

# Confirmation Q & A

## **What is confirmation?**

*The sacrament of confirmation strengthens the baptized and obliges them more firmly to be witnesses of Christ by word and deed and to spread and defend the faith. It imprints a character, enriches by the gift of the Holy Spirit the baptized continuing on the path of Christian initiation, and binds them more perfectly to the Church. (Code of Canon Law 879)*

Confirmation completes and perfects the grace received in Baptism, enabling people to be authentic missionary disciples. Candidates receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, council, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord [wonder and awe in God's presence]) to strengthen them and help them to answer the universal call to holiness. This is a lifelong journey.

God is constantly working in every person's life calling them to follow Him. Confirmation provides the grace necessary to help the individual choose God's way and makes it possible to truly live a Christian life. Confirmation is transformation. It changes who we are and who we are capable of becoming. We move from hearing God's word to sharing it.

## **Confirmation:**

- ✚ brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace;
- ✚ roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";
- ✚ unites us more firmly to Christ;
- ✚ increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us;
- ✚ renders our bond with the Church more perfect;
- ✚ 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. (CCC, 1303)

## **Confirmation is not:**

- choosing to be Catholic. We are already Catholic from Baptism.
- the end of our faith journey or our graduation.



## **What does the bible say about confirmation and what does it mean for me?**

*But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. – John 14:26*

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. – Acts 2:1-4*

Many of the Apostles have been around Jesus for years and were even baptized, but it wasn't until Pentecost that the Holy Spirit came upon them and took them to the next level of faith. They were no longer merely receivers of God's Word. They were doers of God's Word.



The Apostles spread the Word of God, baptized people and imparted the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands.

*<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. – Acts 8:14-17*

The Church sees this sacrament as a kind of a personal Pentecost for each of us – the beginning of our mission to live a Christian life. Doing that can be difficult at times, and so at our confirmation we receive the right tools (gifts of the Holy Spirit) to help us on our journey of faith. These gifts of the Holy Spirit were promised to us by Jesus himself.

That's how Jesus prepared his disciples to receive the Holy Spirit. Today we also need to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.



## **How are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist connected?**

- ✚ The sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) lay the foundations of every Christian life.
- ✚ The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life.



## **Do I have to go to confession?**

We do ask that you go to confession as part of the process of preparing yourself for Confirmation. One of the requirements of the Church to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is that you be in a "state of grace," which means you are free from all serious sin. If you have not been to confession in a long time, don't worry! It is never too late to come back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The priest will be happy and excited that you're there to receive God's mercy and love!



## **How can I prepare well for Confirmation?**

The candidate requires both knowledge and the desire to be confirmed. Enter the process of preparation with an open mind and heart. Actively participate in discussions and thoughtfully complete assignments. Share your journey with your family, sponsors, relatives, teachers and friends. Trust in God and let the Holy Spirit guide you, and He will do amazing things *for you*, and *with you* in your life. Enjoy and fully appreciate this grace-filled time of your faith journey!



## **How are my parents involved in this process?**

*The family is, so to speak, the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children; they should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care vocation to a sacred state. (Lumen Gentium. 11)*

Sacramental preparation is an opportunity to reignite the spark of faith in families, and to sow and nurture seeds of faith within them. Parents want what is best for their children. Nothing surpasses in importance and joy a living relationship with Jesus Christ in the communion of His Church.

Baptism is the beginning and the first of the three sacraments of initiation into full communion with Christ and his Church. During the Baptismal rite, parents promise to raise their children in the Catholic faith. Now, parents are called upon to allow you the right of free choice in the decision to be confirmed. Part of a parent's responsibility includes ensuring that the child is properly disposed (ready in mind and heart) to receive the sacraments.

Parents:

- are called to be authentic living witnesses of faith.
- contact the parish to request sacramental preparation.
- immerse themselves in the entire preparation process with their child.
- help their child/youth prepare adequately.
- provide opportunities for themselves and their child to receive Reconciliation and Eucharist regularly.



**Why do I need a sponsor? Who can be my sponsor? What will they do?**

Your sponsor is a role model, companion, mentor, and witness for you to the entire Church. See [Who Can Be A Sponsor?](#) for more information.

**What if I don't feel holy or good enough for this?**

If we waited until we were perfect, none of us would ever get confirmed! God's love is a gift; we don't earn it. We have the choice to accept or reject the gift. This is not a graduation from faith, it is a step in the journey!

