

THE THEOLOGY OF CONFIRMATION

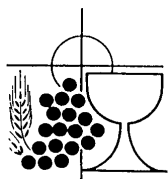
In the past, our St. Robert community has viewed Confirmation as reaffirming your faith as an adult. This implied that Confirmation was the end of your Catholic formation. The new emphasis in Confirmation is that we are all on a pilgrimage of faith. Confirmation preparation is a time for the candidates to carefully consider their relationship with Christ and His Church. The candidates' hearts are open to receive the Holy Spirit and strengthen them for their lifelong journey of faith. Confirmation then is not the end of religious training; it is really a station along the way where we are renewed to continue our journey.

Confirmation is one of the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation of our Catholic Faith.



BAPTISM: *The first of the seven sacraments, and the “door” which gives access to the other sacraments. Baptism is the first and chief sacrament of forgiveness of sins because it unites us with Christ, who died for our sins and rose for our justification. (CCC 1213)*

Baptism marks our entrance into the Christian community and the cleansing of original and personal sin with sanctifying grace. Our parents can speak for us. They promise to raise and educate us in our Catholic Faith. The signs of baptism are water and being baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



EUCCHARIST: At the heart of the Church's life, it is the source and summit of the Christian life. Through the Eucharist we participate in the divine life of Christ and are united as a community of believers to become the Body of Christ. We are called by Christ to partake of the Eucharist in remembrance of His Paschal Sacrifice (passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension). It is through this rite that we anticipate eternal life. It maintains the unity of the entire Church and aids us in living our faith in both word and deed. The signs are bread and wine.



CONFIRMATION: *Completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which seal or “confirm” the baptized in union with Christ and equip them for active participation in the worship and apostolic life of the church. (CCC 1285)*

Confirmation is the rite of anointing with oil and the laying on of hands with the words, “BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

Confirmation is the sacrament by which the rite of Baptism is completed. It is also our opportunity to ratify our baptism by our own free will. It strengthens us and allows us to pursue the missionary dimensions of our baptism by obliging our minds to look towards the entire community. The signs are holy chrism, laying on of hands and anointing.

CLARIFICATIONS ABOUT BAPTISM VERIFICATION

If your child **WAS** baptized at St. Robert Bellarmine, please provide us with the approximate date and we will verify the information in our office.

If your child **WAS NOT** baptized at St. Robert Bellarmine, **but did make his/her First Communion here**, please provide us with the approximate baptismal date and we can verify the information from the First Communion files.

If the candidate **WAS NOT** baptized at St. Robert Bellarmine, **and did NOT make his/her First Communion at St. Robert**, the church he/she was baptized at can provide you with the verification. If you have the original Certificate of Baptism with the church seal on it, this can be used for certification. We will make a copy for our files and return the original to you. If you **DO NOT** have a certificate, please contact the Church of baptism and request that a copy be sent to you with their church seal on it.

If your child was baptized at a **NON CATHOLIC** church, you must provide us with proof that a Profession of Faith has been made with the Catholic Church. **If NO Profession of Faith has been made, you must arrange for one to be made before the Confirmation date. You can do so by contacting Elaine Baur, the Religious Education Director at 659-8556.**