

## CONFIRMATION REVIEW

**Prayers Candidates should be familiar with:**

- The Lord's Prayer
- The Sign of the Cross
- The Hail Mary
- Glory Be to the Father
- The Apostles Creed
- The Act of Contrition (As commonly used in the parish)
- The Rosary
- Grace for Meals

<b>Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Reference #</b>	<b><u>Commandments</u></b> Know each commandment and be able to explain which major duties and sins relate to the commandment.	
#2084 - 2141	<b>1.</b>	<b>You shall worship the Lord your God, Him only shall you serve.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duties: prayer and worship of God. <input type="checkbox"/> Sins: idolatry, sacrilege, atheism.
#2142 - 2167	<b>2.</b>	<b>You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duties: to speak reverently about God, and holy persons, places or things. To fulfill vows and promises made before God. <input type="checkbox"/> Sins: profanity, perjury, blasphemy, cursing
#2168 - 2195	<b>3.</b>	<b>Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duties: to observe Sunday and Holydays by participating at Mass. Avoid servile work on Sundays. <input type="checkbox"/> Sins: failure to attend Mass, performing unnecessary work on Sunday.
#2197 - 2257	<b>4.</b>	<b>Honor your father and your mother.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duties: to respect, obey and care for parents, and to respect all lawful (just) authorities and just civil laws. <input type="checkbox"/> Sins: failure to fulfill obligations.
#2258 - 2330	<b>5.</b>	<b>You shall not kill.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duties: to respect the spiritual and physical well being of self and others. <input type="checkbox"/> Sins: murder, suicide, abortion, euthanasia, mutilation, fighting, hatred, prejudice, scandal, revenge.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Reference #	<u>Commandments</u> Know each commandment and be able to explain which major duties and sins relate to the commandment.	
#2331 - 2400	6.	<b>You shall not commit adultery.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duties: to observe purity in mind and body, regulating our sexual expression in accord with our state in life. <input type="checkbox"/> Sins: adultery, fornication (pre-marital sex), cohabitation, prostitution, rape, homosexual acts, contraception, masturbation, pornography.
#2401 - 2463	7.	<b>You shall not steal.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duties: to respect the property of others and to be honest in our dealings with others. <input type="checkbox"/> Sins: stealing, cheating, bribery, vandalism.
#2464 - 2513	8.	<b>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duties: to be truthful in all of our speech and actions. <input type="checkbox"/> Sins: lying, slander, detraction, betrayal of secrets.
#2514 - 2533	9.	<b>You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duties: to observe purity in our thoughts and desires. <input type="checkbox"/> Sins: to use thoughts or other media to encourage impure desire, lust.
#2534 - 2557	10.	<b>You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Duties: to properly order our desires. <input type="checkbox"/> Sins: covetousness, avarice, envy/jealousy.

#2055	<b>Know the two great commands of Jesus.</b> 1. To love God above all other things. 2. To love your neighbor as yourself.	
	<b>Moral Life</b>	
#1776 - 1802		<u>Conscience</u> : The judgment of our reason that something is right or wrong according to the law of God.
#1730 - 1748		<u>Freedom/responsibility</u> : The human person is responsible for the decisions that he/she freely makes.
Catechism of the		

