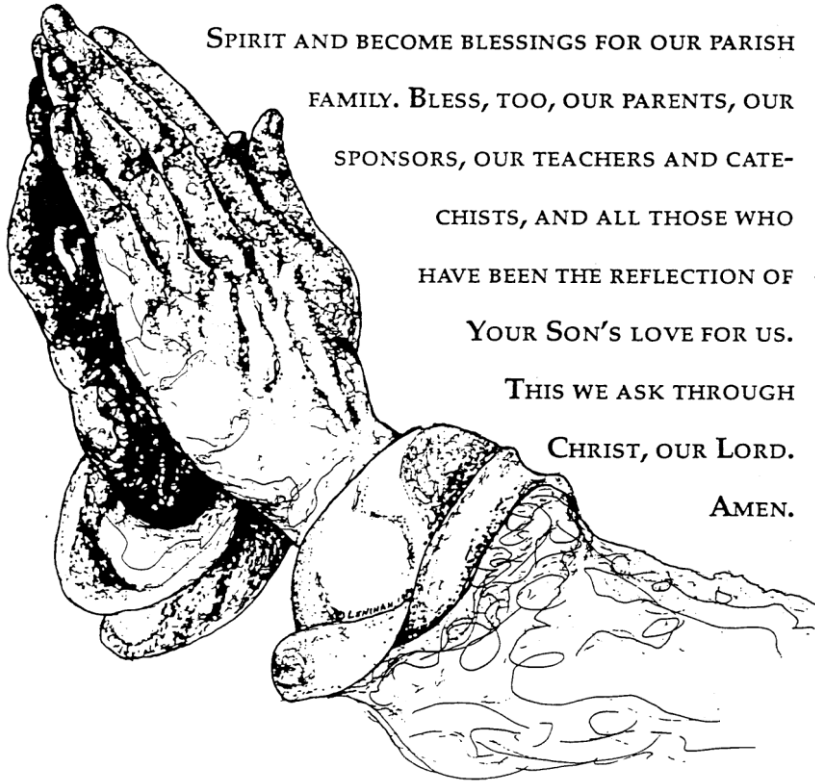
On behalf of Transfiguration Parish, we welcome your family to the Confirmation Program and pray that you and your teen will have many positive experiences.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen and guide you.



CONFIRMATION PRAYER

GOD, OUR FATHER, WE ASK YOU TO BLESS ALL CANDIDATES WHO ARE NOW PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LOVE IN THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION. MAY THE GIFTS WITHIN EACH ONE BE TOUCHED BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT AND BECOME BLESSINGS FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY. BLESS, TOO, OUR PARENTS, OUR SPONSORS, OUR TEACHERS AND CATECHISTS, AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN THE REFLECTION OF YOUR SON'S LOVE FOR US. THIS WE ASK THROUGH CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN.



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CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a sacrament in which those who have been baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, whom the Lord sent upon His apostles at Pentecost. It is a sacrament that celebrates God's special strengths and gifts in those who have been baptized.

In 1972, the Church published The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). The RCIA stresses the connections between the three sacraments of Christian initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist.

- In Baptism, a person becomes a Christian and receives grace and life from the Holy Spirit.
- In Confirmation, the baptismal vows are renewed and the sealing of the Spirit serves as a preparation for a mature Christian life.
- In Eucharist, the great sign of Christian unity, the faithful are nourished and strengthened. They are transformed into a more loving and united community of believers.

Through these sacramental rites, the faithful are officially acknowledged as Christians. They are commissioned to carry out the mission of Christ and His Church.

Confirmation is a parish community celebration. It provides an opportunity for members of the parish family to renew their baptismal commitment. Confirmation is a time in the parish when the community celebrates the gifts of the Holy Spirit among us.

