

I Live  
My Faith

## I Celebrate Confirmation

### The Confirmation Mass

Like other liturgical celebrations, the Mass for Confirmation follows a set pattern. It begins with the Introductory Rites, including the Collect, or opening prayer. This is followed by the Liturgy of the Word, which is usually celebrated in the ordinary way.

#### Presentation of the Candidates

After the Gospel readings, you are presented to the bishop for Confirmation. You are called by name or as a group. By standing before the bishop, you give witness to your desire to declare yourself a Christian and to live as one.



#### Renewal of Baptismal Promises

At the end of the Homily, you publicly renew your baptismal promises by standing and affirming your commitment as a follower of Jesus. You are asked if you reject Satan and all his works. You respond, "I do" to this and to all the basic statements of what we believe as Catholics. After your profession of faith, the bishop invites everyone to pray with him. He says,

*My dear friends:  
In Baptism God our Father gave  
the new birth of eternal life  
to his chosen sons and daughters.  
Let us pray to our Father  
that he will pour out the Holy Spirit  
to strengthen his sons and daughters  
with his gifts  
and anoint them to be more like  
Christ the Son of God.*

#### Homily

After the pastor presents you to the bishop, you are seated and the bishop speaks to you and to the congregation in his Homily. In the Homily, the bishop explains how the Scripture readings reveal a deeper understanding of the mystery of Confirmation.



## Laying On of Hands

As the bishop extends his hands over you in the Rite of Confirmation, your parents, sponsors, and the entire congregation are united in focusing on one thought: *Come, Holy Spirit.*

The bishop prays,

*All-powerful God, Father of  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by water and the Holy Spirit  
you freed your sons and daughters  
from sin  
and gave them new life.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon them  
to be their Helper and Guide.  
Give them the spirit of wisdom  
and understanding,  
the spirit of right judgment and courage,  
the spirit of knowledge and reverence.  
Fill them with the spirit of  
wonder and awe in your presence.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

## Anointing with Chrism

In the Rite of Confirmation, you come before the bishop with your sponsor, and your sponsor places his or her hand on your right shoulder. You or your sponsor tells the bishop your Confirmation name.

The bishop confirms you by anointing you with Chrism, done by the laying on of the hand, and with the words, “[Name], be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”



You respond, “Amen.”

Then the bishop extends to you a sign of peace and says, “Peace be with you.” You respond, “And with your spirit.”

With the bishop’s anointing, you receive an indelible, or permanent, character that signifies the way you are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. The gift helps you become more like Christ and commissions you to live your prophetic mission to be a witness to him in all circumstances and at the very heart of the human community.

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### Prayer of the Faithful

The Mass continues with intercessions offered for all our needs. In the liturgy, you and the other newly confirmed, who have been united in the Gift of the Spirit, are bound together in the worship of the Father through his Son, Jesus Christ.

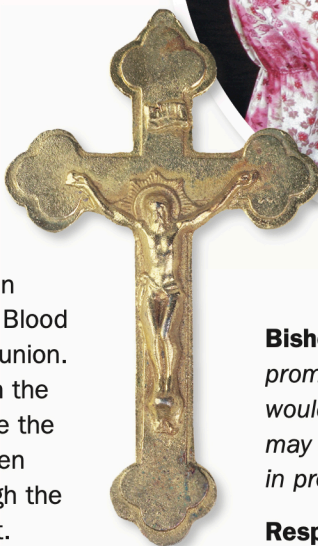
### The Mass Continues

You are joined more closely with one another in praying the Lord's Prayer, in sharing the sign of Christ's peace, and in receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. When you participate in the Eucharist, you celebrate the life of faith that has been confirmed in you through the action of the Holy Spirit.

The Mass ends with a solemn final blessing prayer over all the people in the assembly. The bishop extends his hands over those who have been confirmed and prays the following blessing, or one similar to it. The final blessing is given to the entire assembly.

**Bishop:** *God our Father  
made you his children  
by water and the Holy Spirit:  
may he bless you  
and watch over you with his fatherly love.*

**Response:** *Amen.*



**Bishop:** *Jesus Christ the Son of God  
promised that the Spirit of truth  
would be with his Church for ever:  
may he bless you and give you courage  
in professing the true faith.*

**Response:** *Amen.*

**Bishop:** *The Holy Spirit  
came down upon the disciples  
and set their hearts on fire with love:  
may he bless you,  
keep you one in faith and love  
and bring you to the joy of God's kingdom.*

**Response:** *Amen.*

**Bishop:** *May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit.*

**Response:** *Amen.*

## Living Your Commitment

When you are anointed, sealed, and blessed in Confirmation, you assume the role of witness to Jesus in the Church and in the world. By cooperating with the Holy Spirit, you will grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus. The effects of Confirmation are many:

- You have a deepening of your identity as adopted sons and daughters of God the Father.
- You are united more closely to Christ and his Church.
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit that you received in Baptism are sealed and strengthened.
- Your bond with the Church is more perfect.
- You are filled with the Holy Spirit, who will help you accept the new responsibilities you have as a Christian.
- You are better able to participate in the worship and apostolic life of the Church.

What can you add to this list? Your preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is drawing to a close. Take time to thank God and your sponsor for supporting you and guiding you during this special time.

