

Things Confirmation Candidates Need to Know

We know the Holy Spirit in the Church (CCC 688)

- ✚ In the scriptures
- ✚ In Tradition
- ✚ In the Magisterium ([look it up!](#))
- ✚ In the sacramental liturgy, through its words and symbols, in which the Holy Spirit puts us into communion with Christ—epiclesis ([look it up!](#)).
- ✚ In Prayer
- ✚ In the charisms and ministries by which the Church is built up (CCC 951)
- ✚ In the signs of apostolic and missionary life
- ✚ In the witness of saints

The Titles of the Holy Spirit (CCC 692)

- ✚ The Paraclete (one who is called to one's side, "consoler")
John 14:15, 26, 15:26, 16:7
- ✚ The Spirit of truth
John 16:13
- ✚ The Spirit of the promise
Gal. 3:14, Eph.1:13,
- ✚ The Spirit of adoption
Rom. 8:15, Gal. 4:6
- ✚ The Spirit of Christ
Rom. 8:9
- ✚ The Spirit of the Lord
2 Cor. 12:13
- ✚ Spirit of God
Rom. 8:9
- ✚ The Spirit of glory
1 Peter 4:14

The Symbols of the Holy Spirit (CCC 694-701)

- ☩ **Water**—Creation, Baptism, signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life
- ☩ **Anointing** — (Messiah means “Anointed One”)
- ☩ **Fire**—transforming energy of the Holy Spirit’s actions
- ☩ **Cloud and light**—Old Testament: the cloud, now obscure, now luminous, reveals the living and saving God while veiling the transcendence of God’s glory.
- ☩ **Seal**—The Father has set his seal of Christ and seals us in him. (John 6:27) Expresses the indelible “character” of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders.
- ☩ **The Hand**—Jesus blesses and heals by laying hands on them. The Apostles’ imposition of hands brings the Holy Spirit. Sacramental epiclesis.
- ☩ **Finger**—It is by the finger of God that Jesus cast out demons in Luke 11:20. If God’s law was written on tablets of stone by the finger of God, then the “letter from Christ” entrusted to the care of the apostles is written “with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts.”
- ☩ **The Dove**—The flood, Jesus’ baptism

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- ☩ **Wisdom**: The gift that helps us see and love others and ourselves as God does. *Wisdom 7:7-11.*
- ☩ **Understanding**: The gift that helps us grasp how immeasurable is God’s love for us, for the earth, for all creatures; and to fully appreciate the Word of God. *Luke 24:13-35. The Disciples on the road to Emmaus.*
- ☩ **Knowledge**: The gift that helps us to know what to believe and what not to believe and to know God more intimately. *Luke 7:18-22. Jesus fulfills Isaiah’s prophecy.*
- ☩ **Counsel**: The gift that strengthens in us our ability to advise and guide one another as we respond to God’s guidance in our lives and helps us to make the right personal decisions. *Matthew 19:16-22. The Rich Young Man.*
- ☩ **Fortitude**: God tells us in the scriptures, “Be not afraid.” Courage or fortitude helps us endure difficulties and sufferings and to trust that “all things work together for the good of those who love God.” *Acts 5:27-42.*
- ☩ **Reverence**: This gift directs human hearts toward God and enables us to revere one another as children of God. *Luke 18:9-14. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector.*
- ☩ **Wonder and Awe**: This gift instills in us a sense of wonder at the enormity of God’s love and its power in our lives. *Luke 8:22-25. The Calming of the Storm at Sea.*

The Effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation

Confirmation, as a sacrament of initiation, celebrates and brings about a fuller, deeper initiation into the *life* of Jesus. One of its effects is that "it unites us more firmly to Christ" (CCC 1303).

"I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20)

"I [Jesus] came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10)

"Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Confirmation also celebrates and brings about a fuller, deeper initiation into the *way of life* of Jesus. This sacrament "gives the Holy Spirit in order to... associate us more closely with [the Church's] mission, and help us bear witness to the Christian faith in words accompanied by deeds" (CCC 1316).

"I [Jesus] give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (John 13:34, cf. 15:12)

"The entire Law of the Gospel is contained in the '*new commandment*' of Jesus, to love one another as he has loved us" (CCC 1970)