



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

STUDY GUIDE

1. **WHAT IS A SACRAMENT?**

A sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace instituted by Christ in which we encounter him at key points in our journey of life.

2. **HOW MANY SACRAMENTS ARE THERE?**

Seven.

3. **NAME THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS.**

Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, Holy Orders.

4. **WHAT IS BAPTISM?**

Baptism is the first of the seven sacraments. Through baptism we are cleansed of original sin through rebirth in Christ and incorporated into the Church.

5. **WHAT IS THE CHURCH?**

The Church is the Body of Christ, the union of all Christians with Christ and with one another.

6. **WHY CAN CERTAIN SACRAMENTS BE RECEIVED ONLY ONCE?**

Through some sacraments people receive an indelible, invisible mark or seal that consecrates a person for a special purpose in such a way that these sacraments can be received only once.

7. **WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION?**

The sacraments of initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

8. **WHAT IS EUCHARIST?**

The Eucharist is the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. It is a sacrifice of love and a sacred meal. At the Eucharist, the Church through the ministry of the priest, asks God to transform bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. Eucharist is the source and center of Christian life.

9. **WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?**

Confirmation is the sacrament by which a baptized Christian is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and is bound more closely to the Church.

10. **WHAT DOES CONFIRMATION REQUIRE US TO DO?**

Confirmation requires us to love, study, defend, and spread the faith.

11. **WHAT IS FAITH?**

Faith is a free gift from God by which we believe and trust Him and all that His Church teaches.

12. **WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity, whom Jesus promised to send after His ascension into heaven.

13. **WHEN DID JESUS SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HIS CHURCH?**
On Pentecost.
14. **WHAT IS THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION?**
Penance or Reconciliation is the sacrament through which our sins are forgiven, and we are reconciled with God, the community, and one another.
15. **WHAT IS GRACE?**
Grace is the gift from God, freely given, of His loving life and presence.
16. **WHAT IS SANCTIFYING GRACE?**
Sanctifying grace is God dwelling within us to make us holy.
17. **WHAT IS A BISHOP?**
A bishop is an ordained priest named by the pope who has received the fullness of the priesthood through the sacrament of Holy Orders. Bishops are successors to the apostles.
18. **WHAT IS CHRISM?**
Chrism is a mixture of oil and perfume (balsam) used in anointing during the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. Chrism is blessed by the bishop on Holy Thursday.
19. **WHAT IS IMPOSITION OF HANDS?**
The imposition of hands is the laying on of hands to invoke God and His blessing.
20. **WHAT IS SCRIPTURE?**
Scripture is the sacred writing that contains God's revelation. Scripture includes the Old Testament (Jewish Scriptures) and the New Testament (Christian Scriptures).
21. **WHAT ARE THE GOSPELS?**
The Gospels are the first four books of the New Testament that tell us about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
22. **WHAT ARE THE THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES?**
The theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity/love) are the powers we receive at Baptism that help us direct our life toward God.
23. **WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**
The gifts of the spirit are supernatural habits that enable one to be ready and responsive to divine grace. The seven gifts are wisdom, understanding, right judgment, knowledge, courage, reverence, and wonder and awe.
24. **WHAT ARE THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**
The fruits of the Spirit are qualities that show the presence of the Holy Spirit. These are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
25. **WHAT IS A SPONSOR?**
A sponsor is a practicing Catholic whose duties are to be a good example of Christian living and to support a Confirmation candidate in doing the same.

26. **WHAT IS A SACRAMENTAL SIGN?**
Sacramental signs are words and actions that are symbols of what is happening in the sacraments.
27. **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF BAPTISM?**
The signs of Baptism are water and the words *"I baptize you in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."*
28. **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF CONFIRMATION?**
The following are signs of Confirmation: chrism, laying on of hands, the bishop, the cross, and the words *"Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."*
29. **WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD?**
We believe that God is the all-loving Creator of everything that exists. God the Father is the first person of the Trinity.
30. **WHAT IS THE TRINITY?**
The doctrine of the Trinity tells us that there are three persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
31. **WHO IS JESUS?**
Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity. Jesus is fully human and fully divine, and the son of Mary.
32. **WHAT IS A SAINT?**
A saint is a person who has cooperated with the graces of the Spirit, lived a Christ-like life on earth, and already enjoys life with God in heaven forever. We show great respect and reverence for saints, but do not pray to them or worship them. But because they are in heaven, we can pray with them and ask them to pray for us.
33. **WHAT IS HOLY ORDERS?**
Holy Orders is the sacrament in which men are ordained for service to the church as deacons, priests, or bishops. Bishops are already priests when they are consecrated as bishops.
34. **WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION?**
- We listen to the Word of God proclaimed in readings from scripture.
 - The candidates for Confirmation are presented to the bishop by Father Bober.
 - The bishop gives a homily and questions the candidates.
 - The candidates renew their baptismal promises (their commitment to Christ) and profess their belief in the faith of the Church.
 - The bishop extends his hands over those who are to be confirmed and asks the Holy Spirit to strengthen them and make them more like Christ.
 - Those to be confirmed come forward with their sponsors. The bishop lays his hands on the person's head, anoints each person's forehead by tracing the sign of the cross with chrism, and says *"Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."* The bishop then extends to the person a sign of peace. With this anointing, the candidate receives the indelible character of Confirmation, becomes more like Christ, and receives the grace to spread the good news of the Lord's presence.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

