

*Since we receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism, why do we need Confirmation?*

We receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism primarily for ourselves, for our entry into God's Holy Church, freedom from original sin, and for our own salvation. The Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation completes our initiation and brings the supernatural strength needed to live out the new life we entered in Baptism.

- In Confirmation we are mystically present with the disciples and Mary at the Pentecost experience told about in Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2. We receive the same Holy Spirit they did and in as much as we allow it should make the same big difference in our lives as it did with these first Christians.
- In Confirmation we identify and bond more perfectly with the grown up same baby Church born on Pentecost.
- While Baptism opens the gate of heaven for us, Confirmation provides what we need, not only to get to the gate but also to bring as many other people as possible with us. Baptism is largely for ourselves. Confirmation is largely for service to our Church and to the whole world in Jesus' name.
- We get strength to endure trials. We are commissioned and armed as soldiers to defend God's Kingdom by word and deed.
- We are formally presented with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially those mentioned in the Bible. It's up to us to either let them lay uselessly in the basement of our being or to bring them out in faith and use them for the glory of God the Father. These gifts of the Sacrament are really and always made present by the actions of the Bishop or priest, (Ex Opere Operato). They are only useful, however, when we open ourselves to them in faith and obedience to Jesus who is risen and alive among us.

*Note: In our parish we offer a few simple preparatory lessons for Catholic adults who have never been confirmed as Catholics.*