

Confirmation Review and Study Guide

Possible Confirmation Interview Questions:

Are you praying?

What does your prayer life look like?

What are different ways to pray? Do you know the Traditional Prayers?

Say the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, St. Michael Prayer, Apostles Creed, Rosary.

1. What is a Sacrament?
2. Name the Seven Sacraments.
3. Which three are the Sacraments of Initiation?
4. How is Confirmation connected to Baptism?
5. What is Pentecost?
6. How is Confirmation connected to Pentecost?

Why do you want to be confirmed?

7. What are some of the signs and symbols of Confirmation? What do they mean?
8. Why does the bishop confirm you? What does the bishop say when confirming you? What do you say?
9. Who is the Holy Trinity? Who are the three persons of the Trinity?
10. Who is the Holy Spirit?

How have you seen the Holy Spirit active in your life?

11. What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit? Can you briefly describe each of them?
11.5 What are spiritual charisms, and how do they differ from the seven gifts?
12. What are the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit? Can you briefly describe each of them?

What are you hoping the Holy Spirit will do in your life after confirmation?

How do you intend to continue growing in your faith after confirmation?

What confirmation name did you choose and why?

Who did you pick to be your sponsor and why?

What are some service projects/youth activities in which you participated?

What does it mean to love? What is true freedom?

How was your experience of preparing for confirmation? What did you like or dislike?

1. What is a Sacrament?

The Latin word *sacramentum* means “a sign of the sacred.” The seven sacraments are ceremonies that point to what is sacred, significant and important for Christians. They are special occasions for experiencing God’s saving presence. That’s what theologians mean when they say that sacraments are at the same time signs and instruments of God’s grace.

The purpose of the sacraments is to make people holy, to build up the body of Christ, and finally, to give worship to God; but being signs, they also have a teaching function. They not only presuppose faith, but by words and object, they also nourish, strengthen, and express it; that is why they are called “sacraments of faith.” The sacraments impart grace, but, in addition, the very act of celebrating them disposes the faithful most effectively to receive this grace in a fruitful manner, to worship God rightly, and to practice charity. Therefore, a sacrament is an outward sign, given by Christ, to give us grace.

2. Name the Seven Sacraments.

Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders

3. Which three are the Sacraments of Initiation?

Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist

4. How is Confirmation connected to Baptism? On the day of Confirmation, you are confirming the faith of your baptism. (CCC 1302-1305)

*Both are Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic Church.

*Confirmation strengthens and perfects what has been given in Baptism.

5. What is Pentecost?

Pentecost Sunday is one of the most ancient feasts of the Church, celebrated early enough to be mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (20:16), and St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians (16:8). It supplants the Jewish feast of Pentecost, which took place 50 days after the Passover and which celebrated the sealing of the Old Covenant on Mount Sinai.

6. How is Confirmation connected to Pentecost?

Confirmation is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We are gifted with the same Holy Spirit that descended upon the Apostles. We are given the same power and the same gifts.

CCC-1285 . . . It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. For “by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed.” CCC-1285 (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

7. What are some of the signs and symbols of Confirmation? What is going to happen during the Rite of Confirmation?

- *Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- *Laying on of Hands
- *Anointing with Chrism
- *Sign of Peace

8. Why does the bishop confirm you? What does the Bishop say? What do you say?

The ordinary minister of confirmation is a bishop (Canon 882). It is the diocesan bishop's prerogative, and responsibility, to ensure that the faithful of his diocese are able to receive this sacrament (c. 885.1), either from himself or another bishop. He may, in limited cases, give the faculty to confirm to a priest.

Bishop: "Be sealed with the Holy Spirit"

Confirmand: "Amen"

Bishop: "Peace be with you"

Confirmand: "And with your spirit"

9. Who is the Holy Trinity? Who are the three persons of the Trinity?

Our God. Father, Son and Holy Spirit

10. Who is the Holy Spirit?

He makes holy the souls of the just by His presence. But a Spirit is not present in the sense of taking up space. We say a Spirit is present wherever it causes an effect. In the soul, the Holy Spirit transforms it, making it basically capable of taking in, after death, the infinite streams of knowledge and love that flow within the Holy Trinity. Thus, we are really "sharers in the divine nature." (2 Peter 1:4). This is a dignity so great that any earthly honor is insignificant beside it.

