



**WHAT IS
CONFIRMATION?**

- **ONE OF THE THREE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION**
 - **Baptism**
 - **First Communion**
 - **Confirmation**
- **What are the Sacraments?**
- **Why did He give the sacraments to us?**
- **What is grace?**
- **What does grace give us?**

When we are confirmed, Catholics receive a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Through the sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives us an increased ability to practice our faith in every aspect of our lives, and to witness Christ in every situation.

Confirmation is a BIG DECISION!

At your Baptism, your parents and godparents made promises on your behalf.

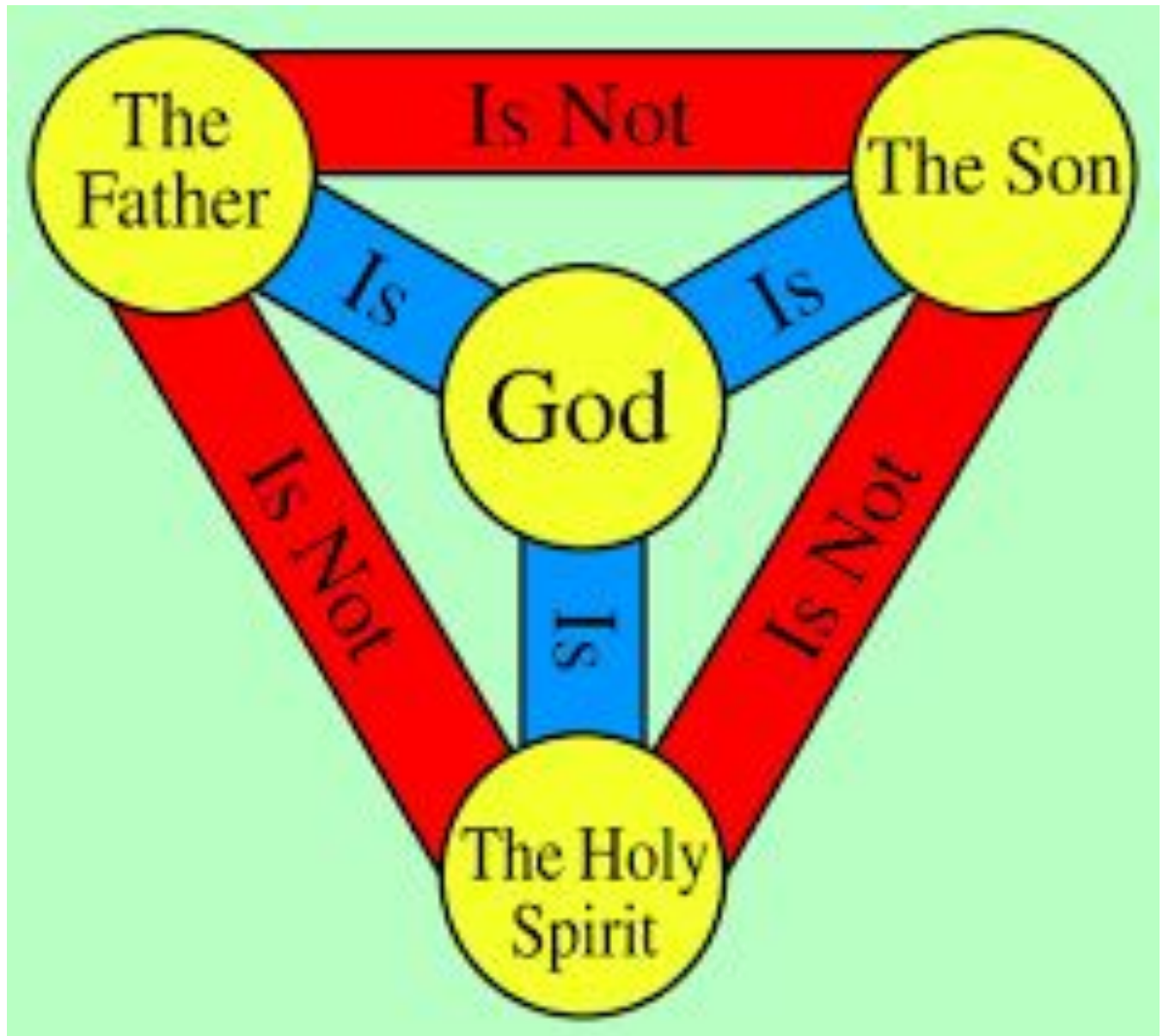
At your Confirmation, you will be the one making promises!

But you'll be still be taking this step with the support of your parents and family, and the Holy Spirit.

**The sacrament of Confirmation
completes the baptismal grace by more
perfectly binding the baptized person to
the Church and strengthening him or her
with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.**

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

-
- Is God
 - Part of the Trinity -Third person
 - Love
 - Is with us always
 - Helper
 - Advocate
 - Jesus sent Him to be with us
 - Strengthens us and our relationship with Jesus and the church
 - Gives us gifts
 - Guides us in difficult times
 - protector



The Holy Spirit In The Old Testament

The Creating Spirit

The Bible opens with the story of creation:

When there was nothing but darkness, a mighty wind swept over the waters and God said, "Let there be light." (Genesis 1:1-3)

- At the dawn of creation, we see the power of God bringing forth the universe and life
- Today we celebrate the creation of new life in Baptism and Confirmation
- When we receive these sacraments, the Holy Spirit comes and fills us with divine life

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE HOLY SPIRIT...

- ❖ ...comes to Mary as she answers the call to be the mother of Jesus
- ❖ ...appears in the form of a dove at Jesus's baptism
- ❖ ...leads Jesus into the desert to pray
- ❖ ...is mentioned by Jesus when he reads from the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah at the beginning of his ministry
- ❖ ...comes upon the Disciples after the Resurrection and Ascension, on what we call the Feast of Pentecost
- ❖ ...fills the Disciples with graces and gives them the courage to proclaim Jesus to the world

SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WATER: In the Holy Spirit we are baptized into new life in Christ by a priest or deacon, using water - the same way Christ was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist.



OIL: This symbol unites us with Jesus, the Messiah, the anointed one. In the Bible, prophets, priests, and kings are also anointed with oil.





DOVE: In the form of this gentle bird, the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus when he emerged from the waters of baptism. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to be depicted in Christian art as a dove.



FIRE: Tongues of fire rested on disciples at Pentecost.

John the Baptist said that Jesus was the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Fire is also a great way to help us visualize the transforming energy of Holy Spirit.



WIND: A rushing wind filled the house where the Disciples were gathered on the feast of Pentecost.

As it says in the Gospel of John: “The wind blows wherever it will, and you hear the sound it makes, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

WHY BE
CONFIRMED?





THE FIVE EFFECTS OF CONFIRMATION



It brings us closer to God, our Father

It roots us more deeply as children of God.



It brings us closer to Christ

It unites us more firmly to Jesus Christ.



We receive the Gifts of the Spirit

Increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us: Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord



We become fully Catholic

It renders our bond with the Church (the Body of Christ) more perfect.



It inspires us to defend the Faith

Gives us a special strength to spread and defend the faith as true witnesses of Christ.



KEY WORDS TO REMEMBER

- Grace
 - Sacrament
 - Holy Spirit
 - Confirmation
 - Advocate
 - Disciple
 - Messiah
 - Pentecost
 - Anointed
 - The Church
- Fire
 - Wind
 - Water
 - Oil
 - Dove
 - Transforming energy
 - Trinity