

Confirmation Questions and Answers
To help us prepare for Confirmation

1. How do Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist lay the foundations for our Christian life?

Christians are reborn in Baptism, strengthened in Confirmation and nourished by the Holy Eucharist (CCC 1212).

2. How does the church Baptize?

We baptize by pouring water upon the head of the person, and saying: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (CCC I 1240).

3. Does Baptism impart an indelible mark on our soul?

Yes, Baptism marks or seals the New Christian with an indelible spiritual mark that no sin can erase. (CCC 1272).

4. How do we become members of the Church?

We become members of the Church, the Body of Christ, by Baptism (CCC 1277).

5. Who may be Confirmed?

Every baptized person should receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, a sacrament of Christian Initiation. (CCC 1308).

6. How do we prepare to receive Confirmation?

We prepare to receive Confirmation in two ways. First, we must be baptized and free from serious sin. Second, we prepare by prayer, study and living a Christian life. (CCC 1309).

7. How does the Bishop Confirm?

First, the Bishop extends his hands over all persons to be confirmed and calls upon the Holy Spirit. Next, the Bishop lays his hand upon the head of each Candidate, anoints the forehead with the sacred chrism, and says:

"(Name)...be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The candidate responds "Amen"

Finally the Bishop says, "Peace be with you."

Candidate responds, "And also with you." (CCC 1299)

14. When did Jesus' disciples first experience the Gift of the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on the feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter.

15. How are we initiated into the Catholic Church?

We are initiated into the Catholic Church through the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

16. What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is a visible and effective sign given to us by Christ, through which we share God's grace. There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony.

17. What is sanctifying grace?

Sanctifying grace is participation in the very life of God that brings us into an intimate and permanent relationship with the Blessed Trinity; we first receive this divine gift at Baptism.

18. What is Baptism?

Baptism is the sacrament in which we are freed from original sin, given a share in God's life, and welcomed as members of the Church.

19. What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacrament that strengthens and continues Baptism; in this sacrament, we are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

20. What is the sacramental sign of Confirmation?

The sacramental sign of Confirmation is the anointing with oil with the words, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

21. Who is the ordinary minister of Confirmation?

The bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation.

22. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person in the Blessed Trinity, Lord and Giver of life.

8. Why does the Bishop anoint in the form of the Cross?

The Bishop anoints the forehead in the form of a cross to remind us that we belong to Christ and that we must defend our faith and never be ashamed of the Cross. (CCC 1303).

9. What are the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit?

The Twelve Fruits are...
Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity,
Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modest, Self-Control and Chastity. (CCC 1832)

10. Does Confirmation imprint an indelible mark on the Soul?

Yes, this spiritual mark is called the Character, and shows that Jesus has marked a Christian with the seal of His Holy Spirit. (CCC 1304)

11. Why do we celebrate Confirmation within Mass?

We celebrate Confirmation within Mass to show the unity of the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. (CCC 1321)

12. Can you name the four Marks of the Church?

The Church, the people whom God gathers together, has four marks:
One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic

The Church is One because she proclaims the one faith.

The Church is Holy, because Jesus is holy and because the Church teaches the way to holiness.

The Church is Catholic, (universal) because she proclaims the faith in all its fullness and reaches out to all people.

The Church is Apostolic because she is built on the lasting foundation of the twelve Apostles. (CCC 813-870)

13. What did Jesus promise on the night before He died?

Jesus promised that He would send a Helper to be with His disciples. This is the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. The Holy Spirit is also known as the Paraclete, or "Advocate".

23. What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe.

24. What is chrism?

Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balm blessed by the Bishop.

25. What is the Holy Communion?

The Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of Christ, who is truly present body, blood, soul and divinity- under the appearances of bread and wine.

26. What is the Catholic Church?

The Catholic Church is the community of those who profess their belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, publicly affirm that belief through Baptism, celebrate it through the Eucharist, accept the teachings of Christ that have come down to us from the apostles, and carry out the sacramental life and mission of the Church under the leadership of the Pope and those ordained in apostolic succession.

27. What are we called to do as members of the Church?

We are called to give witness to our faith in Jesus Christ through word and action. We are to be His presence in the world helping to fulfill his mission to bring all people to God.