



CONFIRMATION

STUDY GUIDE



In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. - USCCB

Confirmation is the last stage in Christian Initiation, but initiation itself is only the beginning of a full, active, and adult Christian life. As you continue to mature, your understanding of the Catholic faith should mature with you—you should not have an 8th-grade-understanding of your faith when you are in 12th grade. All of these will help you gain a deeper understanding of the basics of the faith, often called the Formulas of Christian Doctrine, which are listed below and which you should be familiar with by the time of Confirmation:

Hierarchy of the Church

1. Pope
2. Cardinal
3. Archbishop
4. Bishop
5. Vicar General
6. Monsignor
7. Priest
8. Deacon

Holy Days of Obligation

January 1st – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Forty Days After Easter – Ascension of Our Lord
August 15th – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
November 1st – Feast of All Saints
December 8th – Immaculate Conception
December 25th – Christmas Day / Nativity of Our Lord

Twelve Apostles:

1. Peter
2. Bartholomew
3. Andrew
4. Matthew
5. James
6. James the Lesser
7. John
8. Jude
9. Philip
10. Simon
11. Thomas
12. Judas

Colors of the Liturgical Year

Advent/Lent – Purple
Christmas/Easter – White or Gold
Ordinary Time – Green
Triduum - Red

Parts of the Bible

Old Testament – Everything before the birth of Jesus
New Testament – Everything that happened after the birth of Jesus

Precepts of the Church

The precepts of the Church describe the minimum effort we must make in prayer and in living a moral life. All Catholics are called to move beyond the minimum by growing in love of God and love of neighbor. The Precepts are as follows:

1. Attendance at Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation
2. Confession of serious sin at least once a year
3. Reception of Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season
4. Observance of the days of fast and abstinence
5. Providing for the needs of the church

The Role of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is sent to help you in your Faith Journey. God's grace fills us with redemption and grace. This grace, this presence of God in us is the Holy Spirit.

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17)

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are called to a new life and are asked to make moral choices that keep us united with God. With the help and grace of the Holy Spirit, we can choose ways to act to keep close to God, to help other people, and to be witnesses to Jesus. The Ten Commandments guide us in making choices that help us to live as God wants us to live. The first three commandments tell us how to love God. The other seven tell how to love our neighbor.

1. I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The Two Commandments of Love (Mt. 22:36-40)

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.
2. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The Three Theological Virtues (1 Cor. 13:13)

Faith, Hope, Charity

Prayers to Know

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Glory Be

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of Grace! The Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

The Three Types of Prayer:

Vocal, Meditation, Contemplation

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

At Baptism, we receive seven special gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are freely given to us to help us live as followers of Jesus and to build up the Body of Christ, the Church. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed and strengthened within us at Confirmation. These seven gifts help us to respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to make good choices, and to serve God and others.

Wisdom *is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could hurt your relationship with God and with others.*

Understanding *is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.*

Counsel *or right judgement is the gift of prudence. The gift of right judgment helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower*

Fortitude *or courage is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of courage helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.*

Knowledge *is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God. It encourages you to avoid obstacles that will keep you from him.*

Piety *or reverence is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.*

Fear of the Lord *or wonder and awe is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages you to be in awe of God. The gift of wonder and awe moves you to so love God that you do not want to offend him by your words or actions.*

The Seven Sacraments

A sacrament is an outward sign or covenant of grace given to us by Jesus Christ and preserved by the Church for the purpose of participating in the life of God. Jesus touches our lives through the sacraments. In the Sacraments, physical objects: water, bread, wine, oil, and others, are signs of Jesus' presence.

Sacraments of Initiation

These sacraments lay the foundation of every Christian life.

Baptism – In Baptism we are born into new life in Christ. Baptism takes away original sin and makes us members of the Church. Its sign is pouring of the water.

Confirmation – Confirmation seals our life of faith in Jesus. Its signs are the laying of hands on a person's head, most often by the bishop, and the anointing of oil. Like Baptism, it is received only once.

Eucharist – The Eucharist nourishes our life of faith. We receive the Body and Blood of Christ under the appearance of bread and wine.

Sacraments of Healing

These sacraments celebrate the healing power of Jesus.

