

# Journey of Faith



## The Sacrament of Confirmation

Lisa and Tomás were staying late to help clean up the classroom. "My cousin says that once you get confirmed you don't have to go to church anymore. But that seems dumb. Why get confirmed if you're not gonna go to church?" Tomás said.

Lisa shook her head, "My aunt said when you get confirmed you get to do cool stuff in church. That it gives you more responsibility."

Tomás frowned. "So, what does getting confirmed mean?"





## Growing Up in the Faith

You first receive the Holy Spirit at your baptism, when you enter into God's family. At your confirmation, you receive the power to go out and do good things for God and to speak to others about God's love. Being confirmed is like growing up in your faith.



Growing up doesn't happen all at once. There are so many things you can do this year that you couldn't do last year. Every day you learn new things, grow, and change.

**Name three things you can do this year that you couldn't do last year.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he promised all his disciples that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit to go out and tell the world about Jesus. Jesus kept his promise. When the disciples were all together in a room, something wonderful happened. They heard a noise like the wind all through the house. Then tongues of fire came and rested above their heads. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak about Jesus and God's love. They went out immediately and preached the good news everywhere.

Adapted from Acts 1:8

As you begin your new life in the Holy Spirit, you will learn many things. You will also become stronger and braver. At confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives you the strength and courage to face your responsibilities as God's child. You will learn to use your gifts, talents, and special abilities to help the Church in the world.



**How can you help others right now?**

## What Happens at Confirmation?

Confirmation has two very important symbols: anointing and the laying on of hands.

The **laying on of hands** is a sign that the Holy Spirit has been invited to live in you. Remember how Jesus healed people by touching them? In the same way, you are given the gift of the Holy Spirit with a touch from the minister of the sacrament.

Then you are **anointed** with a special oil that has been blessed by the bishop. The minister of the sacrament will make the Sign of the Cross on your forehead and say, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." You will say "Amen." Amen means, "So be it!" "Yes!" or "Right!"





You will need to choose a **sponsor** for your confirmation. This person will help you grow as a Christian and be your spiritual friend. At confirmation, your sponsor will place his or her right hand on your right shoulder and present you to the Church and God. If you need some advice on choosing a sponsor, ask your catechist, RCIA leader, or pastor for help.

You will also be asked to choose a confirmation name to remind you of your identity as a mature Christian. You can choose the name of a saint who is special to you or even the name you were given at baptism.



**Who in your life would make a good sponsor?**

**What name do you want to take for confirmation?**

## Gifts of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit will give you special gifts to help you follow Jesus. Below are some of the Holy Spirit's gifts (see Isaiah 11:2–3).

- **Wisdom:** When we're wise, we know what's true. We also know the right way to act in different situations.
- **Understanding:** When we show understanding, we see every side of a situation. We understand the other person's side of an argument.
- **Guidance (or Counsel):** When we use the gift of guidance we know how to help other people. We are able to give good, clear advice that leads other people to God.
- **Knowledge:** Kind of like being book-smart, knowledge means having the information we need to know what's going on.
- **Wonder and Awe (or Fear of the Lord):** When we use this gift, we show respect for God and all holy things. We find God wonderful and awesome!
- **Reverence (or Piety):** When we show reverence, we show respect for God and his creation, and all holy things.



**Which gifts of the Spirit do you wish you had right now?**





# WHO HAS IT?

For each gift of the Holy Spirit, write the name of someone you know who has this gift. Then write an example of how that person uses this gift.

Gift	Who has it?	Example
Wisdom		
Understanding		
Guidance (or Counsel)		
Knowledge		
Wonder and Awe (or Fear of the Lord)		
Reverence (or Piety)		

## In Short



- Confirmation makes us disciples and witnesses.
- Your choices of a sponsor and a name are important.
- Confirmation includes many actions and symbols.

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