



Catholic Order of Confirmation

Prayer to be open to the Holy Spirit

Lord God, Holy Spirit,

Fill me with your seven-fold Gifts of

wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, reverence and wonder
of who you are and all that you have done.

Put words of fire in my mouth, that through them others may be filled with the power of your love.

Give me the task and mission to bring others to know and follow Jesus.

Empower us all through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,

so we may be faithful disciples, loving you and our neighbor as you command.

Amen.

Order of Confirmation



Through the sacrament of Confirmation, those who have been baptized are strengthened by the Holy Spirit and called to make a stronger commitment to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

In the Rite of Confirmation, the bishop anoints the head of the candidate with oil called “Sacred Chrism” and says: “***Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit***”.

The sacrament of Confirmation is most often celebrated within a Mass. The Mass progresses in the regular way through the Liturgy of the Word. After the Gospel proclamation, the bishop is seated and the Confirmation candidates are presented. Each candidate is called by name and stands, together with their Confirmation Sponsor.

Gospel Reading

Presentation of the Candidates

Candidates and Sponsors stand at their place when name is called

Homily

Renewal of Baptismal Promises:

Candidates and Sponsors stand together and stay at their place.

Bishop: **Do you renounce Satan and all his works and empty promises?**

Candidates: I do.

Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Candidates: I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Candidates: I do.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation is given to you in a special way just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?

Candidates: I do.

Do you believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Candidates: I do.

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Laying on of Hands:

Candidates and Sponsors stay standing at their place.

Bishop: **Dearly beloved,
Let us pray to God the almighty Father,
for these, his adopted sons and daughters,
already born again to eternal life in Baptism,
that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit
upon them to confirm them with his abundant gifts,
and through his anointing conform them more fully
to Christ, the Son of God.**

All pray in silence for a short time.

Then the Bishop extends his hands over them saying:

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who brought these your servants to new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit
freeing them from sin:
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,
the spirit of knowledge and piety;
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Candidates and Sponsors come forward to the Bishop for the Anointing with Sacred Chrism.

The Anointing with Chrism:

Bishop: **N., be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**
Candidate: Amen.
Bishop: **Peace be with you.**
Candidate: And with your spirit.



**“Confirmation brings an increase
and deepening of baptismal grace;
it roots us more deeply in the divine
filiation which makes us cry,
“Abba! Father!”**

**it unites us more firmly to Christ,
it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us,
it renders us a special strength of the
Holy Spirit to spread and defend the
faith by word and action...”**

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303

WHAT DOES THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SAY ABOUT THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

The Effects of Confirmation

1302 - It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

1303 - From this fact, **Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:**

- it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";
- it unites us more firmly to Christ;
- it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- it renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross:

Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts.

1304 - Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark, the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness.

1305 - This "character" perfects the common priesthood of the faithful, received in Baptism, and "the confirmed person receives the power to profess faith in Christ publicly and as it were officially (quasi ex officio)."

Who can receive this Sacrament?

1306 - Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that "the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time, "for without Confirmation and Eucharist, Baptism is certainly valid and efficacious, but Christian initiation remains incomplete.

1307 - The Latin tradition gives "**the age of discretion**" as the reference point for receiving Confirmation. But in danger of death children should be confirmed even if they have not yet attained the age of discretion.

1308 - Although Confirmation is sometimes called the "sacrament of Christian maturity," we must not confuse adult faith with the adult age of natural growth, nor forget that the baptismal grace is a grace of free, unmerited election and does not need "ratification" to become effective. St. Thomas reminds us of this:

Age of body does not determine age of soul. Even in childhood man can attain spiritual maturity: as the book of Wisdom says: "For old age is not honored for length of time, or measured by number of years. "Many children, through the strength of the Holy Spirit they have received, have bravely fought for Christ even to the shedding of their blood.

1309 - 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. **To this end catechesis for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Jesus Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community. the latter bears special responsibility for the preparation of confirmands.**

1310 - To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance in order to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit. More intense prayer should prepare one to receive the strength and graces of the Holy Spirit with docility and readiness to act.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

At Baptism, we receive seven special gifts from the Holy Spirit. At Confirmation, these gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed and strengthened. These gifts are freely given to us to help us live as followers of Jesus and to build up the Body of Christ, the Church. These seven gifts help us to respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to make good choices, and to serve God and others.

Wisdom is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

Understanding is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

Right Judgment, or Counsel, is the gift of prudence. The gift of right judgment helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.

Courage, or Fortitude, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of courage helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.

Knowledge is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God. It encourages you to avoid obstacles that will keep you from him.

Reverence, or Piety, is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.

Wonder and Awe, or Fear of the Lord is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages you to be in awe of God. The gift of wonder and awe moves you to so love God that you do not want to offend him by your words or actions.



The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

When we cooperate with the graces and gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit, we grow as followers of Jesus. We see the effect of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives in special qualities and attitudes that we develop as we grow in faith. The Church identifies these qualities and attitudes as the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit are signs that the Holy Spirit is alive within us and helping us live the Catholic faith in our daily lives.

Love: We exhibit the virtue of charity, or love, by our unselfish devotion and care for God and our neighbor.

Joy: We live with joy when we recognize that true happiness comes, not from money or possessions, but from knowing and following Christ.

Peace: We are freed from worrying about trivial things because of the inner peace we experience with God in our hearts. We work and pray for peace throughout the world.

Patience: We demonstrate patience by treating others with thoughtfulness and tolerance. We know that we can overcome the temptations and sufferings of life because God is always with us.

Kindness: We live the virtue of kindness by treating others as we want to be treated.

Goodness: We exhibit goodness when we honor God by avoiding sin and always trying to do what we know is right.

Generosity: We demonstrate the fruit of generosity when we share our gifts and possessions with others.

Gentleness: Gentle people act calmly and avoid actions that might lead others to anger or resentment.

Faithfulness: We are faithful when we live out our commitment to the teachings of Jesus, the Scriptures, and the Catholic Church.

Modesty: We exhibit modesty by being pure in our thoughts, words, and dress.

Self-control: We exercise self-control by working to overcome the temptations we face and by trying always to do God's will.

Chastity: We live the virtue of chastity when we use the gift of sexuality wisely, according to God's plan.