



St. Mina Coptic Orthodox Church
Pre-Service Training Seminars



Lecture 3:

*THE SACRAMENT OF
CONFIRMATION*

**“For God is not the author of
confusion, but of peace”
(1 Corinthians 14:33)**



Overview of the Holy Sacraments



1. The Sacrament of Baptism

2. The Sacrament of Confirmation

3. The Sacrament of Eucharist



4. The Sacrament of Holy Orders (Priesthood)

5. The Sacrament of Repentance & Confession



6. The Sacrament of the Unction of the Sick

7. The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony



Sacrament of Confirmation (Introduction)



- ❖ This sacrament is referred to as any of the following:
 - The Sacrament of Myron,
 - The Holy Anointment,
 - the Sacrament of Confirmation, or
 - Chrismation.
- ❖ This is the Sacrament, with which we are confirmed in the Church and receive the Holy Spirit and its fruits.
- ❖ Anointing the external organs by the Myron oil denotes anointing the power of the internal soul and its spiritual senses by the power of God to fight the hosts of evil.
- ❖ The word ‘Myron’ is a Greek word which means ‘ointment’ or ‘fragrant perfume’.
- ❖ Confirmation is done immediately after baptism.



Sacrament of Confirmation (Introduction)



- ❖ Our fathers the apostles granted this Sacrament by the laying of their hands after Baptism.
- ❖ The laying of hands for the dwelling of the Holy Spirit is a specific rite of the fathers the Apostles and their successors the Bishops.
- ❖ As the number of believers and those who entered faith increased, they established anointment by Myron as an alternative for the laying on of the hands for the Holy Spirit's indwelling.
- ❖ The Myron was first made by the Apostles as they kept certain fragrant oils which were on the body of the Lord Jesus during His burial, and they added the spices which were brought by the women who prepared them to anoint Jesus, but Christ had risen.



Sacrament of Confirmation (Introduction)



- ❖ They decided that their successors the Bishops, must renew the making of the Myron whenever it is close to finishing, by incorporating the original oil with the new.
- ❖ The Myron oil consists of about 30 kinds of spices and perfumes which have been added to pure olive oil and simmered four times.
- ❖ The filtered oil is then poured into a large container and after the Liturgy of the Sanctification of the Myron, the Patriarch places the old leaven in the Myron recently made, whilst saying certain prayers.
- ❖ The **Ghaliloun oil** comprises the remaining fibres of the filtered oil after it having been simmered four times. It is then sanctified by a special Mass, which follows the Myron Mass.



Sacrament of Confirmation (Institution)



- ❖ A creature must first be born, and then it grows
- ❖ Confirmation = Pentecost to the baptized
- ❖ Through Confirmation, our body becomes a temple of the Holy Spirit
- ❖ *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes” **Ezekiel 36:26-27***
- ❖ *“I will pour out My spirit on all flesh” **Joel 2:28***



Sacrament of Confirmation (Institution)



- ❖ *“But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified”*

John 7:37-38



- ❖ *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you”*

John 14:16-17



- ❖ **Review Acts 1**



Sacrament of Confirmation (Independence)



- ❖ *“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit” **Acts 8:14-17***
- ❖ *“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them” **Acts 19:5-6***
- ❖ The doctrine of baptism is different from the doctrine of the laying of the hands Hebrews 6:2



Sacrament of Confirmation (Rites)



- ❖ The priest anoints the babe with the Holy oil in 36 spots as follow:

1. The 1st Group of Anointments – 8 Crosses – Face

- forehead, 2 nostrils, mouth, right ear, right eye, left eye, and left ear. (Shape of cross on the face).

– Whilst anointing, the priest says, *“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The anointment of grace of the Holy Spirit, Amen.”*

– He anoints the Forehead to sanctify it. The head contains the brain, where thinking takes place.

- *“And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).*





Sacrament of Confirmation (Rites)



- The Nostrils contain the sense of smell, and it is an important sense.
- The Mouth with the tongue is the most dangerous organ in a person.
 - ***“If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless” (James 1:26)***
- The Ears provide us with the important sense of hearing, which should also be controlled, and the anointing of the Myron is a strong weapon in control what we hear.
 - We protect our ears from hearing gossip, and other conversations which may poison our hearts with revenge and hatred. We also protect our ears from hearing certain songs which may poison our hearts with lustful thoughts.