The Seven Sacraments Definitions

1. Baptism – is the sacrament of rebirth. In receiving baptism, we are united with Jesus in His death and resurrection, cleansed from original sin and personal sins, welcomed into the community of the Church, and more closely related to God.
2. Confirmation – is the sacrament by which baptized persons receive the seal of the Holy Spirit, and a deepening of His gifts. It is linked with the other two sacraments of initiation, Baptism and the Eucharist. In celebrating Confirmation, we ask for the graces needed to live a mature Christian life and to deepen our faith.
3. Reconciliation – is the sacrament by which we celebrate God’s merciful forgiveness for sins committed after Baptism. After a sincere confession of sin, true sorrow, and resolution not to sin again, we receive absolution as a means of reconciliation with God and the community. In Reconciliation, Christians are also reconciled with the Church. Although perfect sorrow or contrition restores a sinner to grace, sacramental confession is the ordinary way for serious sinners to be reconciled with Christ and the Church.
4. Holy Orders – is the sacrament by which members of the Christian community are given special graces and are put in position of special service for the building up of the Body of Christ. Among other things, they preside at the celebration of the Eucharist. They serve as ministers for the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick.
5. The Anointing of the Sick – is the sacrament for the seriously ill, the infirm, and the aged, by which the Church asks God to lighten their sufferings, forgive their sins, and bring them to eternal salvation.
6. The Eucharist – is the center of sacramental life and is primary among the sacraments. We celebrate the Eucharist in obedience to Jesus’ instruction at the Last Supper: “Do this in memory of me.” When the priest consecrates bread and wine, they are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. Christ Himself, true God and true Man, is really and substantially present in a mysterious way, under the appearances of bread and wine. In the Mass, the death and resurrection of Jesus are celebrated and renewed.

The Eucharist is also a meal which recalls the Last Supper, celebrates our unity in Christ, and anticipates the messianic banquet of the kingdom. In the meal, Jesus nourishes us with the Bread of Life, His own self, and unites us more closely with God and with one another. A Christian must be in the state of grace to receive the Eucharist worthily.
7. Matrimony – is the sacrament which joins a baptized man and woman together as husband and wife in a union that is permanent and indissoluble. The married couple receives special graces to help them direct their family in loving relationships and toward full participation in the Christian community.

Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation

Sacraments of Healing

Penance Anointing of the Sick

Sacraments of Service

Matrimony Holy Orders

The Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord thy God; you shall not have other gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and thy mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Two Great Commandments of Love ô

Love God with all your heart, and soul, and mind.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

The Beatitudes

Blest are the poor in spirit; the reign of God is theirs.

Blest are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.

Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are the single-hearted; for they shall see God.

Blest are the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God.

Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs.

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wisdom

Understanding

Knowledge

Right Judgment (Counsel)

Courage (Fortitude)

Reverence (Piety)

Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord)

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy

To feed the hungry
To give drink to the thirsty
To clothe the naked
To visit the imprisoned
To shelter the homeless
To visit the sick
To bury the dead

The Seven Chief Spiritual Works of Mercy

To admonish the sinner
To instruct the ignorant
To counsel the doubtful
To comfort the sorrowful
To bear wrongs patiently
To forgive all injuries
To pray for the living and the dead

The Six Precepts/Duties of a Catholic Christian

To keep holy the day of the Lord's resurrection. To worship God by participating in Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation. To avoid those activities that would hinder renewal of body and soul.

To lead a sacramental life. To receive Holy Communion frequently and the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.

To study Catholic teaching in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, to be confirmed, and then to continue to study and advance the cause of Christ.

To observe the marriage laws of the Church. To give religious training, by example and word, to one's children. To use parish schools and catechetical programs.

To strengthen and support the Church – one's own parish community and parish priests, the worldwide Church and the pope.

To do penance, including abstaining from meat and fasting from food on the appointed days.