

In Confirmation, you will receive the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts help us to be holy. He brings us **seven gifts**:

- 1) WISDOM - Wisdom is the ability to see things as they really are.
- 2) UNDERSTANDING - Understanding means that your heart cares, listens and forgives.
- 3) KNOWLEDGE - Knowledge is the ability to learn the faith and know the truth.
- 4) COUNSEL - Counsel is the ability to make good decisions.
- 5) PIETY - Piety means we have a deep love for God and His creation.
- 6) FORTITUDE - Fortitude means we have the courage to do what is right.
- 7) FEAR OF THE LORD - This means that we understand the greatness of God and that He is very near to us.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER

Spirit of God, grant me:
the gift of wisdom
to see the world through your eyes, the gift of counsel
to make difficult decisions,
the gifts of knowledge and understanding
to use my mind to know you and to love you, the gift of fortitude
to have the courage to live in the faith despite difficulties and disappointments
the gift of piety
to be able to express my special love
and commitment to you,
and the right kind of awesome fear that makes me pause to wonder and revere
God's Love.
AMEN.

Virtues

At Baptism, we receive the THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES. They come from God and help us to live in a way that is pleasing to God. This give God great glory and by living these virtues, we begin Heaven here on earth! There are three theological virtues:

FAITH - to believe in God and all that He has told us.

HOPE - to trust in all God has told us, and to want to go to Heaven.

CHARITY - to love God and others, and serve them in love

There are also four CARDINAL VIRTUES. They are call "cardinal" because they are the chief or head virtues. All other virtues come from these ones. For example if we live the virtue of prudence, we will also live the virtue of modesty. The Holy Spirit will help us to live the Cardinal Virtues as well. These virtues are "habits of doing good". We need lots of practice and prayer to live these virtues. To live a virtue well, we need to also desire the virtue. So, if we make a good decision, but don't really want to do this decision, it is not really virtuous. So, for example, if I decide to say

my Rosary every day, but I don't want to, there is little virtue in this act. But, it is important to continue the practice, because once it becomes a habit, it will become easier, and soon I will desire to practice this virtue! The four cardinal virtues are:

PRUDENCE - to make good decisions.

TEMPERANCE - To use the things around us well.

JUSTICE - to give to others what they deserve.

FORTITUDE - To always do the right thing, even if it's hard.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

At Confirmation, you must renew your Baptismal promises, and make a profession of faith (CCC 1298). Confirmation seals your baptismal commitment and covenant with God (CC 1205, 95-6).

Do you reject Satan? And all his works? And all his empty promises?

Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

Do you reject the glamour of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin?

Do you reject Satan, the father of sin and prince of darkness?

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and earth?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Then the priest prays: *God, the all-powerful Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven our sins. May He also keep us faithful to Our Lord Jesus Christ forever and ever. Amen.*

Matter and Form

Sacraments have two parts: the matter and form. The matter is the physical sign of the grace received and the form are the words said.

In Confirmation, the Matter consists in the laying on of hands (CCC 1288) by the bishop (who is the ordinary minister and a sign of apostolic unity), or the priest (who is the extraordinary minister) (CCC 1290) and the blessing or anointing with Christ (CC 1300).

The Form is "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" (CCC 1300, 1320).

At your confirmation, you will be asked to renew your baptismal promises and to make a profession of faith (CCC 1298).

The Bishop (or minister), extends his hands over the person or group as a sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1299). He says:

“All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their help and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.” (OC 25)

The bishop will then anoint your forehead with chrism and lay hands upon you and say “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit” (CCC 1300). The Chrism is consecrated by the bishop on Holy Thursday at the Mass of Chrism, usually at the cathedral or basilica (CCC 1297).

He will then offer you the sign of peace as a sign of communion with both the bishop and the church (CCC 1301).

What is Chrism?

Chrism is a consecrated oil. It is consecrated by the bishop on Holy Thursday at the Chrism Mass (CCC 1297). Chrism is made up of balsam and olive oil (CCC 1289). Balsam is fragrant, it is a sign of the scent and sweetness of holiness. Olive oil is a sign of eternal life because olive trees do not die.

Oil is significant for many reasons. Oil was used to limber athletes. This shows how as soldiers of Christ, we must be prepared at all times. Oil was used for healing wounds. Confirmation gives us the graces we need to overcome our wounded nature due to sin. Oil was used for nourishment in cooking. Confirmation nourishes our soul with sacramental grace. Oil was used for cleansing, to make something beautiful, healthy and strong. Confirmation does all these things to our souls! (CCC 1293)

Oil was used throughout the Scriptures for prophets, priests and kings. In Baptism we came to share in this threefold ministry of Christ. We are prophets in that we speak the truth. We are priests by our worshipping God. We are kings by our inheritance to the Kingdom of God. (CCC 1294) In Confirmation we are strengthened in these ministries.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

There are twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. It is said that you can tell a tree by its fruits, well, in the same way, you will be judged by your virtues, actions and words. If you bear these fruits, people will know that you are a temple of the Holy Spirit.

CHARITY - Love of God and neighbor, acts of love.

PATIENCE - To accept God's timing.

KINDNESS - To be gentle and good to all you meet seeing Christ in them.

JOY - To be filled and express peace and happiness that comes from God.

PEACE - An acceptance of God's will in your life.

GOODNESS - To always do the good and upright thing to be pleasing in God's eyes.

GENEROSITY - To give of yourself as though you were giving to Christ Himself.

GENTLENESS - To be obedient and submissive to God's will in all things.

FAITHFULNESS - To believe, love, and serve God always.

MODESTY - To act as God would want you to, in humility.

SELF-CONTROL - To speak, think and act always in the presence of God. CHASTITY - Gift of self in a loving and holy way.