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Legacy Edition
PARISH



PREPARING
FOR
CONFIRMATION

Using
Faith First Legacy Edition / Parish
Junior High
Church and Sacraments

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FOR
CONFIRMATION

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Junior High
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20538 Preparing for Confirmation

20515 Preparing for First Eucharist

20537 Preparing for First Reconciliation

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How to Use This Booklet

The preparation for Confirmation is a grace-filled time. *Preparing for Confirmation* will assist you in using **Faith First® Legacy Edition / Parish** Junior High *Church and Sacraments* to prepare students for celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation.

Preparing for Confirmation focuses on four chapters in **Faith First Legacy Edition / Parish** Junior High *Church and Sacraments*: Chapters 6, 7, 8, and 9. Chapter 8 has been divided into two lessons. These chapters present concepts that are an essential part of a sound catechesis for sacramental preparation for Confirmation. Thus there are a total of five lessons that can be used for Confirmation preparation. A prayer ritual, an activity page, and a family page are included for each of the lessons. A Confirmation retreat program is also included.

Preparing for Confirmation is simple, clear, and easy to use. The booklet consists of five pages for presenting each of the lessons. On the first page for each lesson, you will find a brief background essay that places the chapter in the context of preparation for Confirmation. This page also contains the objectives for the lesson and a list of helpful resources that can be used to enrich the teaching of the lesson.

The second page of the lesson is a step-by-step process for teaching the lesson. This lesson plan contains materials not included in the **Faith First Legacy Edition / Parish** Junior High *Church and Sacraments Catechist Guide* and focuses on the presentation of the lesson as part of the sacramental preparation process. The third page is a ritual prayer. Each lesson begins with ritual prayer in which the students celebrate the theme of the chapter with words and actions. The fourth page is a reproducible activity. The activities help the students apply and integrate the faith themes of the lesson into their daily living. The fifth page is a reproducible handout that provides families the opportunity to remember, share, pray, and participate in their children's preparation for and the celebration of Confirmation.

The final section of this booklet contains a suggested plan for a Confirmation retreat. The plan can be used for a full-day retreat or adapted to be used in a shorter time period.

Using Chapter 6—Give Thanks to the Lord



Preparing for Confirmation

Faith is both God's invitation to believe and trust in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—and our response to that divine invitation. The story of a Christian's life gives witness to that divine invitation and our response to it.

Chapter 3 of **Faith First Legacy Edition / Parish Junior High Church and Sacraments** provides you and the young people and their families with the opportunity to reflect on Christ being always present and active in his Church. Christ is present and active in the liturgy and through the sacraments. In the liturgy, Christ actively re-creates and makes present those events that give us meaning and life. Christ acts through the sacraments to share the life of God with people of every historical age. By the action of Christ and the activity of the Holy Spirit, the sacraments offer the gifts of new life, forgiveness, strength, commitment, and hope.

The focus of this chapter is liturgical prayer, which is the public, communal prayer of the Church. It is different from personal private prayer and devotional prayer. Liturgical prayer is the principal form of prayer that we use whenever we gather as the Body of Christ. The Church has a very rich tradition of liturgical prayer, which includes celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments, the Liturgy of the Hours, blessings, and other rites. Celebrating liturgical prayer will help the students keep God at the center of their lives.

Objectives

- Explain the relationship between the Triune God as celebrated in the liturgy and professed in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.
- Compare the profession of faith as professed at Mass and in the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.
- Discuss how we share in God's life when we celebrate sacraments.
- Identify the signs and symbols of the sacraments looking for common elements.
- Review the liturgical year of the Church.

Resources

- The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum concilium*) 10–11
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 202, 238, 240, 243–48, 663, 694–701, 731, 2003

Materials Needed

- Prayer Ritual—Sign of the Cross—Symbol of the Trinity
- Activity Master—The Rite of Confirmation—Liturgy of the Word
- Family Page
- Copy of Baptismal Promises from the Rite of Confirmation

Begin the lesson . . .

Lead the candidates in the celebration of the prayer ritual found on page 6 of this booklet.

Guide Page 123 Student Page 63

- Use **FAITH FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Ask the students why they feel it is increasingly important for them to keep God at the center of their lives as they begin their immediate preparation for Confirmation.
- Have the candidates name specific ways that they can keep God at the center of their lives.

Guide Page 124 Student Pages 64

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Emphasize that the Holy Trinity is the focal point of all the liturgical and sacramental celebrations of the Church.
- Make sure the students understand the role of each divine Person of the Holy Trinity in the liturgy.