<b>Catholic Church (CCC) Reference #</b>		<b>Moral Life</b>
#1949 - 1986		Source of moral law/teachings: Eternal law (from God), Natural law (laws set by God into creation that man is able to know and understand about right and wrong in human activity), Revealed law (Old and New Testament), Church law, just civil laws.
#1846 - 1876		Sin – mortal/venial: (NB – for a sin to be a mortal sin there are 3 requirements: that the sin is serious, the person know it’s a serious matter, and freely consent to the sin)
		<b>Sacraments</b>
#1131		What are Sacraments? <input type="checkbox"/> The Sacraments are effective, sacred signs, instituted by Christ and entrusted to His Church, through which the divine life is shared with us. Where do the Sacraments come from? <input type="checkbox"/> The Sacraments are instituted by Christ. The origins of each sacrament may be found in the Sacred Scriptures.
#1212 - 1419		What are the Sacraments of Initiation? <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation.
#1213 - 1284 #1285 - 1321 #1322 - 1419 #1422 - 1498 #1499 - 1532 #1601 - 1666 #1536 - 1600		For each Sacrament, be able to identify the key sign or signs, the minister of the sacrament, how it is given, and who may receive the sacrament. (See Matter and Form chart for the sacraments). <input type="checkbox"/> Baptism <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation <input type="checkbox"/> Eucharist <input type="checkbox"/> Penance <input type="checkbox"/> Anointing of the Sick <input type="checkbox"/> Matrimony <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Orders
		<b>Doctrine</b>
#33, 231		<input type="checkbox"/> Existence of God (God is known by reason and revelation)
#214 - #221, #268 - #271, 370, 385, 733, 2465		<input type="checkbox"/> Attributes of God (God as all knowing, wise, loving, good, etc.)
#80 - 83		<input type="checkbox"/> Revelation (How God tells us about Himself. Present in the Sacred Scriptures and the Tradition of the Church)

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Reference #	<u>Doctrine</u>
#290	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Creation by God (To know that all things have their origin from God, and that He has ultimate sovereignty over all things)</li> </ul>
#355 - 384	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Creation of the human person (Man, the human person, was created by God in his own image and likeness. The human person is composed of both body and soul. The soul of each person is created immediately by God)</li> </ul>
#396 - 421	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Original Sin (The fall of Adam and Eve is related in Genesis. As a result of the disobedience of our first parents, later human persons have been deprived of the gifts given to man at the creation, and suffered the loss of God's friendship)</li> </ul>
#232 - 267	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Trinity (In the mystery of God, there are three divine persons in one divine nature)</li> </ul>
#238 - 242, #270 - 272	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ God the Father (The first divine person of the Trinity and Creator, eternally begets the Son and is the source and origin of the whole divinity.)</li> </ul>
#422 - 682	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Jesus Christ (Second divine person, true God and true Man)</li> </ul>
#441 - 455 #456 - 463 #484 - 530 #535 - 570 #571 - 598 #599 - 630 #631 - 658 #659 - 667	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Divinity</li> <li>○ Humanity</li> <li>○ Birth</li> <li>○ Public Life</li> <li>○ Passion</li> <li>○ Death</li> <li>○ Resurrection</li> <li>○ Ascension</li> </ul>
#683 - 747	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Holy Spirit (Third person of the Trinity and active in our sanctification, is in relation to the Father and the Son)</li> </ul>
#731 - 732 #304 #712, 768, 1831, 1845 #736, 1832 #733 - 741 #737 - 741	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pentecost</li> <li>○ Inspires Bible</li> <li>○ Gifts of the Holy Spirit</li> <li>○ Fruits of the Holy Spirit</li> <li>○ Role in Sacraments, prayer, and God's life in us</li> <li>○ Role in guiding the Church</li> </ul>

	<input type="checkbox"/> Grace (The divine life of God in us)
#2001 #1999 – 2000 #1831 #1803 – 1829 #1812 – 1829	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Actual Grace (also called “helping” grace, gifts of grace to help us respond to God in a particular instance)</li> <li>○ Sanctifying Grace (the gift of God’s life in us that makes us holy)</li> <li>○ Gifts of the Holy Spirit (The 7 gifts are special inclinations, given by the Spirit, so we will be more disposed or ready to do what God expects)</li> <li>○ Virtues (powers to do good, or a good habit)</li> <li>○ Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope, Charity or Love)</li> </ul>
#748ff	<input type="checkbox"/> The Church
#811 – 870 #551 – 553, #763 – 766 #857 – 862 #871 - 945	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Four Marks: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic</li> <li>○ Foundation of the Church by Christ</li> <li>○ Apostles</li> <li>○ Organization/Structure of the Church <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authority in the Church: Pope, Bishops, Ecumenical Councils (e.g. Vatican II)</li> <li>Structure: Universal Church          Pope</li> <li style="padding-left: 150px;">Diocese                                  Bishop</li> <li style="padding-left: 150px;">Parish                                      Pastor</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
#888 – 892	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Office of the Church (The Pope himself, and the Bishops in Ecumenical Council in union with the Pope can teach infallibly on matters of faith and morals. The Church also exercises her teaching office through the ordinary magisterium)
#946 – 962	<input type="checkbox"/> Communion of Saints
#1005 – 1022, #1035 – 1050	<input type="checkbox"/> Death – Judgment – Eternal Life
#1023 – 1037	<input type="checkbox"/> Heaven – Hell – Purgatory
#2041 – 2046, #2048	<input type="checkbox"/> Precepts of the Church
#538 – 540, #2043	<input type="checkbox"/> Fasting (one hour before receiving Communion and during certain days of Lent)
#2447	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy
#1601 – 1666, 1618 – 1620, 925 – 927, 1533 – 1600	<input type="checkbox"/> Vocations in the Christian life: Married, Single, Religious, Priesthood

