

In Confirmation we become more like Christ and are strengthened to be his witnesses.

God the Holy Spirit is always with the Church. We can turn to the Holy Spirit for comfort, guidance, and strength. In the sacrament of **Confirmation** we receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in a special way. We become more like Christ and are strengthened to be his witnesses.


Confirmation is a sacrament of Christian initiation. The first sacrament of Christian initiation is Baptism. All baptized members of the Church are called to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation completes Baptism and along with the Eucharist fully initiates us into the Church.

The sacrament of Confirmation deepens the grace we first received at Baptism. In Confirmation:

- we are sealed with the Gift of God the Holy Spirit
- we become more like Jesus the Son of God and are strengthened to be active witnesses of Jesus
- our friendship with God the Father is deepened
- our relationship with the Church is strengthened
- we are sent forth to live our faith in the world.

Confirmation takes place in the parish community. The bishop usually visits parishes throughout the year and confirms all those who have prepared to receive the sacrament. Adults and older children who are catechumens receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at one celebration.



 Discuss the way your parish celebrates the sacrament of confirmation.

Preparation is an important part of Confirmation.

Those preparing for Confirmation are called candidates. With the help of their parish communities, they pray and reflect on the life of Jesus Christ and on the mission of the Church. Candidates discover what it means to be anointed with chrism and how this anointing will change their lives.

During this preparation candidates grow closer to Christ. They begin to feel a greater sense of belonging to the Church. They learn to share more completely in the mission of the Church.


If we were baptized as infants, our parents selected a name for us. Our name is often that of a saint or someone whom our parents admire. At Confirmation we choose a name, usually that of a saint whose example we can follow. We are encouraged to take our baptismal name to show the connection between Baptism and Confirmation.

If we were baptized as infants, our parents also chose godparents for us. When we are preparing for Confirmation, we choose a sponsor to help us grow in our faith.

A sponsor needs to be a Catholic who has received the sacraments of initiation and is someone we respect and trust. Our sponsor should be an example of Christian living so that he or she can encourage us to follow Jesus. Our sponsor can be one of our godparents, a family member, a friend, or someone from our parish.

Sponsors can help us prepare for Confirmation by sharing their experiences and answering our questions. At the celebration of Confirmation, sponsors present us to the bishop for anointing.

WE RESPOND

 Think of people who are examples of Christian living. In what ways do they encourage others to follow Jesus?

How can the way you live encourage others to follow Jesus?



Key Word
Confirmation (p. 267)