



What is Confirmation?

- Confirmation is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a powerful way. In Confirmation we receive the fullness of the Spirit, which was given to us at Baptism. Grace, God's own life in us, is first received at Baptism; is increased each time we receive the Eucharist; and increases again as the Holy Spirit is strengthened in us at Confirmation.
- We receive the same Holy Spirit the apostles received at Pentecost. The Spirit comes with all the powerful gifts received by the apostles. That same Holy Spirit gives us those gifts so that we can be public witnesses to Christ as we live out our Catholic faith through prayer, service and worship in our daily lives.
- Confirmation celebrates God's presence in our lives as the Holy Spirit continues to guide, strengthen and empower us to live and witness the Good News of Jesus Christ. Confirmation completes Baptism.
- Confirmation makes us more completely the image of the Lord as the anointing with chrism makes us other "Christs", disciples who continually strive to be more like Him.
- So, Confirmation is:
 - A sacrament
 - A chance to deepen our involvement in our parish faith community
 - An outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - An invitation to deepen your prayer life
 - A challenge to build up the Body of Christ through further formation, service, evangelization and worship
 - A call to be witnesses of Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith.

Important Definitions

- Sacrament: Visible sign of God's love and presence in our lives. Sacraments give sanctifying grace.
- Sanctifying Grace: God's own life within us; Grace helps us to be holy.
- Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist: When we have received all three, we are fully initiated members of the Holy Catholic Church.
- Formation: Learning about the Catholic faith
- Service: Things we do for Christ, in the disguise of someone else... "When you did it for the least of your brothers you did it for me..."
- Evangelization: Telling others the good news of Jesus Christ...that He loves us, He died for our sins, and He rose to new life, giving each of us the chance to go to heaven
- Holy Spirit: the third person of the Holy Trinity—The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit
- Gifts of the Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Knowledge, Courage, Reverence, Wonder and Awe in God's Presence. They help us to know what is right, and to do what is right.
- Disciple- a follower of Jesus Christ

What happens at Confirmation?

- Renewal of our Baptismal Promises, first promised by our parents and godparents
- Anointing on the forehead with the holy oil called Sacred Chrism
- The Laying on of Hands by the bishop or his delegate