

NAME _____ ROOM # _____

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Celebrating my Membership in the Church

Confirmation is the sacrament that will help me live in closer union with Christ and with others. It will help me better understand the Church and live as a member of the Church. The parish priest or pastor or bishop is the person who will confirm me.

The ideal way in which the Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated is within the Eucharist (the Mass). The Confirmation Rite follows the reading of the gospel.

THE RITE (or Ceremony) OF CONFIRMATION

Presentation of the Candidates

The presentation is an introduction. It will be made by my pastor or by one of the other priests of my parish. When I stand before the parish priest or pastor or bishop as a candidate for Confirmation, I will be responding to the invitation from my parish to be a confirmed Christian. I will have already decided that this is what I want. By my standing there I will be publicly declaring that I want to reaffirm my Baptism through the Sacrament of Confirmation. I will be publicly saying that I believe in Jesus and want to follow Him.

HOMILY or INSTRUCTION

The parish priest or pastor or bishop will address all who are present at the ceremony. The parish priest or pastor or bishop will give a brief homily or instruction on the readings of the Confirmation Mass. The coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles at Pentecost will very likely be an important part of the parish priest or pastor or bishop's homily. He may point out that the Apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He may describe how they responded to the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and explain why Pentecost is recalled at Confirmation. (Acts 2)

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

The parish priest or pastor or bishop will ask all who are about to be confirmed to renew the profession of faith made in Baptism. The parish priest or pastor or bishop will ask the following questions, and I will answer,
"I DO".

Do you reject Satan and all his works and all his empty promises?

Do you believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who came upon the apostles at Pentecost and today is given to you sacramentally in confirmation?

Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Then the parish priest or pastor or bishop will say, "This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I will answer, "**AMEN**" with all present at the ceremony. Amen means "so it is", "surely", or "I agree to that". By saying Amen, I will be saying yes to the bishop's words about our faith.

THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The parish priest or pastor or bishop will then extend their hands over all who are to be confirmed. Their gesture is called the laying on of hands. It is a very old practice. In both the Old and the New Testament, the laying on of hands was used when a person was dedicated to God for a certain task. At Confirmation, the laying on of hands is a sign that the power of the Holy Spirit is given to each person being confirmed. At the time of the laying on of hands, the parish priest or pastor or bishop will pray the following prayer: *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.*

THE ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

I will step forward with my sponsor to receive the sign and to hear the words of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The sign of the Sacrament of Confirmation is the anointing with chrism. Chrism is a pleasant-smelling oil. The tradition of using an oil in anointing is a very old one. The oil is absorbed into the anointed person and becomes a part of that person. The Hebrew word messiah means "*anointed one*". The Greek word Christos, or Christ, means "*anointed one*". Anointing is a sign that tells me I am to become Christ for others. When I step forward and stand before the parish priest or pastor or bishop to be confirmed, he will moisten his right thumb with chrism. He will then place his hand on my head and make the sign of the cross with his thumb on my forehead. As he does that, he will address me by name and say the words of Confirmation. Those words are, "(Confirmation Name), *be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

I will answer, "**AMEN.**" The parish priest or pastor or bishop will then say to me, "*Peace be with you*". As a newly confirmed member of the Church I will answer, "***And with your spirit.***"

I will then return to my place in the congregation as a newly confirmed member of the Church. With all the people who are present, I will pray for the needs of the Church. Those prayers are called the general intercessions. After the general intercessions, the Liturgy of the Eucharist will continue. I will take part in the Eucharist. I will enter into communion with Christ and with the people of my parish.