

STUDY GUIDE – Confirmation – Believe ~ Celebrate ~ Live Chapters 1, 2, & 3

The Holy Spirit is God, the Third person of the Blessed Trinity. In the life of Jesus Christ, the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit truly became known. Jesus communicates his Holy Spirit to the Church today through the sacraments. Jesus' Baptism was a preparation for his ministry.

Baptism is the foundation for our life in the Spirit. It is the first sacrament we receive. We receive grace, God's life within us, at Baptism.

- Baptism frees us from original sin.
- In Baptism we receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist are the **Sacraments of Initiation**, which lay the foundation for our lives as Jesus' disciples.

By our initiation into the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist, we are born into the Church (Baptism), strengthened (Confirmation), and nourished (Communion).

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the sacrament in which the Gift of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism is confirmed, strengthened, and perfected for living the Christian life and spreading the faith to others.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit strengthens us for the discipleship to Christ.

BLESSED TRINITY – The Three Divine Persons in One God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

HOLY SPIRIT – God the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

CHURCH – all the people who believe in Jesus Christ, have been baptized in him, and follow his teachings.

SACRAMENT - an effective sign given to us by Jesus through which we share God's life.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – sacrament in which we are freed from sin, become children of God and are welcomed into the Church.

ORIGINAL SIN – the first sin committed by the first human beings, with which we, as their dependents we have been born with.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION - the process of becoming a member of the Church through the Sacraments Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist.

DISCIPLES – men and women who traveled with Jesus, witnessed his healings and miracles, heard his preaching; followers of Jesus.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION – the sacrament in which the gift of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism is confirmed, strengthened, and perfected for living the Christian life and spreading the faith to others.

When you receive the Eucharist:

- You receive the Real Presence of Christ and are sustained by his life within you.
- You are united to Christ and the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit, and fully initiated into Christ and the Church.
- The grace that you first received at Baptism grows, helping you to live as Jesus' disciple.
- You remember and celebrate the Paschal Mystery.
- The essential signs of the Eucharistic sacrament are wheat bread and grape wine, on which the blessing of the Holy Spirit is invoked and the priest pronounces the words of consecration spoken by Jesus during the last supper: "This is my body which will be given up for you . . . This is the cup of my Blood. Through the breaking of bread and sharing of wine, Jesus instituted the Eucharist.
- The Eucharist became the center of the early Church, and continues to be the center of the life of the Church today. In the Mass the priest consecrates the gifts of bread and wine by doing and saying what Jesus did and said at the Last Supper. The changing of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is called transubstantiation. Each time you receive Holy Communion you are receiving Jesus himself. Each time we participate in the Celebration of the Eucharist and receive Christ in Holy Communion, the grace that we first received in Baptism grows in us, helping us to live as Christ's faithful disciples.

- By his Resurrection, Jesus' disciples knew that he was truly the Son of God.
- The Ascension signifies that from the moment Jesus ascended, he was with the Father in heaven, and also with us forever through the Holy Spirit.
- Through the **Paschal Mystery, (Christ's suffering death, Resurrection & Ascension)** the Father was made known to all of us in Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Like Jesus' first disciples, we share the life of Jesus and become one with him and with one another in the Eucharist. Through our unity with Jesus, we are able to live the fullness of God's life in us. The Liturgy celebrates and makes present the Paschal Mystery of Christ.
- Through Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross, a new covenant between God and his people was sealed with Jesus' Blood.
- The Mass makes present Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The Mass Is the Church's greatest prayer. Christ nourishes us with his teachings from the Gospels and with his Body & Blood.

LAST SUPPER– The last meal Jesus ate with his Apostles on the night before he died, at which he instituted the Eucharist.

SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST– the sacrament of the Body & Blood of Christ.

CONSECRATES – makes sacred

TRANSUBSTANTIATION – the changing of the bread & wine into the Body & Blood of Christ that takes place during the Consecration of the Mass, by the power of the Holy Spirit through the words and actions of the priest.

REAL PRESENCE– the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

PASSION– the suffering & death of Jesus.

RESURRECTION- the mystery of Jesus' rising from Death to new life.

KINGDOM OF GOD – the power of God active in our lives and in our world

ASCENSION – Jesus' return in all his glory to his Father in Heaven

PASCHAL MYSTERY– the suffering, death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus.

LITURGY– the official public prayer of the Church.

COMMUNION OF SAINTS – the union of all the baptized members of the Church on earth, in heaven, and in Purgatory.

PENTECOST - The Apostles began the Church's public ministry at Pentecost. The members of the Church have been given a missionary mandate to evangelize.

- At the first Pentecost the “first fruits” of the Christian Church were baptized by the Apostles and sent forth to establish churches in their hometowns. Pentecost marks the beginning of the public ministry of the church. It is sometimes called the birthday of the Church. After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Apostles began to proclaim the Good News of Christ. The people did not all speak the same language, but the Holy Spirit working in the Apostles allowed everyone to understand the message. Pentecost marks the manifestation of the Church and her public ministry.

SACRED SCRIPTURE – The Bible contains 73 separate books divided into two parts: The Old Testament and The New Testament. In the Old Testament we learn about God's relationship with the people of Israel and God's promise of a Messiah. The New Testament contains the fulfillment of God's promise of a Messiah: the story of Jesus, his mission, his first followers, and the beginning of the Church.

SACRED TRADITION is the living transmission of the Good News of Jesus Christ as lived out in our Church. Tradition includes teachings and practices handed on orally from the time of Jesus and his Apostles. It also includes the creeds, or statements of Christian beliefs.

- The part of the Mass that we express our core beliefs is **The Profession of Faith or the creed.** ~(**I believe in one, holy, catholic & apostolic Church**)
- The Church is the People of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is at work in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, as well as in many other aspects of the Church.
- The same Holy Spirit that empowered the Apostles at Pentecost empowers us as well at Confirmation.

The signs and ritual actions of Confirmation continue a long tradition of the Church.

- From the beginning of the Church there was a connection between Baptism and the laying on of hands by the Apostles. In addition to the laying on of hands, a ritual of anointing became part of the sacrament. In time this anointing became the essential sign of the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. In the early Church, Baptism and Confirmation were usually celebrated together.
- In the Eastern Church, this tradition of Celebrating both sacraments together places a greater emphasis on the unity of the Sacrament of Christian Initiation. In the Latin Church, the unity of the sacraments remains but the separation of the sacraments highlights our bond with the bishop, the successor of the Apostles.
- In the Sacrament of Baptism, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are anointed and sealed with the Holy Spirit. In Confirmation, our baptismal anointing is confirmed, completed and perfected. Each time we celebrate the sacraments we are given an opportunity to offer God our whole lives as prayer.
- The Mass is the greatest prayer of the Church.
- We evangelize when we proclaim the Good News of Christ to all people. As members of the Church, we evangelize when we bring our faith to the world and the world to our faith. To evangelize we must follow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

APOSTLES– twelve men who shared Jesus’ mission in a special way.

PENTECOST– the day on which the Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ 12 Apostles as Jesus promised. It marks the beginning of the public ministry of the Church. (**Sometimes called the Birthday of the Church – extra 5 points on test if you write it.**)

SACRED SCRIPTURE - the word of God written by human authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

TRADITION – all that the Church has learned with the Guidance of the Holy Spirit. Including her teachings, documents, worship, prayer, and other practices. Tradition communicates God’s Revelation.

SACRED CHRISM – mixture of olive oil & balsam that is consecrated by the bishop and used to anoint is the sacraments.

BISHOP – Man who received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders and continues the Apostles’ mission of leadership and service.

EVANGELIZE– to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to people everywhere.