

Confirmation in the Traditional Rite

Confirmation perfects our Baptism, indelibly sealing us to the Holy Ghost and giving us sanctifying grace to become true soldiers of Christ. It is the sacrament through which the Holy Ghost comes to us with His sevenfold gifts and strengthens our faith. Since knowledge of the Faith is essential to the proper reception of this sanctifying grace, candidates are interviewed by the pastor in the course of their studies, and by the bishop prior to conferring the Sacrament.

It is traditional for the candidate to choose a confirmation name of a saint he particularly admires.

During the ceremony, the candidate kneels before the bishop, and his sponsor stands behind him with his right hand on his shoulder. The bishop lays his hand on the head of the person to be confirmed and, using his thumb dipped in holy chrism, anoints the forehead in the form of a cross and says:

*N., signo te signo crucis + et
confirmo te chrismate salutis,
in nomine Patris + et Filii + et Spiritus + Sancti.*

*N., I sign thee with the sign + of the Cross,
and I confirm thee with the chrism of salvation;
in the Name of the Father + and of the Son + and
of the Holy + Ghost.*

After anointing with chrism, the bishop gently strikes the cheek of the confirmand to remind him that he must be ready to suffer everything for the sake of Christ. Once all the candidates have been confirmed, he gives a blessing, and the confirmandi and their sponsors recite the *Credo*, *Pater Noster*, and *Ave Maria*.



Left: Priest to left announces Confirmation name; priest to right holds the chrism. The bishop prepares to dip his thumb in the chrism. Sponsor stands to the back of the candidate, with hand on her shoulder. **Top right:** Form and matter of Sacrament; anointing forehead with holy chrism (see words above). **Middle right:** At the words, "In nomine Patris", the bishop makes the sign of the cross three times in the manner of a blessing over the candidate's forehead. **Bottom right:** A gentle strike with the words, "Pax tecum", to indicate she must be a soldier for Christ with all the suffering that may entail.