

## **Lesson V: Confirmation (Chrismation)**

Confirmation is the Second Sacrament (gift) of Initiation into the Catholic Church. Confirmation is regarded as the perfection of Baptism because, as the introduction to the Rite of Confirmation states: by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.

1. In the Gospel of John, Chapter 14, Christ speaks of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles (John 14:15–17).

Later, after His Resurrection, Jesus breathed upon them and they received the Holy Spirit (John 20:22), a process completed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1–4).

After this point, the New Testament records the Apostles bestowing the Holy Spirit upon others through the laying on of hands.

2. Confirmation is administered by the Bishop to those Baptized in the Catholic Church and by the Priest to those Baptized in the Protestant Church during the RCIA process.
3. In Baptism we are “born of water”; in Confirmation we are “born of spirit”. (John 3:1-8)
4. Like Baptism, Confirmation is received only once for all time, imprinting an indelible (impossible to remove) character on the soul.
5. We are Confirmed because Jesus was Confirmed after being Baptized by John the Baptist. (Matthew 3:16-17)
6. We are Confirmed “in order to be strengthened against the dangers to our salvation and to be prepared better to defend our Catholic faith.” (Baltimore Catechism 1969-1962)
7. Confirmation is the Sacrament of Choice, and it approves the vows that our parents and Godparents took on our behalf at Baptism. We choose our Sponsor, our Saint Name and are responsible for obtaining our own instruction.

8. Candidates receive the “seal” of the Holy Spirit when they receive Confirmation. (John 6:27)
9. Candidates are anointed with “Chrism” oil which is a mixture of olive oil and balsam, that is Blessed by the Bishop on Holy Thursday.
10. The Bishop (or Priest) anoints the Candidate with Chrism Oil and says, “Receive the Seal of the Holy Spirit; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” The Candidate replies “Amen”.

The Bishop (or Priest) will then extend his hand to the Candidate and say “peace be with you” to which the Candidate will reply “and with your spirit.”

11. Candidates receive the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit as outlined by the Catholic Church when they are Confirmed. They are: (From Isaiah 11:2-3)

Wisdom (An accumulation of knowledge)  
 Understanding (Ability to perceive and explain)  
 Counsel (Guidance and advice)  
 Fortitude (Courage, Long Suffering)  
 Knowledge (Information, facts, ideas, truths, principles)  
 Piety (Reverence, Modesty)  
 Fear of the Lord (Respect; wonder and awe!)

1. The Gifts of the Spirit are found in the Bible - The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are present in their fullness in Jesus Christ but are found in all Christians who are in a state of grace. We receive them when we are infused (filled) with sanctifying grace, (through Baptism) the life of God within us.

(Acts 1:8)

(1Corinthians 12:4-11) St. Paul’s nine gifts of the Holy Spirit

(1Corinthians 13:13) ...but the greatest of these is Love.

(1Thessalonians 5:19)

12. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

(Galatians 5:16-26)