CCC Reference #	
	<b><u>Sacred Scriptures</u></b>
#101 – 104	Bible <input type="checkbox"/> How do you find a scriptural citation?
#105 – 108	Inspiration (God inspired the human authors of the sacred books that make up the Bible)
#121 – 123	Old Testament <input type="checkbox"/> Torah (First five books of Bible) <input type="checkbox"/> Prophets <input type="checkbox"/> Historical books <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom/Other
#124 – 127	New Testament <input type="checkbox"/> Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John <input type="checkbox"/> Acts of the Apostles <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of St. Paul <input type="checkbox"/> Other Letters <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation
	<b><u>Liturgy</u></b>
	Mass
#1103 – 1104, 1356 – 1381 #1338 #1099 - 1112	<input type="checkbox"/> Meaning of the Mass: (The memorial of Christ's Passover, the making present and sacramental offering of his sacrifice on the cross) <input type="checkbox"/> Source from scripture (see Last Supper accounts and St. Paul) <input type="checkbox"/> Parts of the Mass (Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist)
#1174-1178	Liturgy of the Hours
#1674	Stations of the Cross
#1168 – 1171  #638 - 658	Holy Week <input type="checkbox"/> Palm Sunday <input type="checkbox"/> Holy Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Good Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Vigil <input type="checkbox"/> Easter
#731 – 732	Pentecost
#2042, 2177	Holy Days (Special days of obligation set by local Conference of Bishops)

The minister, essential rite/signs, and the fruits/graces of each sacrament

Sacrament	Minister	Essential Rite/Sign of Each Sacrament	Fruits/Graces/Effects of the Sacraments
Baptism	The ordinary ministers of Baptism are bishops, priests, and deacons. (In case of necessity, anyone with the required intention can baptize by using the Trinitarian baptismal formula. The required intention is the will to do what the Church does when she baptizes.) – CCC # 1256	Immersing the candidate in water or pouring water on his/her head while saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins</li> <li>- The baptized becomes a partaker of the divine nature</li> <li>- The baptized receives the gift of sanctifying grace, the grace of justification</li> <li>- Birth into the new life by which one becomes an adopted son or daughter of God the Father</li> <li>- Baptized becomes a partaker of the divine nature</li> <li>- Become a member of Jesus Christ and a co-heir with Him</li> <li>- Become a temple of the Holy Spirit</li> <li>- Incorporation into the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church</li> <li>- Receive the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity</li> <li>- Receive the power to live under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through His gifts</li> </ul>
Confirmation	The ordinary minister is the bishop. In certain well-defined circumstances, a priest can be the extraordinary minister of Confirmation, by virtue either of a faculty conceded him by law or of a faculty granted him by the bishop.	Anointing of the forehead with sacred chrism together with the laying on of the minister's hands and the words: "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An increase and deepening of baptismal grace:</li> <li>- Roots us more deeply in the divine filiation, which makes us cry, "Abba, Father."</li> <li>- Unites us more firmly to Christ</li> <li>- Increases in us the gifts of the Holy Spirit</li> <li>- Renders our bond with the Church more perfect</li> <li>- 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, and never to be ashamed of the Cross</li> </ul>

