

# Confirmation

Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, along with Baptism and the Eucharist. Through Confirmation, the baptized receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and are strengthened to live more deeply as witnesses to Jesus Christ in the world.

Confirmation in the Life of the Church

In the early Church, the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—were celebrated together, often at the Easter Vigil. Those entering the Church were fully initiated in a single liturgical celebration.

As Christianity spread and infant Baptism became the norm, the celebration of Confirmation gradually became separated from Baptism in the Western Church. It became common for the bishop to travel to local communities to confirm those who had already been baptized, completing their initiation into the Church.

## **The Gift of the Holy Spirit**

Confirmation deepens and strengthens the grace received at Baptism. In this sacrament, the Holy Spirit is given in a special way, sealing the believer with His gifts and marking them as belonging fully to Christ.

The traditional gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Counsel
- Fortitude
- Knowledge
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord

These gifts help the confirmed Christian to grow in faith, discern God’s will, and live as a faithful disciple of Jesus.

## **A Call to Witness**

From the earliest centuries of the Church, Confirmation has been closely associated with witness and mission. In times of persecution, Christians understood Confirmation as a strengthening for courage—an empowerment to remain faithful even in the face of suffering or opposition.

Today, Confirmation continues this same mission. It calls the baptized to:

- Bear witness to Christ in daily life
- Defend and share the faith with courage and love
- Participate actively in the mission of the Church
- Serve others through acts of charity and justice
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## **Confirmation Today**

In the modern Church, Confirmation may be celebrated in different ways:

- As part of the OCIA process for adults entering the Church

- At a later age (usually in high school) for those baptized as infants
- Together with First Eucharist in the case of adult initiation

In every case, Confirmation is not a “graduation,” but a beginning—a new stage of living the Christian life more fully and intentionally.

### **The Seal of the Holy Spirit**

At Confirmation, the person receives a spiritual seal, an indelible mark of the Holy Spirit. This seal signifies belonging to Christ and being called to live as His witness in the world.

Like Baptism, Confirmation is received only once.

Living Confirmation

Those who are confirmed are called to:

- Deepen their prayer life
- Participate fully in the Eucharist
- Use their gifts in service of the Church and the world
- Share the Gospel through word and action
- Live as mature witnesses of Christ