

CONFIRMATION

- The word CONFIRMATION means STRENGTHENING.
- The gifts that we received at Baptism are "strengthened" by the Holy Spirit. We are not the ones doing the confirming, God does the confirming (strengthening) in us.
- Confirmation is one of three Sacraments of Initiation. The other two are Baptism and Eucharist.
- Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace (the life of God in our soul). It is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiations, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

Baptismal grace or the fruit of Baptism is a rich reality that includes:

- Forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins
 - Birth into the new life by which man becomes and adoptive son of the Father
 - A member of Christ
 - A temple of the Holy Spirit
- Confirmation, like Baptism, imprints a spiritual mark or indelible character on the Christian's soul; for this reason one can receive this sacrament only once in one's life.
 - a candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must:
 - Profess the faith
 - Be in the state of grace
 - Have the intention of receiving the sacrament
 - Be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs.
 - In the East this sacrament is administered immediately after Baptism and is followed by participation in the Eucharist; this tradition highlights the unity of the three sacraments of Christian initiation. In the Latin Church this sacrament is administered when the age of reason has been reached, and its celebration is ordinarily reserved to the bishop, thus signifying that this sacrament strengthens the ecclesial bond.
 - The essential rite of Confirmation is anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism together with the laying on of the minister's hand and the words: "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit".

Chrism

A mixture of oil and balsam, a sweet smelling herb, blessed by the bishop each Holy Thursday

Indelible

Not to be deleted or blotted out

Ecclesial

Pertaining to the church

Temporal

Pertaining to this life, not spiritual, secular

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

Confirmation is the sacrament through which the Holy Spirit comes to us in a special way to bind us more closely to the Church, make us more Christ-like, and strengthen us to conserve, defend, live up to and share our faith as witnesses and apostles of Christ

IS CONFIRMATION A SACRAMENT OF INITIATION, OF HEALING OR OF VOCATION?

Confirmation is a sacrament of Christian initiation. It perfects the consecration of Baptism.

The confirmed becomes a full-fledged member of the Church, who should take an active interest in the Church's chief concern - the salvation of the world. He resembles the Church itself, which became apostolic with the descent of the Holy Spirit.

WHAT DOES THE WORD " CONFIRMATION" MEAN?

The word "confirmation" means **strengthening**. Confirmation strengthens the work of the Holy Spirit begun in us at Baptism so that we may be true Christians and apostles.

WHO INSTITUTED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

The sacrament of Confirmation was instituted by Jesus Christ, who promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to remain with His Church forever.

WHO MAY RECEIVE CONFIRMATION?

Any baptized Catholic may receive Confirmation.

HOW MANY TIMES MAY CONFIRMATION BE RECEIVED?

Confirmation may be received only once, because, like Baptism, it impresses a lasting spiritual seal or character on the soul.

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF PARENTS REGARDING THEIR CHILDREN'S CONFIRMATION?

Parents must see to it that their children do not neglect to prepare for Confirmation at the proper age, and that they attend instruction classes faithfully. No one should be deprived of the benefits of this sacrament.