Eucharist	Only bishops and priests	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...."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increases the communicant's union with the Jesus</li> <li>- Wipes away venial sins</li> <li>- Preserves us against mortal sins</li> <li>- Strengthens the unity of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church</li> <li>- Commits us to the poor</li> </ul>
Penance	Only bishops and priests	The three actions of the penitent (contrition for sins committed, the confession of sins to a priest, and satisfaction/penance performed) and the priest's absolution, "I absolve you from your sins...."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reconciliation with God by which the penitent recovers grace</li> <li>- Reconciliation with the Church</li> <li>- Remission of the eternal punishment incurred by mortal sins</li> <li>- Remission, at least in part, of temporal punishment resulting from sin</li> <li>- Peace and serenity of conscience, and spiritual consolation</li> <li>- An increase of spiritual strength for the Christian battle</li> </ul>
Anointing of the Sick	Only bishops and priests	Anointing of the forehead and hands of the sick person accompanied by the liturgical prayer of the celebrant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his own good and that of the whole Church.</li> <li>- The strengthening, peace, and courage to endure in a Christian manner the sufferings of illness or old age</li> <li>- Forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of Penance</li> <li>- Restoration of health if it is conducive to the person's soul</li> <li>- Preparation for passing over to eternal life</li> </ul>
Holy Orders	Only Bishops	Bishop's imposition of hands on the head of the ordinand and the consecratory prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Configures the recipient to Christ by a special grace of the Holy Spirit, so that he may serve as Christ's instrument for His Church</li> <li>- Enabled to act as a representative of Christ, Head of the Church, in his triple office of</li> </ul>



			<p>priest, prophet, and king. As with Baptism and Confirmation, Holy Orders confers an indelible spiritual character on the one receiving this sacrament and cannot be repeated or conferred temporarily.</p> <p>Note: Holy Order has three degrees, deacon, priest, and bishop. Bishops have the fullness of Holy Orders. Only a baptized man can validly receive sacred ordination.</p>
<p>Matrimony</p>	<p>The spouses, that is, the baptized man and the baptized woman, (each of whom must be free to contract marriage), who are marrying each other.</p>	<p>The spouses as ministers of Christ's grace mutually confer upon each other the Sacrament of Matrimony by freely expressing their consent before the Church.</p> <p>Note: Unity, indissolubility, and openness to fertility are essential to marriage, cf. CCC #1664</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gives spouses the grace to love each other with the grace with which Christ has loved His Church</li> <li>- The grace of the sacrament perfects the human love of the spouses</li> <li>- It strengthens their indissoluble unity</li> <li>- It sanctifies them on the way to eternal life</li> </ul> <p>Note: Unity, indissolubility, and openness to children are essential to marriage, cf. Can. 1050, 1055, 1061.</p>

## **Diocese of Harrisburg Confirmation Question & Answer Sheet**

**Note:** The answers contained herein are designed for those who are members of the Latin rite. Some of the answers would vary for those in the Eastern Churches.

1. **What is Confirmation?**
  - A. Confirmation is the sacrament by which the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed. The reception of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace (cf. CCC 1285).
  
2. **What is a sacrament?**
  - A. A sacrament is an efficacious sign (*efficacious sign* means, it is a sign that works) of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit (CCC Glossary, *Sacrament*).
  
3. **How many sacraments are there?**
  - A. There are seven sacraments (CCC 1210).
  
4. **Who instituted the sacraments?**
  - A. Jesus instituted all seven sacraments and the roots of all of the sacraments are found in Sacred Scripture (CCC 1210).
  
5. **What are the sacraments of Initiation and how many are there?**
  - A. The Sacraments of Initiation are the sacraments that fully lay the foundations of every Christian life. There are three sacraments of initiation and they are: Baptism (being born anew in Christ), Confirmation (strengthening for the Christian life), and the Eucharist (the food of eternal life) (cf. CCC 1212).

6. **Who is the Holy Spirit?**

A. The Holy Spirit is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son and with the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He is fully God. He is the Spirit of Love and Truth. He is our Advocate and our Consoler. He also helps us to pray as we ought. We should frequently ask the Holy Spirit for His guidance and to help us to lead good Catholic lives (CCC 687 – 693).