It is not enough for the candidates (those eligible and preparing for Confirmation) to sit back and learn about faith from the words of a catechist or from a book. They must go out and see for themselves how the Holy Spirit is at work in the community. Confirmation preparation is the chance for them to find how the gifts of the Holy Spirit are at work every day. This also helps the candidate to be open to receiving these spiritual gifts in a special way at their Confirmation.

Pentecost saw the Holy Spirit given to the fledgling group of people that was the Church. Peter and the others had now experienced both the presence of the Risen Jesus and His Holy Spirit. These remarkable experiences fired them to begin immediately spreading the Good News that Jesus was Lord. He had risen from the dead. God is the God of welcome and love, and the power of God is available to *everybody* through the coming of the Spirit.

GIFTS AND FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help Christians live their lives more fully committed to Christ.

These gifts are

Wisdom

Right Judgment

Knowledge

Understanding

Courage

Wonder & Awe

Reverence for God

From the Gifts of the Holy Spirit come the Fruits:

Charity

Modesty

Faithfulness

Goodness

Joy

Peace

Chastity

Generosity

Gentleness

Patience

Kindness

Self-control

ELIGIBILITY

The Archdiocese of Atlanta has set 10th grade as the minimum age for Confirmation. Confirmation is a two-year process.

Unconfirmed students currently enrolled in ChrisTeen 10th, 11th, or 12th grade classes, who have successfully completed religious education requirements for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, are eligible for Confirmation in 2024.

ROLE OF THE PARENT(S)

Parents play a vital role in their children's continuing initiation into full membership in the Christian community. Parents of Confirmation candidates:

- Are the primary educators of their children
- Represent the Church by showing their child Christian example and the importance of faith
- Are responsible for initiating their children into the sacramental life
- Serve as models for their child by being committed Christians
- Encourage their child to worship with the parish community
- Nurture their child in faith
- Should encourage their child to reflect on and thoughtfully consider the decision to receive the sacrament of Confirmation
- Are asked to attend meetings and programs that are planned to help their child prepare for the sacrament
- Are not permitted as Confirmation sponsors for their own child
- Are asked to assist their child with the immediate preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation through prayer, study, and Christian service
- Should stress the initiation aspect of the sacrament by encouraging their children to continue learning more about their faith
- Should help their child in understanding that Confirmation service activities are the beginning of a life committed to Christian service
- Attend the Rite of Inscription Mass with their child
- Encourage their child to participate in ChrisTeen activities
- Commit to daily prayer for the candidates

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.*



ROLE OF THE TEEN

As candidates continue preparing for Confirmation, they must:

- Listen attentively and participate willingly in religious education
- Respect each other's points of view
- Ask questions – this helps to develop a more mature understanding of Christian beliefs and make their own commitment stronger
- Attend Mass weekly
- Invite a practicing Catholic to be their Confirmation sponsor (see the “Sponsor” section (pages 7-8) of this handbook for details)
- Participate in the Antioch Retreat
- Complete the Confirmation Journal
- Be interviewed by a member of the Parish Staff or Catechetical Team
- Remain an active part of the Catholic community, continuing to learn about and practice their faith

REGISTRATION

Each candidate must submit a completed registration form. Additional copies can be obtained in the ChrisTeen office or completed online, www.transfiguration.com/education/grades-6-12/confirmation. Completed registration forms are due to the ChrisTeen office June 25. Incomplete registrations will not be processed and will be returned to you for completion. See the “Baptism” section (page 5) and “Sponsor” section (pages 6-7) of this handbook for additional information.

BAPTISM

Candidates not baptized at Transfiguration must supply a copy of their baptismal certificate with their registration form. If the candidate received First Eucharist at Transfiguration, please check with the ChrisTeen Office to check if we have a copy of the baptismal certificate. Canon law requires Transfiguration to notify the church of baptism (also known as the Church of Record) of Confirmation.

If candidates do not have a baptismal certificate, contact the church where the baptism took place. They can mail, or fax (770-578-1415) to Transfiguration or scan and email the certificate to kpaonessa@transfiguration.com.