Guide Page 125 Student Page 65

- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- Explain to the students that we profess the faith of the Church when we celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. Compare the profession of faith in Baptism and Confirmation with the profession of faith at Mass.
- Review the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed, which are found on page 136 of the student text, with the students. Use the information in the "Background: Catholic Tradition" box at the bottom of page 125 of the catechist guide to explain that the Sign of the Cross is also a simple profession of faith.
- Tell the students that they will profess their faith as part of the rite of Confirmation by renewing their baptismal profession of faith and promises. Explain that they will have the opportunity to review in a later

lesson the profession of faith and promises made for them at Baptism.

Guide Page 126 Student Page 66

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Ask and discuss with the students: Why can we receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders only once? After the correct response is offered, reinforce that in these three sacraments we are "marked" with a spiritual character that identifies us as one who forever belongs to and is committed to Christ.
- Invite the students to discuss the symbolism depicted in each of the illustrations on pages 66 and 67.

Guide Page 127 Student Page 67

- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- After completing the missalette activity, discuss the importance of actively and regularly participating in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday.
- Explain that another common element in all sacramental celebrations is the proclamation of Scripture in the Liturgy of the Word.
- Review the Scripture readings suggested for the sacrament of Confirmation in the Lectionary.
- Duplicate "The Rite of Confirmation—Liturgy of the Word" activity master on page 7 of this booklet for each candidate. Have them work independently to complete it. Then invite volunteers to discuss their choices.

Guide Page 128 Student Page 68

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- If possible, show the students a poster that illustrates the cycle of the liturgical year. Have them note the beginning of the Church year (the First Sunday of Advent), the two periods of Ordinary Time, the

Easter Triduum, and the Solemnity of Pentecost.

- Ask and discuss with the students: What is the connection between the Solemnity of Pentecost and Confirmation?
- Help the students recognize that the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles on the first Pentecost. Point out that when they are confirmed, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which they first received at Baptism, will be strengthened in them.
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.

Guide Page 129 Student Page 69

- Use **HIGHLIGHT** and **DISCOVER**.
- Have the students point out and name the sacramentals present in your classroom or teaching space.
- Continue with **INTEGRATE**.

Guide Page 130 and 131 Student Page 70 and 71

- Use **HIGHLIGHT** and **DISCOVER**.
- Invite the students to name where they are most aware of God's presence.
- Use **INTEGRATE**. Have the candidates complete the small group activity.
- Use **CHOOSE**. Allow time for students to reflect before writing their faith decision. Then invite sharing.

Conclude the lesson . . .

- Use **REVIEW** to reinforce the young people's understanding of the lesson's content. Answer any questions they may have.
- Close the session with **PRAY**. Tell the candidates that you will pray for them as they prepare for Confirmation.
- Distribute copies of the "Together as a Family" page on page 8 of this booklet. Encourage the candidates to share it with their parents.

Prayer Ritual

You will need

- A recording of instrumental music or words and music for an appropriate hymn
- A large cross
- Bible or Lectionary

Prayer Ritual—Sign of the Cross—Symbol of the Trinity

Gathering

Place a large cross in the prayer area. Have the students come forward silently and gather around the cross. Invite the students to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence within and among them. You may wish to play a recording of instrumental music or sing an appropriate hymn.

LEADER: Let us begin by praying the Sign of the Cross.

ALL: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father, we gather around the cross of your Son, Jesus. Open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen.

Scripture Reading

LEADER: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us listen to the word of God by signing our forehead, lips, and heart with the sign of the cross. May we remember your word in our thoughts. (*Invite the students to make the sign of the cross on their forehead.*) May we remember your word when we speak. (*Invite the students to make the sign of the cross on their lips.*) May we remember your word in our hearts. (*Invite the students to make the sign of the cross over their heart.*)

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

READER: Proclaim or invite a volunteer to proclaim aloud Acts of the Apostles 2:41–47 from the Bible. Conclude the reading, saying,

READER: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Ritual

LEADER: Invite each student to come forward and trace the sign of the cross on their forehead. Do this ritual in silence so that the emphasis is on the sign of the cross.

Closing

LEADER: God, our loving Father, today we gather around the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ. Send us the Holy Spirit to help us remember to follow Jesus every day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.



The Rite of Confirmation—Liturgy of the Word

Which readings would you choose for the Liturgy of the Word if you were planning the Confirmation liturgy?

The readings for the rite of Confirmation can be taken from the Mass of the day or from the following readings suggested in the Lectionary. Use a Bible or the Lectionary to find and read each of these passages from Scripture.

Then choose one reading from each group. Briefly summarize the reading and tell what that reading says to you about the meaning of the sacrament of Confirmation.

