



Baptism and Confirmation

Baptism and Confirmation, together with the Eucharist, form the Sacraments of Initiation of the Church, which “lay the *foundations* of every Christian life” (CCC 1212). “The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life” (CCC 1212). In Baptism, we are cleansed of original sin, and enter into Christ’s Church, becoming members of His Body. Through Confirmation, we receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, strengthening our bond with the Church and giving us the strength to bear witness to the Gospel Truth (CCC 1316).

Quick Scripture

John 3:5
Matthew 28:19-20
1 Corinthians 12:13
Acts 9:18
Acts 10:47-48
Acts 8:14-17
Ephesians 1:13-14
Revelation 9:4

Major Baptism Themes

- ❖ What is Baptism?
 - The sacrament by which we are purified from original sin (and our personal sins) and receive new birth in the Holy Spirit, becoming members of Christ’s Church. (CCC 1262, 1267)
 - The Church recognizes three different types of Baptism: Baptism by water, fire, and desire.
 - Baptism by fire (or blood): those who die for their faith without having been baptized are baptized by their death “for and with Christ” (CCC 1258)
 - Baptism by desire: those who desire Baptism but do not have the opportunity to be baptized or would desire Baptism if they knew the Gospel of Christ (CCC 1259, 1260)
- ❖ Need for Baptism
 - “Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament” (CCC 1257).
 - “Jesus answered, ‘Amen, amen, I say to you no one can enter the kingdom of Heaven without being born of water and Spirit’” (John 3:5).
- ❖ Effects of Baptism
 - “By Baptism *all sins* are forgiven, original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin” (CCC 1263).
 - “Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ... It incorporates us *into the Church*. ‘For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body’” (CCC 1267).
- ❖ Infant Baptism
 - “Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of the new birth in Baptism... The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth” (CCC 1250).
 - “As regards *children who have died without Baptism*, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God” (CCC 1260).

Major Confirmation Themes

- ❖ What is Confirmation?
 - It is the seal of the Holy Spirit that marks our total belonging to Jesus Christ (CCC 1296).
 - It is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace (CCC 1285).
- ❖ Effects of Confirmation
 - It unites us more firmly to Christ, increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us, renders our bond with the Church more perfect, and gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross (CCC 1303).