

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Confirmation Seals The Baptized With What Gifts?

Know This...

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit into His Church and our lives to strengthen and lead us into the light of truth. Satan and the allure of this world are no match for the infinite power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the faithful. The sacrament of Confirmation seals the baptized with the gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. These gifts equip us to participate in the worship and apostolic life of the Church.



John: Confirmation completes and perfects the grace we received at Baptism, unites us more firmly to Christ, and strengthens our bond with His Church.

James: Confirmation draws us into the mission of the Church and gives us the courage to bear witness to our Christian faith through acts of charity.



John: Like Baptism and Holy Orders, Confirmation places an indelible mark on the soul of the baptized.

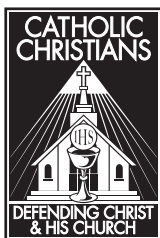
James: Only Baptism and Confession can wash away mortal sin; so the confirmed must be free of mortal sin for the sacrament to bring forth grace.

John: If one is confirmed while in a state of mortal sin, sacramental grace will not enter the soul until the guilt of mortal sin is absolved in Confession.

James: Confirmation prepares us for spiritual warfare, just as it prepared the Apostles and early Christians who risked their lives to preach and practice the faith.

Deacon John Beckmann and Deacon James Russell are permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Please visit: www.catholicchristians.com for more insight into the teaching of Jesus Christ and His Church.

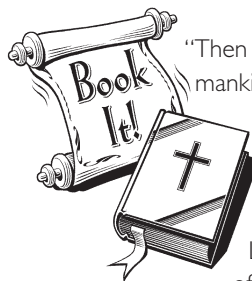


Jesus said to the crowd, "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on Him has God the Father set His seal." ^{Jn 6:27} Jesus said to the Apostles, "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—He will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." ^{Jn 14:16, 26}

"Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with His sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed His pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts." ^{St. Ambrose}



BE ATTITUDES "Age of body does not determine age of soul. Even in childhood man can attain spiritual maturity: as the book of Wisdom says. Many children, through the strength of the Holy Spirit they have received, have bravely fought for Christ even to the shedding of their blood." ^{St. Thomas Aquinas}



"Then afterward I will pour out my spirit upon all mankind. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; even upon the servants and the handmaids, in those days, I will pour out my spirit." ^{Joel 3:1-2} Isaiah said of the messiah, "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him: the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of strength, the spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord." ^{Is 11:2,3} "Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit." ^{Acts 8:14-17}

Heavenly Father; You sent Your Son to redeem the world and Your Spirit to sanctify it. Through the gift of Your grace and the power of Your Spirit I can live my life according to the fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. I pray that I will bravely and charitably spread and defend the faith by word and deed. Grant this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

