

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS YOU NEED TO KNOW AS A STUDENT PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.

- I. 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, Penance/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 climax, center, and source 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 OBLIGE US TO DO?
Confirmation obliges 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 believe 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 PENANCE OR 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 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) 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 fear of the Lord.

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 (like Deacon Charles), priests (like Fr. Bill), 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 Bill. Each candidate stands when his or her name is called to indicate that he or she declares that he or she is a Christian and is willing to live like one.
 - The bishop gives a homily to explain the meaning of Confirmation. At this time he may also question 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.
 - The service continues with the celebration of Eucharist.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

1. WHY ARE YOU HERE TODAY?
2. WHAT IS YOUR CONFIRMATION NAME AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
3. WHO IS YOUR SPONSOR AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE HIM/HER?
4. WHAT SACRAMENTS HAVE YOU RECEIVED?