

## Lesson 2

### The Confirmation Ceremony

**Review of the Sunday Liturgy** – Every session will start with a review of the Sunday Liturgy.

**Q 1** What Sunday of the year was it on November 6 (date of class/Mass)?

Find the readings of the day by going to

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/110622.cfm>

**Q 2** How willing are you to defend your faith beliefs

**Q 3** Why do you think within the church & society we have such divisions between various groups

## Review of the Liturgical Season

Although in Ordinary time we celebrated the Feast of all Saints on November 1

**Q 4** Who is your favorite saint

**Q 5** Why

**Q 6** Do you know any living Saints – people who living really good lives – loving God & others

## **The Confirmation Ceremony –**

**Q 7** Have you been to a Confirmation Mass/Ceremony before if so, what do you remember?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7368ukZctY>

You might want to look at this link for Confirmation - the dialogue is a little dry but shows the parts that feature the ceremony

## **The Order of the Rite of Confirmation**

Presentation of candidates  
Renewal of Baptismal promises  
The Laying on of Hands  
The anointing with Chrism

Each of the “rituals” are important

**Q 8** Why do you think you renew your Baptismal promises at your Confirmation

**Laying on of hands** – hands are amazing – with them we are able to do many things. Brainstorm what we use hands for – working, greeting, creating, supporting, comforting, consoling.

This is an ancient practice symbolizing the conferring of power onto a person when you place both hands on that person’s head. In Genesis Isaac lays his hands on Jacob to give him authority over the tribe, Kings and Knights received their official power this way. In the early church it symbolized the passing of the power of the Holy Spirit which the apostles received at Pentecost.

In the gospels we read of Jesus touching people who are sick to cure them.

We often use hands in a liturgical setting – blessing ourselves, when the priest lays his hands over the bread and wine, we receive the body of Christ into our hands, laying hands over the sick during the sacrament of anointing, laying hands over the penitent during the sacrament of reconciliation.

Remember when the Bishop does this at Confirmation it is not just him but Christ who touches the candidates, who imprints them with his seal

### **Anointing with the sacred oil of Chrism**

The holy oils used in the celebration of sacraments are signs of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. A Bishop blesses the oils on Holy Thursday at a special Mass called the Chrism Mass and each parish receives a supply of these oils. Chrism is a combination of olive oil and balsam. It signifies abundance of grace and committed service to God. During Confirmation the Bishop anoints the forehead of the person being Confirmed with the chrism oil.

Anointing with oil is an ancient ritual and was used in both religious and civic ceremonies. There are stories about anointing throughout the scriptures one such example is when Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of the Israelites. David too was anointed; Peter also makes a reference to the anointing of Jesus (Acts 10:38)

Through the anointing with chrism we receive the wonderful gift of God's choice to include us in his service and mission. The candidate is presented to the Bishop and their sponsor gives their confirmation name to the Bishop. At this point the Bishop will dip his thumb into the chrism and make the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the candidate saying "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit"

**Q 9** How will you choose to be involved on God's service and mission once you have been confirmed?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUIFWAVGPJY>

This is a clip from the Chrism Mass in Rome with Pope Francis – you might be interested to see what the ceremony looks like

Skip to the section with the holy oils

**All shall be well exercise – God has arranged everything in the universe**

**Find this reference in your book and complete the exercise - don't rush this!!!**

End this session with a prayer.

Pray for anything that is important to you

**Focus from now until the next class on all those people/things you are thankful for and show your appreciation and gratitude for them and to them**

***Email me the answers to this lesson no later than December 10***