Sacrament of Confirmation (Rites)



- The Eyes are the most important sense, through which enters more than 80% of information which may affect our hearts.
 - ***“Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things” (Psalm 119:37)***
 - ***“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law” (Psalm 119:17)***



Sacrament of Confirmation (Rites)

2. The 2nd Group of Anointments – 4 Crosses – Trunk

- heart (upper chest), stomach (navel), upper back, and lower back.

- Whilst anointing, the priest says, *“An anointment as a token for the kingdom of heaven,”* as this holy anointment makes the Holy Spirit works in us and prepares us for the inheritance of the Kingdom of heaven.
- Anointing the Heart is very important as it is the organ which pumps blood to all the body. A healthy heart is important for a healthy body, and its spiritual welfare is required

- *“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life”* (Proverbs 4:23).





Sacrament of Confirmation (Rites)

2. The 2nd Group of Anointments – 4 Crosses – Trunk

- The Navel is the place to which was joined the umbilical cord when a person was a fetus in his mother's womb. Through it the fetus is nourished and nurtured, and so by anointing it, the holy Myron is protecting it against Satan.
- The Upper Back supports the body and is the place of the spine. Sin is synonymous of being bent and can't look up. A straight back signifies freedom from the burden of sin.
- The Lower Back is where the kidneys are. The kidneys and heart were viewed as the seat of one's volition, conscience, and moral character.





Sacrament of Confirmation (Rites)

3. The 3rd Group of Anointments – 6 Crosses – R Arm

- Joints: 2 front and back of the shoulder, 2 front and back of the elbow and 2 fronts and back of the wrist.

– Whilst anointing, the priest prays, *“An anointment for the community of eternal life, Amen”*.

4. The 4th Group of Anointments – 6 Crosses – L Arm

- Joints: 2 front and back of the shoulder, 2 front and back of the elbow and 2 fronts and back of the wrist.

– Whilst anointing, the priest prays, *“A holy anointment of our Lord Jesus Christ, an unperishable seal, Amen.”*

– Anointing the Arms is important, as they are instruments of work and contain the sense of touch. We should keep our hands pure from all defile things.





Sacrament of Confirmation (Rites)



5. The 5th Group of Anointments – 6 Crosses – R Leg

- Joints: 2 front and back of the hip, 2 front and back of the knee and 2 front and back of the foot.

– Whilst anointing, the priest prays, *“Perfection of the grace of the Holy Spirit, Amen.”*



6. The 6th Group of Anointments – 6 Crosses – L Leg

- Joints: 2 front and back of the hip, 2 front and back of the knee and 2 front and back of the foot.

– Whilst anointing, the priest prays, *“I anoint you (...name) by a holy anointment. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit Amen.”*

– Near the inner hips lies the reproductive organs, and the church anoints this area so that the child may lead a life of sexual purity.





Sacrament of Confirmation (Rites)



- Anointing the feet is to protect them from walking in the way of sin, and from going to corrupt places. Avoiding the way of sin will enable us to live a virtuous life, and finally gain eternal life.
- ❖ After finishing the anointments, the priest places his hand on the child's head, saying, *"May you be blessed by the blessings of the heavenly, and the blessings of the angels. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you in His name."*
- ❖ In case of administering the Sacrament to an adult, the priest only anoints the exposed parts of his or her body (the face, the neck and the hands.)



Sacrament of Confirmation (Sayings of the Fathers)



- ❖ “Whoever is baptized should be anointed by Myron, to become the anointed for God, and so is granted the grace of the Holy Spirit” (St. Cyprianus)
- ❖ “We also, after getting out of the Baptismal Font are granted the anointment officially as was Christ, I mean the Holy Spirit” (St. Kyrillos of Jerusalem)
- ❖ “After going out of the Baptismal water, we are anointed by Holy Oil according to old tradition. The anointment is accomplished externally on our bodies so that we may bear spiritual fruits” (St. Tertullian)
- ❖ “In the Sacrament of Baptism the body is cleansed, so that the soul may be purified, and in the Sacrament of Anointment the body is anointed so that the soul may be sanctified” (St. Tertullian)