

# RCIA at Saint Sylvester

- Sacraments of Initiation
- Baptism &
- Confirmation



# For Tonight

Prayer

Sacraments overview

Sacraments of Initiation

- Baptism
- Confirmation



# Opening Prayer

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- “Jesus is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them.” As we learn about the sacraments tonight let us all understand that Christ Himself is at work in them as He **continues** the saving works he performed during his earthly life

Amen.

# Sacraments

Over the centuries the Church discerned that among the many sacramental celebrations there are **seven** sacraments that were instituted by Jesus himself.

- **Baptism**

- **Confirmation**

- **Eucharist**

- **Confession and reconciliation**

- **Holy orders**

- **Matrimony**

- **Anointing of the sick**



**Initiation**



**At the Service of Communion**

**Healing**

Christian initiation is accomplished by three sacraments together: Baptism which is the beginning of new life; Confirmation which is its strengthening; and the Eucharist which nourishes the disciple with Christ's Body and Blood for his transformation in Christ.

# Sacraments

CCC- Part Two, Articles 1066 – 1209

... **“efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.”**  
**(CCC, 1131)**

*We recognize that the Sacraments have a visible and invisible reality, a reality open to all the human senses but grasped in its God-given depths with the eyes of faith. When parents hug their children, for example, the visible reality we see is the hug. The invisible reality the hug conveys is love. We cannot "see" the love the hug expresses, though sometimes we can see its nurturing effect in the child.*

We say the sacraments are *efficacious* because it is Christ Himself at work in them: it is he who baptizes, he who forgives sins, he who acts in the sacraments in order to communicate the grace that each offers  
(CCC, 1127 – 1129)

# •What is a Sacrament?

It's a sign, that actually does what it signifies.

# What is a Sacrament



# Sacraments

Jesus preached and taught with authority and performed powerful healings and miracles through which he forgave sins and healed the wounds of sin.

In the sacraments of the Church, Christ now **continues** the saving works he performed during his earthly life.





## O CIA at Saint Sylvester

Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism  
and Confirmation

Segment 10 & 11

# What is Baptism?

- Baptism, **the first and fundamental sacrament** is the gate to the other sacraments. One must be baptized before sharing in any of the other sacraments.
- Baptism is the purifying and sanctifying sacrament of rebirth and the means by which its recipients are incorporated into the Church in a bond of unity...**frees us from Original Sin**

# Baptism means to...

- To baptize (Greek baptizein) means to "plunge" or "immerse"; the "plunge" into the water symbolizes the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as "a new creature."
- This sacrament is also called "the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit," for it signifies and actually brings about the birth of water and the Spirit without which no one "can enter the kingdom of God."

# When Baptize? (ccc 1214-1284)

- Infants can be baptized soon after birth. At the time of baptism, parents vow to practice their faith and provide a Catholic upbringing for the child.
- Adults who have never been baptized take part in the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults), and will typically be baptized at the Easter Vigil)



# Baptism Recognized

- The Catholic Church recognizes baptisms from other Christian denominations that baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Trine). Thus, a person can only be baptized once.



# Valid Trinitarian Baptism

- For a sacrament to be valid, three things have to be present: the **correct form**, the **correct matter**, and the **correct intention**. With baptism, the correct intention is to do what the Church does, the correct matter is water, and the correct form is the baptizing "**in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**" (Matt. 28:19).

In the name  
of the  
Father, Son  
and  
Holy Spirit



Water  
Baptism



# CCC 1258 Blood

- The Church has always held the firm conviction that those who suffer death for the sake of the faith without having received Baptism are baptized by their death for and with Christ. This *Baptism of blood*, like the *desire for Baptism*, brings about the fruits of Baptism without being a sacrament.







- For *catechumens* who die before their Baptism, their explicit desire to receive it, together with repentance for their sins, and charity, assures them the salvation that they were not able to receive through the sacrament.

CCC 1259 Desire

## The Point

- **The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation.**
- **By Baptism all sins are forgiven, original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin**



**TAKEAWAYS**



Confirmation

# Confirmation



## What it does

Brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

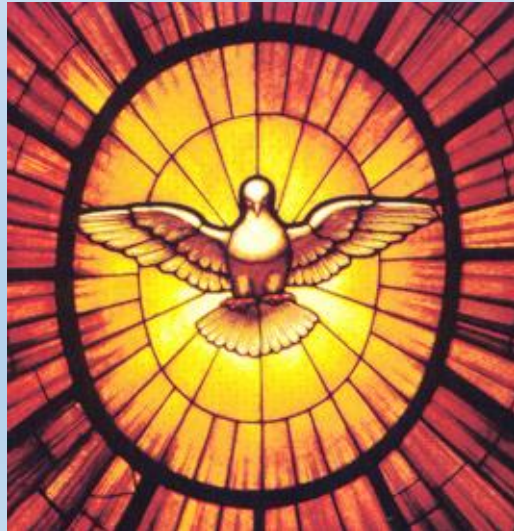
Roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!"

it unites us more firmly to Christ

it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us

it renders our bond with the Church more perfect

What else?



**It gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross**

# Confirmation

- Like Baptism which it completes...
  - Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an indelible spiritual mark, the "character."
  - That mark which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit by clothing him with power from on high so that he may be his witness.



A religious painting depicting the Pentecost event. The scene is set in a dark, cavernous space. In the center, a woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue and pink robe, looks upwards with her hands raised. To her right, a man in a green and red robe also looks up, pointing upwards with his right hand. Other figures around them, including men and women in various colored robes, also look upwards with expressions of awe and wonder. The background is dark, and the scene is illuminated by a bright light from above, creating a dramatic atmosphere. Numerous small, glowing red and orange flames or tongues of fire are scattered throughout the scene, particularly concentrated around the central figures. The overall composition is dynamic, with strong contrasts between light and shadow.

## Yes, an outpouring

- It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.



# Confirmation

- The original minister of Confirmation is the bishop. If a Christian is in danger of death, any priest can give him Confirmation.
  - Indeed the Church desires that none of her children, even the youngest, should depart this world without having been perfected by the Holy Spirit with the gift of Christ's fullness.
- **Confirmation perfects Baptismal grace**
- It is the sacrament which gives the Holy Spirit in order to root us more deeply in the divine filiation, incorporate us more firmly into Christ, strengthen our bond with the Church, associate us more closely with her mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds.

# Who Can Receive Confirmation?

- Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation.





# Why?

- Since Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist form a unity, it follows that "the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time," for without Confirmation and Eucharist, Baptism is certainly valid and efficacious, but Christian initiation remains incomplete.

# Age of Reason

- A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the ecclesial community and in temporal affairs.



# Closing Prayer

- Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love...O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord.