

SAINTS AMONG US

CONFIRMATION



Virtues

The Sacrament of Confirmation makes us more like Jesus through the presence of the Holy Spirit. This sacrament helps us to live a holy life through the virtues, gifts, and fruits.

The virtues are good habits that enable us to live like Jesus, exercise self-control, and to be happy. There are seven main virtues, the cardinal and theological virtues.



Wikimedia: Botticelli and P. Pollaiuolo - Theological and Cardinal Virtues

The Cardinal Virtues

Prudence – knowing what is good and what we should do when we make a choice.

Justice – giving to others what we owe them. This includes obedience to God, parents, and the government.

Courage – being strong in doing what is right even when it is difficult and we are afraid.

Moderation – acting with self-control in our desires.

The Theological Virtues

Faith – believing in God and all that He has taught us in the Bible and through the Church.

Hope – desiring Heaven and trusting in God's help to bring us there.

Charity – loving God more than anything else and other people as we love ourselves.

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Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are dispositions given to us by God that open us to the action of the Holy Spirit. They are different from the virtues, because through the Gifts the Holy Spirit acts through us.

Knowledge – knowing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and growing in a personal relationship with God.

Understanding – understanding our faith, the teachings of the Church, and how to live as Christians.

Wisdom – having the ways and thoughts of God in our lives.

Counsel – choosing what is good and avoiding evil and helping others to do the same.

Fortitude – living out and proclaim our faith in the world.

Piety – putting God first in our life and reverencing Him.

Fear of the Lord – recognizing the greatness of God and having wonder and awe before His beauty.



Wikimedia: Image of the Holy Spirit or Paraclete by Jakob Lazarus

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit makes in us and are evidence of the Spirit's presence in our lives.

Love – focusing on God and others more than yourself.

Joy – delighting in God's presence and the happiness He gives us.

Peace – resting in God's security, which frees us from fear, anger, and fighting with others.

Patience – enduring through difficult moments, waiting for God to lead us and care for us.

Kindness – treating others with respect and care.

Goodness – living rightly with honesty and virtue.

Generosity – giving of your time and possessions to help others.

Gentleness – not being bossy to others, but suffering out of love for others.

Faithfulness – staying true to your commitment to God and others.

Modesty – dressing and acting with reserve and respect for God and others.

Self-control – controlling your emotions and desires with moderation.

Chastity – having purity in your thoughts and actions.