



Ritual Moments



in the Sacrament of Confirmation

- BAPTISMAL PROMISES

When Confirmation is celebrated separately from Baptism, the Liturgy begins with the renewal of baptismal promises and the profession of faith by the candidates. This clearly shows that Confirmation follows Baptism. (Catechism of the Catholic Church#1298)

The response to each question is “Amen.”

*Do you believe in one God, the Father almighty, 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?

*This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- CHRISM AND ANOINTING

Chrism is perfumed oil blessed by the bishop at the diocesan chrism Mass. It is an ancient symbol of strength. Soldiers, athletes, and kings were always anointed with oil. The word chrism has the same root as the word, “Christ”, “Anointed one.” It carries a meaning that those anointed with it have been chosen to do God’s work.

*The bishop will mark the forehead of the candidates with the chrism oil, as he says, “Be sealed with the sign of the Holy Spirit,” which means being marked with Christ.

*Candidates say “Amen” to acknowledge they accept being sealed with the Spirit. Through God’s invitation, we choose, we accept to be marked with Christ.

- THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The laying on of hands is an ancient symbol of the transmitting of the blessing and power of God from one person to another. This action traditionally claims you as God’s own, under his care and protection. At Confirmation, the laying on of hands signifies that the power of the Holy Spirit is given to each candidate.

*The bishop extends his hands over those to be confirmed during the prayer for the gifts.

*The bishop will also lay his hand directly on their heads as he anoints them.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“The Spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.” Isaiah 11:2-3

In the Rite of Confirmation, the bishop prays for the Spirit

to help and guide the candidates with these seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

These are the qualities of Jesus that take root in us and become our qualities.

WISDOM

Helps us see God and God's goodness in all things. The gift of Wisdom helps us interpret life through the lens of Jesus Christ and his vision and teachings.

UNDERSTANDING

Gives us insight into our faith and helps us teach others by word and action. The gift of Understanding helps us to interpret God's plan for us in the daily events of our lives.

KNOWLEDGE

Helps us know God and God's saving plan for us; what is important and what is not. It help us to know Jesus and what he teaches us.

RIGHT JUDGMENT

Or Counsel, helps us make the right choices in life. Right judgments are made in light of God's laws.

COURAGE

Or Fortitude, strengthens us to do what is right and to be faithful despite difficulties. The gift of Courage enables us to face danger and overcome fear with confidence.

REVERENCE

Or Piety, calls us to love God and to respect God and all creation; we obey out of love, not fear. The gift of Reverence moves us to worship God, to offer God praise, to pray always in

Or Fear of the Lord, inspires us to marvel at the power and beauty of God's creation. The gift of Wonder and Awe enables us to see not only the beauty of God's creation, but also the beauty in each person we meet.

WONDER AND AWE