

Grade 8 Confirmation

Session 4: The Sacrament of Confirmation/Sacraments of Initiation

In this section, we will explore what the Sacrament of Confirmation is as one of the Sacraments of Initiation. There are three Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Please print a copy of the *Baptismal Promise*. These promises were made at your baptism and you will be asked to renew them at your Confirmation. Reflect on these promises. Underline or write down anything you have questions on. Discuss the baptismal promise with your parents.

So, what is the Sacrament of Baptism?

In Baptism we become a son and daughter of God and a co-heir with Him in His divine nature. Baptism fully initiates us into **God the Father**.

View video Segment 2: What is Baptism? And and Segment 3: The Symbols of Baptism

Please use the following questions for your reflection:

- Why is it important to renew our baptismal promises before receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- Which of the promises is easiest? Why?
- Are there any aspects of the baptismal promises that you still do not understand?

Why is the Sacrament of the Eucharist a Sacrament of Initiation?

In the Eucharist we are initiated into full communion with God through the Body and Blood of Jesus. Eucharist fully initiates us into **God the Son**.

So, what is and what does the Sacrament of Confirmation initiate us into?

There is one more person in the Holy Trinity...the Sacrament of Confirmation fully initiates us into **God the Holy Spirit**.

- The Sacrament of Confirmation perfects the baptismal grace and strengthens our bonds with the Church.
- Confirmation can only be received once because it imprints an indelible spiritual mark. An indelible mark-a spiritual imprint is placed on our soul by the Holy Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation that claims a person for Christ. No amount of sin or rejection can erase this mark, though a person can choose to ignore or deny it. It helps us to assume the role of disciple.
- Confirmation calls us to action!
- At Confirmation we receive a greater outpouring of God's Grace that we received at Baptism. We received the Holy Spirit at Baptism, now at Confirmation the flame of the fire burns with more intensity!
- Confirmation will be administered by the Bishop (Bishops, are successors to the apostles). There are four parts to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. All of these signs within the sacrament point us to the greater outpouring of Grace in the Holy Spirit that we are receiving from God, through the successors to the apostles.

Just like the apostles received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we are fully initiated into the Spirit at our Confirmation. The four parts to the Sacrament of Confirmation are:

- **Profession of Faith** - all candidates will renew their baptismal promises in front of the parish as a reminder that Confirmation is a completion of our Baptism.
- **Imposition of Hands** – the bishop will lay his hands on each of you (confirmands) Since the time of the apostles, this gesture has signified the Gift of the Spirit.
- **Anointing with Chrism** – The Bishop will anoint you on the forehead with chrism while saying, “Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.” The seal of anointing can only happen once and it places an indelible mark on the soul. The anointing reminds us that we belong to Christ. Christ means, “anointed one.”
- **Sign of Peace** – The sign of peace, that concludes the rite, signifies communion with the Bishop and all of the faithful.

This will be explored in further detail in our final session.

Discipleship and growing in holiness, doesn't stop when you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. You have a bigger responsibility now!