CONFIRMATION NAME

If the candidate's baptismal name is that of a recognized saint of the Church, there is no need to select a new name for Confirmation. Using the baptismal name for Confirmation is preferred because it highlights the relationship between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

If the candidate chooses to take a new name for Confirmation, however, it should be a name selected in honor of Jesus or Mary or from the list of recognized saints of the Catholic Church. Names of saints are chosen to serve as patrons and models for those being confirmed. Candidates should choose a patron whose Christian life and virtues can be imitated. Candidates may also choose the saint who celebrates their Feast Day on the candidate's birthday, i.e. the Feast of St. Joseph is March 19.

SPONSOR

A sponsor is required for the candidate being confirmed. Canon 872 and 874 of the Code of Canon Law lists those requirements for the valid and lawful sponsorship in Confirmation:

- The sponsor's role is to assist the person in Christian initiation.
- The sponsor's role is, together with the parents, to present the child for the sacrament and help him/her to live a life befitting a baptized Catholic Christian.

A Sponsor:

1. Must be mature enough to undertake this responsibility.
2. Must have received the three sacraments of initiation, namely Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
3. Must be not less than 16 years of age.
4. Must know the fundamental truths of the Faith and be a practicing Catholic who goes to Mass on Sunday, receives the sacraments regularly, and sees to the religious instruction of his/her family.
5. Must be a member of the Catholic Church, canonically free to carry out this office. (This would indicate that Catholics publicly living in an invalid marriage (not according to the Church regulations) and those who are cohabiting (living together without marriage) are ineligible.)
6. Must not be father or mother of the one confirmed.
7. If the sponsor is in high school, they should lead by example and be participating in their own faith formation in ChrisTeen small groups or attending Catholic High School.

Requirements for a Proxy are the same as those listed above for a sponsor, with the exception of number six.

Being a sponsor is not just an honor given to a good friend or relative. Sponsorship implies a real appreciation of the faith, a practice of the same, and a sense of responsibility toward the person being confirmed.

Parents cannot be sponsors for their own children because they are already the child's most important teacher.

The first choice for a Confirmation sponsor would be one of the candidate's godparents, to show the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation. If this is not possible, a second choice would be a confirmed Catholic whom the candidate admires and who bears witness to the Gospel in his or her everyday life. If the sponsor is a high school student, he or she must be participating in a formal religious education program. It is important to lead by example.

There may be one or two sponsors, and sponsors do not have to be the same gender as the candidate. Ideally, the sponsor should be a member of the candidate's parish. If the sponsor is NOT a member of Transfiguration, a Certificate of Eligibility is required with the candidate's registration form (see Appendix A of this handbook for a sample certificate).

A sponsor also plays a vital role in the candidate's continuing initiation into full membership in the Christian community. A sponsor of a Confirmation candidate

- Supports the candidate in their commitment to a Christian life
- Must know the candidate and be willing to serve as a strong and long-lasting Christian influence on the candidate
- May help the candidate prepare for Confirmation
- Must be reasonably informed on current Church teachings
- Presents the candidate to the Archbishop during the Confirmation Mass
- When you invite someone to be your sponsor, share with them why you selected them.
- Share the dates and times of the rehearsal and the Confirmation Mass
- Share the expectations of sponsors:

Confirmation Sponsor Expectations:

- Open the lines of communication with your candidate to discuss faith issues
- Share your own faith journey with the candidate
- Show your support through prayer and good works
- Be a role model through the example of your life as an adult Catholic, especially through weekly participation in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist
- If you are not a member of Transfiguration Church, a Certificate of Eligibility from your parish is required
- Participate in the celebration of Confirmation (rehearsal and Mass).

If questions arise, please feel free to contact Joyce Guris at jguris@transfiguration.com or 770-977-1442 ext. 155.

