

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE : CONFIRMATION

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qt32SyDWuW8&t=28s>

Watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lu3MoT_egFI

CONFIRMATION LESSON:

History of Confirmation

Initiation into the Christian community.

- In the early days, confirmation was PART of the Sacrament of Baptism
- 1st Century: Christians were **baptized w/ water and the laying** on of hands by the bishop (what we now know as Confirmation)
- 2nd Century: **anointing with oil** was added to the laying on of hands in the rite of baptism.
- 3rd Century: early church; by 300AD w/ the growth of infant baptism, bishops were no longer able to preside at each baptism. 412 AD Pope Innocent I insists on bishop anointing separate from Baptism. This is the first time we hear the term Confirmation. Now they are 2 Sacraments.

2 Anointings

Anointing w/ oil has all these meanings in sacramental life: at baptism, anointing w/ oil signifies **cleansing and strengthening**; The anointing w/ **sacred chrism in confirmation is sign of CONSECRATION**. Because of Confirmation, those who are anointed, share more completely in the **mission of Jesus** and the **FULLNESS of the Holy Spirit** w/ which he is filled so that their lives may give off the “aroma of Christ”

WHAT does this mean?

Confirmation developed overtime w/in our history as Roman Catholics.

It is directly connected to baptism and eucharist as a sacrament of initiation and is necessary to COMPLETE THE BAPTISMAL GRACE

What IS IT?

- Confirmation is the 2nd sacrament of initiation. The bishop lays hands on you and anoints you or consecrates you. In the sacrament of Confirmation, we are more PERFECTLY BOUND TO THE CHURCH AND ENRICHED W/ A SPECIAL STRENGTH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AS A RESULT we are obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and action.
- It imprints a character, enriches you with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and binds you more perfectly w/ the church and strengthens your ability to witness to the Church
- Leads the Christian towards an intimacy w/ Christ & familiarity w/ the Holy Spirit
- Awakens a sense of belonging to the church

What it's NOT

- Choice to ratify baptism (or take back your baptism)

- Becoming an adult in the church, sacrament of maturity or rite of passage

What is REQUIRED?

- One must be in a state of grace (Receive the **sacrament of penance** prior)
- Have a more intense prayer life
- Have a sponsor
- Be baptized
- suitably instructed (can renew baptismal promises, catechized, able to participate in the rite)
- Properly disposed (open to receiving the Sacrament, have relationship w/ the trinity, relationship w the church)
- Receive the sacrament at the proper time (typically 7-16yrs old)

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gifts that Help us **KNOW** God's Will:

Wisdom- Enables us to see life from God's point of view

Understanding- gives us insight to the truth so we can understand the reason for our beliefs

Knowledge- reveals God's will for us and helps us comprehend what God asks of us& how to respond.

Counsel- helps us to recognize right from wrong, seek advice from wise people and make right choices.

Gifts that Help us **DO** God's Will:

Reverence/piety- helps us see God in everything and sets our hearts aflame with devotion to God

Fear of the Lord/Wonder and Awe- helps us recognize God's greatness and authority

Fortitude- gives us courage to stand up for our beliefs

FRUITS come from the gifts. ***We see that someone has the gifts of the Holy Spirit by their*** generosity, kindness, or love. If you want joy, then ask for the gifts of the spirit- it is the gift that will bear the fruit. (if you want an apple, ask for the tree and it will bear you the fruit)

Fruits of the Holy Spirit:

- 1) **LOVE:** *love is WANTING WHAT'S BEST FOR THE OTHER, thus if we are bearing the fruit of love then we consider the well-being of others before our own,*
- 2) **JOY:** *joy is not happiness, Joy is something that does not go away and is shown as gratitude, optimism, contentment and an overall sense of freedom.*
- 3) **PEACE:** *Peace is being settled in your own skin, decisions and spirit. I*
- 4) **PATIENCE:** *Patience is self-restraint and careful thinking.*
- 5) **KINDNESS:** *Kindness is a genuine tender concern for others.*
- 6) **GOODNESS:** *it is doing things for others in order to help them and be a blessing to them.*
- 7) **FAITHFULNESS:** *steadfast allegiance; it is unwavering loyalty and believing that God is who He says He is and continuing in that belief despite doubts;*

- 8) **GENTLENESS:** *Gentleness involves humility and thankfulness toward God, and polite, restrained behavior toward others. The opposites of gentleness are anger, a desire for revenge,*
- 9) **SELF-CONTROL:** *the ability to control oneself; involving moderation, constraint and the ability to say NO to our desires- it builds discipline and frees us from addictions and lust.*