

# Readiness for Confirmation

Jesus wants you to be confirmed. Do you hear him calling you? Are you ready to open your heart? Are you ready for the gifts that will be bestowed upon you by the Holy Spirit?

Confirmation is one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. Through Confirmation, God 'confirms' our baptism. The grace of the Holy Spirit is given to us, along with gifts and fruits that empower us as we journey along the path of holiness.

Are you ready to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Are you ready to say 'Yes' to God?

## Confirmation is a Beginning

Confirmation marks the beginning of a journey towards a deeper knowledge of God involving growth, learning, and discovery.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the completion of the Sacrament of Baptism. Candidates reaffirm their baptism by confirming the promises originally made by their parents and godparents. Thus, it should be seen as a continuation of your Christian life – an opportunity to deepen the grace you received at baptism.

Through Confirmation, Christ is calling you to be like the Apostles: his witnesses before the community and before the world. He is also inviting you to be 'conformed' to him, to be like him.

## Infusion of the Holy Spirit

In Confirmation, we receive an infusion of the Holy Spirit, just as the Apostles did on the day of Pentecost. We are made more perfect and are strengthened so we can give witness to Jesus Christ.

A candidate for Confirmation who has attained the age of reason must profess faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the Church and in the world.

A candidate should receive the Sacrament of Penance to prepare themselves to receive the strength and grace of the Holy Spirit (Catechism of the Catholic Church).

## Readiness for Confirmation

You will be ready to consider being confirmed when you...

- approach the journey of preparation with an open mind and heart,
- regularly participate in GIFT Youth and its activities,
- attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation,
- receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before being confirmed,
- accept more responsibility in your family, parish, and community,
- commit to daily prayer, especially for growth in faith, hope and love,
- select a sponsor who is a Catholic, who has been confirmed and is aged 18 or older.

## Free-will Decision of the Candidate

No one should be forced into being confirmed as this not only defeats the purpose of preparation, but also creates an atmosphere that could negatively affect them and others. The decision to be confirmed must be made freely because it is what the candidate seeks and wants.

It's not unusual to be hesitant about being confirmed. To gain a deeper love and appreciation for what it means to be Catholic requires commitment and self-reflection.

Sometimes candidates feel that they are not ready to be confirmed. We are here to help you prepare so that you can say 'yes' to the invitation God is giving you.

## Commitment to the Journey

It is expected that candidates who wish to receive the sacrament of Confirmation accept what it means to be confirmed, participate fully in the process of preparation, and take seriously what it means to be a member of the Catholic Church.

We look forward to accompanying you on this exciting journey.

