

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION: SYMBOLS AND RITUAL ACTION

Anointing With Chrism symbolizes a calling to and strengthening in the power of Christ to serve in God's name. Confirmation is conferred through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Holy Chrism. The Chrism is placed by the sign of the cross on the forehead by the bishop with the words: "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Assembly those gathered for the Rite of Confirmation speak of God's presence and love. Those assembled have helped in the preparation of the baptized for Confirmation and have supported their journey to this celebration. The assembly welcomes the fully initiated Christians.

Chrism, the oil consecrated by the bishop, used at Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination. This is a particularly fragrant oil that strengthens the anointed in the Holy Spirit.

Laying on of Hands, the imposition of hands is a liturgical gesture found in the Old Testament, continued in the New Testament, and used throughout the centuries in the Church. The Bishop lays on hands, calling down the Holy Spirit on those to be confirmed.

Name is important and says who we are as special and unique. Candidates for Confirmation can retain their baptismal name for Confirmation. The name chosen should have Christian and/or family significance. We tap the great reservoir of the communion of saints and take the name of someone who is a model/example of Christian living.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises by the candidates attest to their belief as Catholic Christians, a belief first received at their Baptism.

Signing of those to be confirmed with the sign of the cross is a symbol of the salvation brought about by the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. The cross is the sign of faith. The confirmed are anointed with the sign of the cross, a sign of our faith and salvation.

Word of God, the Scriptures, is the focal point for all Christian celebrations. The Bible grounds our identity as children of God.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

After the Opening Hymn, the Sign of the Cross, and Greeting, the Bishop will sprinkle the assembly with Easter Water (during the Easter Season). This Sprinkling Rite recalls our common call to follow Christ, a call first received at Baptism. The Glory to God should be sung. The Opening Prayer follows.

The Liturgy of the Word will reflect on the mystery of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. Following the Gospel proclamation, the **RITE OF CONFIRMATION** begins:

- (1) **The Presentation of the Candidates to the Bishop.**
Pastors normally present each candidate by name to the Bishop.
- (2) **The Homily**
The Bishop addresses the candidates and sponsors of the truths of God's life-giving Spirit in Confirmation.
- (3) **The Renewal of Baptismal Promises**
The candidates stand and renew their baptismal promises to the Bishop.
- (4) **The Laying on of Hands**
The imposition of hands is liturgical gesture found in the Old Testament, continued in the New Testament, and is still used in the Church today. The Bishop calls down the Holy Spirit on those to be confirmed.
- (5) **The Anointing With Chrism**
The Oil of Chrism, a particularly fragrant oil, calls to mind the holiness and sweetness of God, our Creator and Savior. The strengthening power of the Holy Spirit is conferred in Confirmation by the anointing with Chrism. The Oil of Chrism and perfumed balsam that's gives the Chrism oil its rich fragrance have been blessed at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week.

Making a sign of the cross with Chrism on the forehead of the one to be confirmed,
the Bishop says: **(Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit .**

The newly confirmed responds: **Amen.**

The Bishop says: **Peace be with you.**

The newly confirmed responds: **And with your Spirit**

(6) Universal Prayer

The Deacon is the usual liturgical minister to pray the intercessions.
These petitions invoke God to watch over the Church, our society, the poor and the sick, those newly confirmed in the Holy Spirit.

The **Liturgy of Eucharist** follows.

Candidates, sponsors and families could be involved with the Presentation of the Gifts, bread, wine and monetary offerings.

All are invited to the holy table to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Mass concludes with a special blessing from the Bishop.

The Bishop will be available for individual pictures immediate following the closing hymn.