

## TREASURES of OUR FAITH

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Greetings brothers and sisters. As we go through this 'Year of Faith', each week we will take a journey together to deepen and rediscover our faith as Catholic Christians. We will take time to look at the rich traditions of our Church, we'll look at what certain things signify and their symbolism, take time to answer some frequently asked questions and look at why we do certain things as Catholics.

This week we'll look at Confirmation.

Together with Baptism and Eucharist, Confirmation completes the Sacraments of Initiation.

Through Confirmation, a special outpouring of gifts of the Holy Spirit is received, which seals, or 'confirms' that person in union with Christ and equips them for active participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church. Hence they are true witnesses of Christ, called and challenged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed. The sacrament of Confirmation is conferred through the anointing with sacred chrism oil on the forehead. The sign of anointing signifies and imprints a spiritual seal on the person receiving it, which is done by the laying on of the hand, and through the words: *Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit*. The effects of Confirmation are laid out by the Catechism of the Catholic Church as follows; Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace, it unites us more firmly to Christ, it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us, it renders our bond with the Church more perfect, it gives us 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 Christ boldly, and never be ashamed of the Cross.