Penance – Through Penance we receive God's forgiveness. Forgiveness requires being sorry for our sins. In Penance we receive Jesus' healing grace through absolution by the priest. The signs of the sacrament are our repentance and satisfaction, and the words of absolution.

Anointing of the Sick – The sacrament unites a sick person's suffering with those of Jesus. Oil, a symbol of strength, is the sign of the sacrament. A person is anointed with oil and receives the laying of hands from a priest.

Sacrament at the Service of Communion

These Sacraments help members serve the community.

Matrimony – In Matrimony, a baptized man and a woman are united with each other as a sign of unity between Jesus and his church. Matrimony requires the consent of the couple, as expressed in the marriage promises. The couple are the sign of this sacrament.

Holy Orders – In Holy Orders, men are ordained priests to be leaders of the community or deacons to be reminders of our baptismal call to serve others. The sign of this sacrament is the laying of hands and the prayer asking God for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit by the bishop.

The Duties of Catholic Christians

1. To keep holy the day of the Lord's resurrection: to worship God by participating in Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation; to avoid those activities that would hinder the renewal of soul and body. For example, needless work and business activities, unnecessary shopping.
2. To lead a sacramental life. This means to receive Holy Communion at least once a year between the first Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday, receiving the sacrament of reconciliation beforehand if serious sin is involved. But this also means that all are urged and expected to receive these sacraments frequently.
3. To study Catholic teaching in preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, to be confirmed, and then to study and advance the cause of Christ.
4. To observe the marriage laws of the Church; to give religious training (by word and example) to one's children; to use parish schools and religious education programs.
5. To strengthen and support the Church; one's own parish community and parish priests; the worldwide Church and the Holy Father.
6. To do penance, including abstaining from meat and fasting from food on the appointed days.
7. To join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
Shelter the homeless
Visit the sick and imprisoned
Bury the dead
Give alms to the poor

Spiritual Works of Mercy

Counsel the doubtful
Teach the ignorant
Help the sinner
Comfort the sorrowful
Forgive injuries
Bear wrongs patiently
Pray for the living and the dead

The Eight Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12)

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
- Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mortal and Venial Sin

Mortal Sin

In order for a sin to be mortal, it must meet three conditions:

- Mortal sin is a sin of grave matter
- Mortal sin is committed with full knowledge of the sinner
- Mortal sin is committed with deliberate consent of the sinner

This means that mortal sins cannot be done "accidentally." A person who commits a mortal sin is one who knows that their sin is wrong, but still deliberately commits the sin anyway. This means that mortal sins are premeditated by the sinner and thus are truly a rejection of God's law and love. A serious, grave or mortal sin is the knowing and willful violation of God's law in a serious matter. For example, idolatry, adultery, murder, slander. These are all things gravely contrary to the love we owe God and, because of Him, our neighbor.

Venial Sin

Venial sins are slight sins. They do not break our friendship with God, although they injure it. They involve disobedience of the law of God in slight (venial) matters. According to Roman Catholicism, a venial sin (meaning "forgivable" sin) is a lesser sin that does not result in a complete separation from God and eternal damnation in Hell as an unrepented mortal sin would. A venial sin consists in acting as one should not, without the actual incompatibility with the state of grace that a mortal sin implies; they do not break one's friendship with God, but injure it.

Bishops

The current bishop in the Charlotte Diocese is **Bishop Peter Jugis**.

Ministries

There are MANY ministries here at St. Luke. You will be asked to name 6. Here is a small list. You may know of others.

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|--------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Faith Formation | Knights of Columbus | MOMS |
| Room at the Inn | Homeless Shelter | RCIA |
| Thomasboro Support | Kairos Prison Ministry | HOPE |
| Pax Christi | Young At Heart | Agape |

Lastly,

When you were baptized you were welcomed into the Catholic faith. Your parents made this choice for you. In the sacrament of Confirmation, YOU are confirming the choice that your parents made for you. As a young adult, you CHOOSE whether or not you want to be confirmed. You have to WANT to be confirmed. It is the gifts of the Spirit offered to give you the courage and strength to witness and serve—two responsibilities implied in baptism—which are the grace and focus of the sacrament.

Be prepared to tell why you want to be confirmed and how you will continue in the church through its ministries.