



Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism and Confirmation

Segment 11

RCIA at Saint Sylvester



Opening Prayer and Grace

- 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.

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 RCIA (Rite 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.



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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



Baptism Matter Matters

“Water”...“Intent”...“Blood”...



CCC 1257 Water

- The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are "reborn of water and the Spirit."

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.





CCC 1259 Desire

- 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.

Who can baptize?

- The ordinary ministers of Baptism are the bishop and priest and, in the Latin Church, also the deacon.
- In case of necessity, anyone, even a non-baptized person, with the required intention, can baptize, by using the Trinitarian baptismal formula. The intention required is to will to do what the Church does when she baptizes.

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



Final note on baptism

- Parents who wish to have their child baptized should be parish members and both are expected to attend the Baptism Preparation Class prior to the Baptism.



Confirmation

Confirmation



Historically/Tradition
CCC 1258-1331

A custom of the Roman Church facilitated the development of the Western practice: a double anointing with sacred chrism after Baptism.

The **first** anointing of the neophyte on coming out of the baptismal bath was performed by the **priest**; it was completed by a **second** anointing on the forehead of the newly baptized by the **bishop**.

Continues as...

- The first anointing with sacred chrism, by the priest, has remained attached to the baptismal rite; it signifies the participation of the one baptized in the prophetic, priestly, and kingly offices of Christ. If Baptism is conferred on an adult, there is only one post-baptismal anointing, that of Confirmation

What it does

Brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:

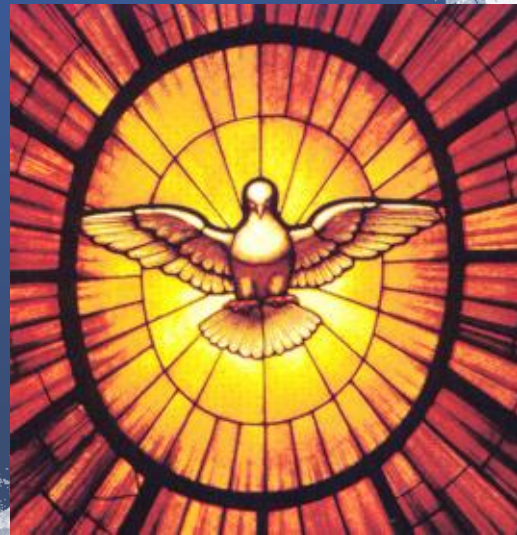
Roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!"

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

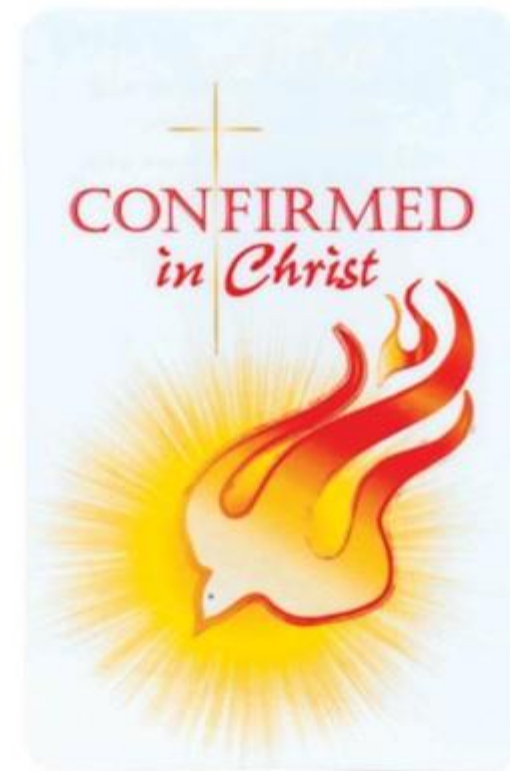
What else?



• 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.



Also...

- Anointing with Oil, like in Baptism.





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.

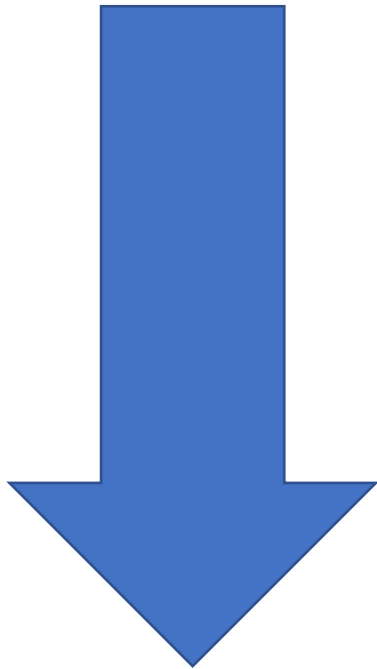
Age of Reason

- 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.



Any Questions?

- Something to consider as we go through struggles this week...



Something to Consider This Week





Closing Prayer

- God the Father, We give you thanks for all the marvels you have created. We praise you and we bless you for the inestimable grace of life that you give to us. Transform us, make us better **Christians**, living testimonies of your mercy and of your power.