There are **SEVEN SACRAMENTS**

Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, Reconciliation, Marriage, Holy Orders (Ordination) & Anointing of the Sick

The Sacraments are the life of the Catholic Church

Each sacrament is:

*an outward sign of an inward Grace*

*the Sacraments provide us with the life of God in our soul*

In our worship, we give to God that which we owe Him;

In the sacraments, He gives us the graces necessary to live a truly human life.
The Sacraments of Initiation

The first three sacraments:

*Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion*

are called the sacraments of initiation because the rest of our life as a Christian depends on them.

**The Sacrament of Baptism:**
The Sacrament of Baptism, the first of the three sacraments of initiation, is also the first of the seven sacraments in the Catholic Church. It cleanses us of Original Sin and incorporates us into the great community of the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ on earth.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation:**
The Sacrament of Confirmation is the second of the three sacraments of initiation because, historically, it was administered immediately after the Sacrament of Baptism. Confirmation perfects our baptism and brings us the graces of the Holy Spirit that were granted to the Apostles at Pentecost.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion:**
While Catholics in the West usually receive First Communion before they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the reception of Christ's Body and Blood, was historically the third of the three sacraments of initiation.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation:
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the least understood, and least often celebrated, sacraments in the Catholic Church. In reconciling us to God, it is a great source of grace, and we are encouraged to take advantage of it often.

The Sacrament of Marriage:
Marriage, a lifelong union between a man and a woman, is a natural institution and it is also one of the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church. It reflects, is an image of the union of Jesus Christ and His Church.

The Sacrament of Holy Orders:
The Sacrament of Holy Orders is the continuation of Christ's priesthood, which He bestowed upon His Apostles. There are three levels to this sacrament: Bishop, priest and the diacon.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:
The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is administered both to the dying and to those who are gravely ill or are about to undergo a serious operation, for the recovery of their health and for spiritual strength.
Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation:

Confirmation perfects our baptism & brings us the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that were granted to the Apostles at Pentecost

The Sacrament of Confirmation is the second of the three sacraments of initiation because, historically, it was administered immediately after the Sacrament of Baptism.

Through the celebration of Confirmation we receive the Seven Gifts of The Holy Spirit

*The Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed in Isaiah 11:2-3.*

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

They are present in their fullness in Jesus Christ but are found in all Christians who are graced by The Holy Spirit the life of God within us.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church notes,

*They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. Infused with His gifts, we respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as if by instinct, the way Christ Himself would.*
Wisdom
Wisdom is the first and highest gift of the Holy Spirit, because it is the perfection of faith. Through wisdom, we come to value properly those things which we believe through faith. The depths of Christian faith are more important and life-giving than the passing things of this world. Wisdom helps us to develop our relationship to the created world properly, by loving and respecting the whole of Creation as God intended.

Understanding
Understanding is the second gift of the Holy Spirit, and sometimes it is difficult to understanding (no pun intended) how it differs from wisdom. Wisdom is the desire to contemplate the things of God, understanding allows us grasp, at least in a limited way, the very essence of the truths of the Catholic Faith.

Counsel
Counsel, the third gift of the Holy Spirit sometimes referred to as prudence. Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we are able to judge how best to act almost by intuition or instinct. We need not be afraid to stand up for the truths of the Faith, because the Holy Spirit will guide us in defending those truths.

Fortitude
Fortitude is both a gift of the Holy Spirit and a virtue. Fortitude gives us the strength to follow through on the actions suggested by the gift of counsel. While fortitude is sometimes called courage, it goes beyond what we normally think of as courage. Fortitude is the virtue of the martyrs that allows them to suffer even death rather than to renounce the Christian Faith.
**Knowledge**
Knowledge is the actual ability that allows us to see the circumstances of our life the way that God sees them. Through this gift of the Holy Spirit, we can determine God's purpose for our lives and live them accordingly.

**Piety**
The sixth gift of the Holy Spirit, is the perfection of the virtue of religion. While we tend to think of religion today as the external elements of our faith, it really means *the willingness to worship and to serve God*. Reverence takes that willingness beyond a sense of duty, so that we desire to worship God and to serve Him out of love, the way that we desire to honour our parents and do what they wish.

**Fear of the Lord**
The seventh and final gift of the Holy Spirit is the fear of the Lord. We think of *fear and hope* as opposites. The Holy Spirit gives us the desire not to offend God, as well as the certainty that God will give us the grace that we need in order not to sin against Him. Our desire not to offend God is more than simply a sense of duty; the fear of the Lord arises out of love.