ANTIOCH RETREAT

Each candidate must attend the Antioch Retreat. The retreat consists of instruction, reflection, prayer and activities. The retreat is held off site. The retreat is typically held over MLK weekend. See the website for details, <https://transfiguration.com/faith-formation/grades-6-12/confirmation/>

5:00 pm Friday

Returning to Transfiguration for 5:00 pm Mass, Sunday

The retreat ends after Mass with a reception following in Bishop Hall.

CONFIRMATION JOURNAL

Each candidate must complete and submit the Confirmation Journal by Sunday, October 29, 2023. Fall Service Summary is due by December 3, 2023. Completed sections or pages can be completed online or e-mailed at any time once they are completed. Incomplete journals will not be processed and the candidate's Confirmation may be delayed. The Journal is online, www.transfiguration.com/education/grades-6-12/confirmation<http://www.transfiguration.com/confirmationcorner>. Printed copies can be downloaded or obtained in the ChrisTeen office.

INTERVIEWS

Confirmation candidates will be interviewed by a member of the Parish Staff or Catechetical Team. The interview will last approximately 15 minutes. The purpose of this interview is for the candidates to share their service experiences and discern their call to Confirmation. In January 2024, you will receive an email from Sign-Up Genius, to schedule your interview. See Appendix B of this handbook for sample interview questions.

INSCRIPTION MASS

The Rite of Inscription Mass is entering the final step of preparation for Confirmation. Those who will be inscribed will be those who have made the commitment to be active, fully participating Catholic Christians and who desire to be confirmed. At this Mass, the parish community will pray that God will guide the candidates to the completion of their initiation in the Church. From then on, their names will

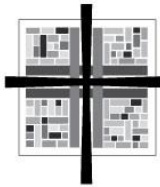
be before the parish community for prayer. Parents will present their children with a cross as a sign of our faith and a reminder to be in constant contact with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Parents will pick up the cross in the church foyer before the 5:00 pm Mass on the Sunday of the Inscription Mass. (Once the date for Confirmation is determined, the Inscription Mass date will be scheduled.)

CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL AND MASS

Attendance at rehearsal is mandatory for the candidate and their sponsor (or proxy).

Confirmation is a special occasion celebrated in church. Please dress appropriately. Gentlemen may wear suits, khakis with a button-down shirt and tie or sweater, etc. Young ladies may wear dresses, skirts, or dress slacks. Jeans, spaghetti strap, strapless dress or top, t-shirts, and immodest clothing are NOT appropriate. Each candidate will receive a corsage on the evening of Confirmation.

The Archbishop or Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta or our pastor, Fr. Eric, will lead us in the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. To maintain the sacred nature of this time and place, photography and video equipment are not permitted in the church. Mass celebrants will be available for pictures in Bishop Hall following Mass. The Mass will be streamed. (If you have family members who cannot attend the Mass, let them know it is broadcast live from www.transfiguration.com.)



The Catholic Church of the
TRANSFIGURATION
 Welcome ▪ Celebrate ▪ Grow ▪ Serve

Confirmation Sponsor Form

Congratulations on being asked to be a Confirmation Sponsor! By accepting this role, you are committing to play a significant role in this person’s life, sharing the faith and encouraging him/her in his/her journey as a Catholic. Please take the completed form to your parish and have it signed and sealed by the pastor or their representative. Once complete, please return this form to the parents.

Name of confirmand: _____
First, Middle and Last Name

Sponsor: _____
First, Middle and Last Name

Sponsor’s Home Phone _____ Sponsor’s Cell Phone _____

Name of Sponsor’s Catholic Parish: _____
Parish Name, City, and State

Qualifications of a Confirmation Sponsor

In accord with Canon Law 874, please provide the following information. If you do not meet all these requirements, please let the parents know immediately.