7. **What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?**

A. The 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit are: Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Counsel, Piety, Fortitude, and Fear of the Lord.  
**Wisdom** – The gift that enables us to see the world from God’s viewpoint, which can help us come to grasp the purpose and plan of God.

**Knowledge** – The gift that directs us to contemplation, or thoughtful reflection on the mystery of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – as well as of the mysteries of the Catholic faith.

**Understanding** – The gift that stimulates us to work on knowing ourselves as part of our growth in knowing God.

**Counsel** – The gift that helps us to sense the quiet teaching that the Holy Spirit gives us about our moral lives and about the training of our consciences.

**Piety** – The gift that leads us to reverence and devotion toward God. The Holy Spirit gives us this gift in the Mass, as well as through popular devotions and piety.

**Fortitude** – The gift that gives us the strength to stand up for Christ and the Gospel when challenged.

**Fear of the Lord** – The gift that ensures wonder and awe before the majesty of God. It also imparts an attitude of grateful wonder that God loves us and that we can share in His divine life.

**Note:** The information for these definitions for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit is taken from pages 208-209 of the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*.

8. **When are the gifts of the Holy Spirit received?**
  - A. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are first received into our souls in Baptism and then are deepened in Confirmation (CCC 1266, 1303).
  
9. **What are the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit?**
  - A. The 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit are: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control, and Chastity (CCC 1832).
  
10. **What is Pentecost?**
  - A. Pentecost Sunday occurred 50 days after our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead on Easter Sunday and 10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended in tongues as of fire on the disciples of Jesus who were gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem. When He descended upon them, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples a special outpouring of His gifts and graces, including the grace to boldly and courageously witness to the Lord Jesus and His teachings in the world (cf. Acts of the Apostles 2:1-41, CCC 696, 2693).
  
11. **What does the word Confirmation mean?**
  - A. The word Confirmation means *strengthening* or *to make firm*.
  
12. **What is the essential sign/rite of Confirmation?**
  - A. The essential sign of Confirmation is the anointing with Sacred Chrism on the forehead of the candidate by the minister of the sacrament who pronounces the words, *Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit* (CCC 1320).
  
13. **What is Chrism?**
  - A. Chrism is olive oil mixed with balsam and consecrated by the bishop at the diocesan Chrism Mass during Holy Week. Chrism is used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. Chrism is also used in the consecration of churches and altars (cf. CCC Glossary, *Chrism*).
  
14. **Who is the minister of Confirmation?**
  - A. The ordinary minister of Confirmation is the bishop, though a priest may be delegated by the bishop to confirm (CCC 1312 – 14).

15. **Who may receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?**
- A. Those who are baptized but not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation. To receive Confirmation, one must profess the faith, be in the state of grace, have the intention of receiving the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of disciple and witness to Christ, both within the Church and in temporal affairs. (1306–07, 1319). In the Diocese of Harrisburg, Confirmation is ordinarily received in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
16. **What does it mean to be “in the state of grace?”**
- A. The word grace simply means “gift.” It is called this, because it is a gift from God. To be in the state of grace actually means to be in a particular kind of grace called *sanctifying grace*. Sanctifying grace is the grace that puts us into a right relationship with God and makes us holy in His sight. It is a sharing in His own divine life. Ordinarily one first receives sanctifying grace in the Sacrament of Baptism. Ways that we can increase in sanctifying grace are through frequent reception of the sacraments (especially by regular Mass attendance, reception of Holy Communion, and through frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance), by keeping the commandments, by practicing the virtues, and through daily prayer. The only way for a baptized person not to be in sanctifying grace is to have mortal sin(s) on his/her soul. A person must be in the state of grace when he/she dies to go to heaven. To die in mortal sin, without repenting and accepting God’s merciful love, means remaining separated from Him forever by our free choice (cf. CCC 1033).
17. **What is sin and what are the categories of sin a person can commit?**
- A. A sin is a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission against God’s law. There are two categories of sin a person can commit - venial and mortal. While we need to be sorry for all of our sins, only mortal sins cause one to lose the gift of sanctifying grace (cf. CCC Glossary, *Sin*, 1854).
18. **What makes a sin a mortal sin?**
- A. There are three things that make a sin a mortal sin:
1. It must be a serious sin (grave matter).
  2. You must know it is a serious sin (sufficient knowledge).\*
  3. You must freely choose to commit it anyway (full consent of

the will).

