

Review Sheet for Test on the Sacrament of Confirmation

1. What is Confirmation?

The word “confirmation” means strengthening. In the sacrament of Confirmation, the grace of Baptism is strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, empowering the recipient to be a witness of the Catholic Faith through evangelization in word and deed. Only when you are confirmed are you fully initiated as a member of the Catholic Faith.

2. What is Pentecost?

Pentecost is the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the 12 Apostles in the Upper Room, filling them with God’s grace and empowering them to live and proclaim the Gospel. Pentecost is often called the “Birthday of the Church” and can be considered the “first” Confirmation.

3. Who is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation?

The bishop is the ordinary minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

4. Who is the bishop of the Diocese of Arlington?

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge is the bishop of the Arlington Diocese.

5. What is the form and matter of the sacrament of Confirmation?

The matter of the sacrament is Sacred Chrism. The form of the Sacrament is the words: “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

6. Who is your Confirmation Saint? Why did you choose this person?

(Make sure you know at least 3 different things about your saint!)

7. Why do you want to be confirmed?

(Make sure you have at least 3 good reasons!)

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8. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

There are seven – Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Piety, Understanding, Fortitude, and Fear of the Lord.

Definitions of the 7 Gifts of the Spirit

1. Wisdom - Wisdom is not the quoting of facts. Wisdom is a gift that allows a person to understand things from God's point of view. In other words, Wisdom allows a person to recognize truth. A person with the Gift of Wisdom is able to take this truth and use it to glorify God by choosing Godly solutions to problems.

2. Understanding - Understanding is the second gift of the Holy Spirit, and people sometimes have a hard time understanding (no pun intended) how it differs from wisdom. While wisdom is the desire to contemplate the things of God, understanding allows us grasp, at least in a limited way, the very essence of the truths of the Catholic Faith. Through understanding, we gain a certitude about our beliefs that moves beyond faith

3. Counsel - The Gift of Counsel is also known as a Gift of Right Judgment. Counsel, the third gift of the Holy Spirit, is the perfection of the cardinal virtue of prudence. Prudence can be practiced by anyone, but counsel is supernatural. Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we are able to judge how best to act almost by intuition. Because of the gift of counsel, Christians need not fear to stand up for the truths of the Faith, because the Holy Spirit will guide us in defending those truths.

4. Fortitude - The Gift of Fortitude is also known as the Gift of Courage. Through this Gift a person is no longer afraid to stand up for God and His truths. A person who has the Gift of Fortitude will stand up for good against evil and is convicted to take a stand when the occasion arises.

5. Knowledge - The Gift of Knowledge allows a person to understand the meaning and purpose God has for him and to live up to this meaning. It differs from wisdom in that it is an action, not just a desire to live up to the ways of God. It differs from Understanding in that it is not just ability, it is a knowing.

6. Piety - Piety, the sixth gift of the Holy Spirit, is the perfection of the virtue of religion. While we tend to think of religion today as the external elements of our faith, it really means the willingness to worship and to serve God. Piety takes that willingness beyond a sense of duty, so that we desire to worship God and to serve Him out of love, the way that we desire to honor our parents and do what they wish.

7. Fear of the Lord - The Gift of Fear of the Lord puts God in the proper perspective. A person with this Gift understands the greatness and awesomeness of the Lord. They want to serve Him because of who He is. A person with the Gift of Fear of the Lord understands who they are and why they are here in relationship to God; In other words, everything they are is due to the wonder, love, grace, and perfection of God. They are totally dependent on the Lord as a child is to a parent. The Gift of Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom. Once a person understands who God is and desires to please Him, they can begin to understand things from God's point of view or have Wisdom.