



- Pray Morning or Evening Prayer
- Opening Prayer: Fishermen's Prayer
- Review from last session: Are there any questions or insights anyone would like to share about The Catechism of the Catholic Church/Liturgy/Sacraments that we discussed during our last session.
- Objective: Candidates are given a thorough overview of the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. This includes each of the Sacrament's place in the economy of salvation as well an overview of the rites and ministers. The intention during this session is to have one of the candidates lead the discussion by going through the Catechism. The intention is for the leader to highlight areas that he found interesting while giving other members of the group an opportunity to participate citing paragraphs that were of interest to them. The real learning will occur – not from listening to a lecture – but from participating in a discussion.
- **The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation**
 - CCC 1210 - Christ instituted the sacraments of the new law. There are seven: Baptism, Confirmation (or Chrismation), the Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life: they give birth and increase, healing and mission to the Christian's life of faith. There is thus a certain resemblance between the stages of natural life and the stages of the spiritual life.
 - CCC 1212 - The sacraments of Christian initiation — Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist — lay the *foundations* of every Christian life. The faithful are born anew by Baptism, strengthened by the sacrament of Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life.
- **The Sacrament of Baptism**
 - CCC 1213 - Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission.
 - CCC 1214 - This sacrament is called *Baptism*, after the central rite by which it is carried out: to baptize (Greek *baptizein*) means to "plunge" or "immerse"; the "plunge" into the water symbolizes the catechumen's burial into Christ's death, from which he rises up by resurrection with him, as "a new creature."
- **Baptism in the Economy of Salvation**



- CCC 1217 - In the liturgy of the Easter Vigil, during the *blessing of the baptismal water* , the Church solemnly commemorates the great events in salvation history that already prefigured the mystery of Baptism.
- **FM Note:** *Water was a great sign in the Old Testament of both life (creation) and death (Noah and the flood). In Baptism we see both of these signs exhibited. When a person is plunged into the water it symbolizes death (to self) and when the person is raised from the water it symbolizes a new life and resurrection!*

➤ **How is the Sacrament Celebrated?**

- CCC 1229 - From the time of the apostles, becoming a Christian has been accomplished by a journey and initiation in several stages. This journey can be covered rapidly or slowly, but certain essential elements will always have to be present: proclamation of the Word, acceptance of the Gospel entailing conversion, profession of faith, Baptism itself, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and admission to Eucharistic communion.

➤ **The Rite of Baptism**

- CCC 1234 - The meaning and grace of the sacrament of Baptism are clearly seen in the rites of its celebration.
- CCC 1235 – The *sign of the cross* , marks with the imprint of Christ...
- CCC 1236 - The proclamation of the Word of God enlightens the candidates and the assembly with the revealed truth and elicits the response of faith...
- CCC 1237 - Since Baptism signifies liberation from sin and from its instigator the devil, one or more *exorcisms* are pronounced over the candidate.
- CCC 1238 – The *baptismal water* is consecrated by a prayer of epiclesis (calling down of the Holy Spirit).
- CCC 1239 - The *essential rite* of the sacrament follows: Baptism is performed in the most expressive way by triple immersion in the baptismal water. However, from ancient times it has also been able to be conferred by pouring water three times over the candidate's head.
- CCC 1240 - In the Latin Church this triple infusion is accompanied by the minister's words: "N., I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
- CCC 1241 - The *anointing with sacred chrism* , perfumed oil consecrated by the bishop, signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit to the newly baptized, who has become a Christian,



that is, one "anointed" by the Holy Spirit, incorporated into Christ who is anointed priest, prophet, and king.

- CCC 1243 - The white garment symbolizes that the person baptized has "put on Christ," has risen with Christ. The *candle*, lit from the Easter candle, signifies that Christ has enlightened the neophyte. In him the baptized are "the light of the world."
- CCC 1245 - The *solemn blessing* concludes the celebration of Baptism. At the Baptism of newborns, the blessing of the mother occupies a special place.

➤ **Who can receive Baptism?**

- CCC 1246 - "Every person not yet baptized and only such a person is able to be baptized."
- CCC 1247 - Since the beginning of the Church, adult Baptism is the common practice where the proclamation of the Gospel is still new. The catechumenate (preparation for Baptism) therefore occupies an important place. This initiation into Christian faith and life should dispose the catechumen to receive the gift of God in Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist.
- CCC 1250 - Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of the new birth in Baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God, to which all men are called. The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism.
- CCC 1255 - For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the *godfather* and *godmother*, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptized — child or adult on the road of Christian life.