All three of these conditions must be present for a person to be guilty of mortal sin (CCC 1855-59).

**19. Can one return to the state of grace if he/she has committed mortal sin(s)?**

A. Absolutely, and God wants this very much because He loves us and wants us to be in heaven someday with Him forever! If one has committed mortal sin, he or she is restored to the state of sanctifying grace by being sorry for his/her sins (contrition) making a good confession of the sins to a priest and receiving absolution from him. When one does this, all of his/her sins are not only forgiven, the sins themselves are actually wiped out by God's infinite mercy (cf. CCC 1468, 1472, 1496).

**20. What graces does one receive in Confirmation?**

A. In Confirmation one receives the following graces (cf. CCC 1302 – 1305, 1316):

- a. An increase and deepening of baptismal graces
- b. It roots the confirmand more deeply in his/her relationship with God the Father.
- c. It deepens one's relationship with Christ.
- d. Strengthens one's bond with the Church
- e. It gives one 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.
- f. It confers an indelible character on the soul of the confirmand.

**21. How is Confirmation related to Baptism?**

A. Confirmation is related to Baptism in that it increases and deepens baptismal graces (cf. 1303-04).

**22. What graces are received in Baptism?**

A. Baptism confers the following graces on those who receive this sacrament (cf. CCC 1262-1274, 1279):

- a. They are washed clean of all sin, original as well as personal.
- b. They are made new creatures becoming adopted sons or daughters of God the Father, members of Christ and His Church, partakers in the divine nature, and temples of the Holy Spirit.

- c. They are given the gift of sanctifying grace, the grace of justification, making them heirs to heaven.
- d. God bestows on them the theological virtues of:
  - a. Faith – which enables one to believe in God and in all He reveals, because He can neither deceive nor be deceived.
  - b. Hope – which enables one to desire and expect from God both eternal life and the grace needed to attain it.
  - c. Charity – which enables one to love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

**23. How many times may one receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

- A. A person can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation one time (CCC 1304).

**24. What is an indelible spiritual character?**

- A. It is an indelible spiritual mark which is the permanent effect of the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, by which a person is given a new permanent configuration to Christ and a specific standing in the Church; the reception of these sacraments is never repeated (CCC Glossary, *Character, Sacramental*)

**25. What is the significance of choosing a saint's name or name of special religious significance for Confirmation?**

- A. Those being confirmed are to take the name of a saint or of particular religious significance. Patron saints provide a model of charity and we are assured of their intercession. The Confirmation name can also express a Christian mystery or virtue. Confirmation names may not be foreign to Christian sentiment (cf. CCC 2156, Can. 855).

**Note:** Appendix 2 in the diocesan K – 8 Religion Curriculum is on the Saints and gives a brief profile of 111 holy men and women.

**26. What is a martyr?**

- A. The word martyr means “witness.” A martyr is a witness to the truth of the faith, in which the martyr endures even death to be faithful to Christ. Confirmation 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 Glossary, *Martyr*; CCC 1303).

**27. What are the qualifications for a confirmation sponsor and what is his/her role?**

- A. A Confirmation sponsor must be at least 16 years old and may not be a parent of the person being confirmed. The sponsor must be a Catholic who has already received the Sacraments of Initiation, who is in good standing with the Catholic Church, and who is leading a good Catholic life. It is desirable that the one who undertook the role of sponsor at Baptism also be the Confirmation sponsor. The role of a Confirmation sponsor is to help the person being confirmed to act as a good witness to Christ, to lead a truly Catholic life, and eventually to get to heaven. The sponsor does this primarily through prayer and good example. The sponsor should encourage the person he/she is sponsoring to go to Mass at least every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, to go to Confession frequently, to study and follow the teachings of the Catholic Church, to help the poor, and to spread and defend the faith in word and deed (cf. CCC 1311, Code of Canon Law #893).

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