He comes with his Seven Gifts. These make the soul capable of taking in the special lights and inspirations He sends in a much higher way than what is had in ordinary graces. We do not notice much of any effects from these Gifts until we have advanced rather far in the spiritual life, for great docility and purity of heart are needed.

On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down visibly on the Apostles. He gave them the power to speak in strange tongues to the crowds that came to Jerusalem for that Feast. He also transformed them, from selfish and timid men into giants of courage and faith.

-From Catholic Catechism

11. What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit? Can you briefly explain each?



WUCK gifts are about knowing

- Wisdom: prioritizes things that matter. Enables you to approach any situation with the mind of Christ
- Understanding: Grasping Jesus teachings. Allows you to apply wisdom to concrete situations
- Counsel: Right judgement. Helps you receive and give good advice from the Spirit
- Knowledge: How to be a saint. Helps you apply and process information regarding created things

PUFF gifts are about doing

- Piety: Reverence. How God deserves to be treated. Helps us maintain a childlike trust, dedication and devotion to God
- Fortitude: Courage. Gives you the ability to make a sacrifice in order to do what is right
- Fear of the Lord: Wonder and awe. Keeps our friendship with God. Profound respect for the all-powerful God of creation.

11.5 What is a spiritual charism? How do they differ from the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit? What are some spiritual charisms you think you might have? How will you continue to discover and use these gifts and charisms you have been given?

Spiritual Charisms are special abilities given to Christians by the Holy Spirit to enable them to be powerful channels of God's love in the world.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to keep, while spiritual charisms are to be given away

12. What are the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit?

The fruits of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: (CCC-1832)

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| *Charity | *Generosity |
| *Joy | *Gentleness |
| *Peace | *Faithfulness |
| *Patience | *Modesty |
| *Kindness | *Self-control |
| *Goodness | *Chastity |

Confirmation is when you confirm and profess all that the Church teaches to be true and that this is your faith. What are concrete ways you will continue to grow and mature in your Catholic Faith after you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

What service projects have you participated in and how have you helped St. Peter's community and the greater community? What did you learn from your experiences?

With everything put aside, and no pressure from parents/sponsors/friends, do you desire to be Confirmed? Why?

Now that your Sacraments of Initiation will be complete, are there any new ministries within the parish and the Church that you would like to participate? Are there any new ministries you would like to see offered at St. Peter's? Liturgical? Education? Leadership? Music?

Other Possibilities for 10. Who is the Holy Spirit?

"No one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God." Now God's Spirit, who reveals God, makes known to us Christ, his Word, his living Utterance, but the Spirit does not speak of himself. The Spirit who "has spoken through the prophets" makes us hear the Father's Word, but we do not hear the Spirit himself. We know him only in the movement by which he reveals the Word to us and disposes us to welcome him in faith. The Spirit of truth who "unveils" Christ to us "will not speak on his own." Such properly divine self-effacement explains why "the world cannot receive [him], because it neither sees him nor knows him," while those who believe in Christ know the Spirit because he dwells with them. (CCC-687)

The Church, a communion living in the faith of the apostles which she transmits, is the place where we know the Holy Spirit: (CCC-688)

- in the Scriptures he inspired;
- in the Tradition, to which the Church Fathers are always timely witnesses;
- in the Church's Magisterium, which he assists;
- in the sacramental liturgy, through its words and symbols, in which the Holy Spirit puts us into communion with Christ;
- in prayer, wherein he intercedes for us;
- in the charisms and ministries by which the Church is built up;
- in the signs of apostolic and missionary life;
- in the witness of saints through whom he manifests his holiness and continues the work of salvation.