1. A Sponsor must be at least 16 years old or, if younger, have permission from the Bishop. Do you meet this age requirement? Yes ___ No ___
2. A Sponsor must be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Please indicate whether you have received the three Sacraments of Initiation:
Baptized: Yes ___ No ___ Confirmed in the Catholic Church: Yes ___ No ___ First Eucharist: Yes ___ No ___
3. A Sponsor cannot be a parent of the child to be baptized. Are you a parent of the child? Yes ___ No ___
4. A Sponsor must be a practicing Catholic. Do you attend Mass on Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation, regularly receive the sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation and, if married, have a marriage that is recognized by the Catholic Church? Yes ___ No ___
5. As a Sponsor, are you willing to support the parents and the confirmand on their spiritual journey? Yes ___ No ___

I have truthfully answered the above questions and declare that I fulfill the Catholic Church’s requirements of a Sponsor. I commit to the responsibility of acting as a Sponsor.

 Confirmation Sponsor Signature Date

The person who has signed this form above has testified that they fulfill all canonical requirements to serve as a Confirmation Sponsor in the Catholic Church. To be signed and sealed by the Sponsor’s Parish of Record:

 Signature of Sponsor’s Pastor or Pastor’s Designee Date

(Parish Seal)

Appendix B

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Please reflect on and consider the following questions. In the interview, you will not have to answer all these questions. They are simply to help you focus on important beliefs, characteristics, etc. of your faith life.

1. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus Christ? With God?
2. What does it mean to be a follower of Christ?
3. What are the characteristics of a faithful Catholic Christian?
4. What activities or ministries in the parish or community have you helped out with? Do you have gifts or talents leading you to a particular ministry in the parish community?
5. How much a part of your life is prayer?
6. How much a part of your life is reading the Bible?
7. How much a part of your life is weekly Mass?
8. Is the pattern of celebrating Mass every week the center of your life as a Catholic Christian?
9. What two suggestions would you make to improve the celebration of the Mass by Transfiguration parish community?
10. What two actions can you take to improve your participation in Mass?
11. What has your experience of PREP/ChrisTeen been like? What ideas or suggestions can you make?
12. Why do you want to be confirmed?
13. What name did you choose for Confirmation and why? If a saint, why that saint? When is his/her feast day? Tell something about that saint.
14. Name 3-4 of the Ten Commandments.
15. Name the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. (Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Right judgment, Courage, Reverence, and Wonder and awe in God's presence)
16. Name the seven sacraments. Which are the Sacraments of Initiation?
17. Name 2 of the 5 Holy Days (All Saints, New Years/Solemnity of Mary, Assumption of Mary, Immaculate Conception, Christmas)

Appendix C

REVIEW TOPICS

The following topics should already be familiar. Parents and sponsors should assist candidates in reviewing this material.

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord, your God; you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Laws of the Church

- To assist at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation
- To fast and abstain on the days appointed
- To confess our sins at least once a year
- To receive Eucharist during the Easter time
- To contribute to the support of the Church
- To observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage
- To contribute to the missionary efforts of the Church

Sacraments

of Initiation:

- Baptism
- Eucharist
- Confirmation

of Healing:

- Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick

of Service:

- Matrimony
- Holy Orders

God's Two Great Commandments

The basis of all law (your rule of life) rests on two commandments: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself".

Matthew 22:37, 39

Corporal Works of Mercy

To feed the hungry
To give drink to the thirsty
To clothe the naked
To visit the imprisoned
To shelter the homeless
To care for the sick
To bury the dead

Spiritual Works of Mercy

To correct the sinner
To teach the ignorant
To counsel the doubtful
To comfort the sorrowful
To bear wrongs patiently
To forgive all injuries
To pray for the living and the dead

Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blessed are the meek,
for they shall possess the earth.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst
for justice, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called Children of God.
Blessed are those who suffer persecution for justice's sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Or the shorter version of the Beatitudes

Happy are those who need God.
Happy are those with self-control.
Happy are those who are sorry for sin.
Happy are those who hunger and thirst for holiness.
Happy are the merciful.
Happy are those who love with all their heart.
Happy are the peacemakers.
Happy are those who suffer for doing what is right.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

1 Corinthians 2:10