➤ **Who can Baptize?**

- CCC 1256 - The ordinary ministers of Baptism are the bishop and priest and, in the Latin Church, also the deacon. In case of necessity, anyone, even a non-baptized person, with the required intention, can baptize, by using the Trinitarian baptismal formula.
- CCC 1261 - As regards *children who have died without Baptism*, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them.

➤ **The Grace of Baptism**

- CCC 1263 - By Baptism *all sins* are forgiven, original sin and all personal sins, as well as all punishment for sin. In those who have been reborn nothing remains that would impede their entry into the Kingdom of God.



- CCC 1265 - Baptism not only purifies from all sins, but
 - also makes the neophyte "a new creature,"
 - an adopted son of God, who has become a "partaker of the divine nature,"
 - "member of Christ and co-heir with him, and
 - a temple of the Holy Spirit.
- CCC 1266 - The Most Holy Trinity gives the baptized sanctifying grace, the grace of *justification*: enabling them to believe in God, to hope in him, and to love him through the theological virtues; giving them the power to live and act under the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of the Holy Spirit; allowing them to grow in goodness through the moral virtues.
- CCC 1267 - Baptism makes us members of the Body of Christ: "Therefore ... we are members one of another." Baptism incorporates us *into the Church*.
- CCC 1268 - *Baptism gives a share in the common priesthood of all believers*.
- CCC 1272 – The person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his belonging to Christ. No sin can erase this mark, even if sin prevents Baptism from bearing the fruits of salvation. Given once for all, Baptism cannot be repeated.
- **The Sacrament of Confirmation**
 - Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.
- **The Signs and the Rite of Confirmation**
 - CCC 1293 - In treating the rite of Confirmation, it is fitting to consider the sign of *anointing* and what it signifies and imprints: a spiritual *seal*.
 - CCC 1294 - Anointing with oil has all these meanings in the sacramental life. The pre-baptismal anointing with the oil of catechumens signifies cleansing and strengthening; the anointing of the sick expresses healing and comfort. The post-baptismal anointing with sacred chrism in Confirmation and ordination is the sign of consecration.
 - CCC 1295 - By this anointing the confirmand receives the "mark," the *seal* of the Holy Spirit.



- CCC 1297 ...It is the bishop who, in the course of the Chrism Mass of Holy Thursday, consecrates the sacred chrism for his whole diocese.
- CCC 1300 - The *essential rite* of the sacrament follows. In the Latin rite, "the sacrament of Confirmation is conferred through the anointing with chrism on the forehead, 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**

- CCC 1302 - ...The effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.
- CCC 1303 - From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace:
 - it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!";
 - 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 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 1304 - Like Baptism which it completes, Confirmation is given only once, for it too imprints on the soul an *indelible spiritual mark*, the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit...
- CCC 1305 - This "character" perfects the common priesthood of the faithful, received in Baptism, and "the confirmed person receives the power to profess faith in Christ publicly and as it were officially".

➤ **Who can receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?**

- CCC 1306 - Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
- CCC 1310 - To receive Confirmation one must be in a state of grace. One should receive the sacrament of Penance to be cleansed for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

➤ **The Minister of Confirmation**



- CCC 1313 - *In the Latin Rite*, the ordinary minister of Confirmation is the bishop. If the need arises, the bishop may grant the faculty of administering Confirmation to priests, although it is fitting that he confer it himself, mindful that the celebration of Confirmation has been temporally separated from Baptism for this reason.

➤ **Reading Assignment for next week:**

Session	Topic	Sacrament(s)	Catechism Paragraphs
3	Sacraments of Initiation II	Eucharist	1322-1421
4	Sacraments of Healing	Penance & reconciliation Anointing of the Sick	1422-1498 1499-1535
5	Sacraments of Service	Holy Orders, Matrimony & Sacramentals	1536-1690

- Pillar Focus – March Pillar of the Month: **Monthly Confession**
- Thank everyone for committing this time to grow in their relationship with God.
- FM Guides: Witness very briefly about how learning more and participating in the sacramental life of the Church has impacted your life. (*Very brief and only as inspired by the Holy Spirit*)
- Reminder for next meeting date and time
- Closing Prayer – Call for intentions and Closing Prayer.