

CONFIRMATION CORE QUESTIONS

St. Patrick Church

Archbishop Joseph Kurtz has asked that every young person to be confirmed should know the answers to these "Core Questions", some of which could be used during the Confirmation interview with a Pastoral Team member.

These questions give the Confirmandi an opportunity to learn and deepen their understanding of some of the core concepts related to Confirmation. The Confirmandi should become familiar with the questions and their answers in preparation with their meeting and dialogue with the archbishop when he celebrates the Sacrament with them.

1. What is Confirmation? Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation whereby the candidate receives a special outpouring of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism strengthening the candidates and empowering them to be active participants in the worship and apostolic life of the Church.

2. What is grace? The free and undeserved gift God gives us so we can become his adopted children.

3. Who is the ordinary minister of Confirmation? The (arch) bishop is the ordinary minister, or with the permission of the (arch) bishop, a pastor may confer the sacrament.

4. What are the outward signs of Confirmation? The outward signs are the anointing with chrism and the laying on of hands.

5. What is chrism? It is oil consisting of a combination of olive oil and balsam. It signifies abundance of grace and committed service to God. Chrism is used in several sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.

6. Who is the Holy Spirit? Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Blessed Trinity and is alive and active in our lives and helps us to become stronger members of the Church.

7. What are some symbols of a bishop? Ring, miter, crosier (staff), cathedra (bishop's chair), pectoral cross.

8. What are the words the bishop uses to confirm someone? "Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit."

9. Why should Catholics be confirmed? By being confirmed Catholics complete their sacramental initiation by receiving the grace of God. By being confirmed they receive the gifts of the Spirit which strengthen them to become active participants in the work and mission of our Church.

10. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit and what do they mean?

- **Wisdom** - The power to judge things in light of God's standard and to make decisions and act according to God's law.
- **Understanding** - The power to better understand the mysteries of life and religion, to know how to live your life as a follower of Jesus, and to apply the teachings of the Church.
- **Right Judgment/Counsel** - The power to make good decisions in matters of right and wrong, good and evil.
- **Knowledge** - the power to know the value and worth of things and see all of life and creation through God's eyes.
- **Courage/Fortitude** - The power to stand up for my beliefs and the values of Jesus' message even when it is difficult.
- **Reverence/Piety** - The power to treat God and people with honor, seeing people as made in God's image.
- **Wonder and Awe** - The power to recognize how awesome God is and to recognize this awe in his creation.