Old Testament Readings:

- Isaiah 11:1–4
- Isaiah 42:1–3
- Isaiah 61:1–3, 6, 8–9
- Ezekiel 36:24–28
- Joel 2:23; 3:1–3

The reading I chose is

New Testament Readings:

- Acts 1:3–8
- Acts 2:1–6, 14, 22–23, 32–33
- Acts 8:1, 4, 14–17
- Acts 10:1, 33–34, 37–44
- Acts 19:1–6
- Romans 5:1–2, 5–8
- Romans 8:14–17
- Romans 8:26–27
- I Corinthians 12:4–13
- Galatians 5:16–17, 22–23, 24–25
- Ephesians 1:3, 4, 13–19
- Ephesians 4:1–6

The reading I chose is

Gospel Readings:

- Matthew 5:1–12
- Matthew 16:24–27
- Matthew 25:14–30
- Mark 1:9–11
- Luke 4:16–22
- Luke 8:4–10, 11–15
- Luke 10:21–24
- John 7:37–39
- John 14:15–17
- John 14:23–26
- John 15:18–21, 26–27
- John 16:5–7, 12–13

The reading I chose is

TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Remembering Together

In this chapter your child learned that at Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to the disciples as Jesus promised. The Holy Spirit is with the Church today. This week discuss these or similar questions:

- How can we welcome the Holy Spirit into the life of our family?
- How do we show others that the Holy Spirit is guiding us to live as followers of Jesus Christ?
- What are some ways we continue the work of Jesus Christ?

Sharing Together

Choose one of these activities to do together or design a similar activity of your own:

- Read John 14:15–31. Talk about how the Holy Spirit helps your family live as a Christian family.
- Write a prayer to the Holy Spirit. Pray the prayer together every day for a week.

Praying Together

The Holy Spirit is our helper, teacher, and guide. Learn and pray this prayer. Make it a prayer your family prays often.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts
of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire
of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and
they shall be created.
And you will renew
the face of the earth. Amen.

Getting Ready Together

During the Rite of Confirmation the candidates will profess their faith by renewing their Baptismal promises. Recall that at Baptism the parents and godparents professed the faith for their child. Talk with your child about what we believe as Catholics. Pray together the profession of faith in the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed found on page 136 of the student book.

Using Chapter 7—Reborn of the Spirit

Preparing for Confirmation

At Baptism we are reborn of water and the Holy Spirit. When we are baptized, we accept God’s invitation to faith and discipleship in Jesus Christ. We die and rise in the waters of Baptism. We are freed from sin, original and personal, and receive the promise of eternal life. In Confirmation the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which we first received at Baptism, are sealed or strengthened in us so that we may live as adopted sons and daughters of God the Father, followers of Jesus, his Son, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 7 of the **Faith First Legacy Edition / Parish** Junior High *Church and Sacraments* provides you, the young people, and their families with the opportunity to reflect on how we come to faith in Jesus Christ. The Gospel account of the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus invites us to recognize that encountering Jesus is a life-changing event. It is an encounter in which we can only respond to Christ by the grace and action of the Holy Spirit.

As they study Chapter 7 in their text, the young people will be challenged to understand what it means to be reborn in Christ and to respond to the Holy Spirit’s presence in their lives, who guides them to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Recalling the importance of their entry into new life in Christ at Baptism is an essential part of the Confirmation preparation process. Reflecting on the conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus and applying it to their own conversion to Christ will help them achieve that goal.

Objectives

- Explore how Nicodemus experienced conversion as a result of his encounter with Christ.
- Recognize what it means to be reborn in Baptism.
- Deepen appreciation for Jesus’ promise of eternal life.
- Describe how the Holy Spirit guides us to deeper faith in Christ.

Resources

General Directory for Catechesis 53 and 54
Catechism of the Catholic Church 1225, 1238, 1257, and 1262

Materials Needed

- Prayer Ritual—Blessing with Water
- Bibles
- Duplicated copies of a listing of parish ministries
- Activity Master—Followers of Jesus
- Family Page



Begin the lesson . . .

Lead the candidates in the celebration of the prayer ritual found on page 11 of this booklet.

Guide Page 137 Student Page 73

Use **FAITH FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.

Guide Pages 138 and 139 Student Pages 74 and 75

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
 - List the two Scripture references from page 74 on the board. Next to John 7:51 write *Defended Jesus*. Next to John 19:39–42 write *Courageous decision*. Tell the students they will learn more about these passages during the session.
 - Point out that Nicodemus is described as an “attentive listener” on page 75. Ask the candidates to identify situations in which they are called to be attentive listeners.
 - Emphasize that attentive listening is a sign of respect for and deepens our relationship with the person to whom we are listening, and helps us to learn new things.
 - Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
 - Use the “Teaching Tip” at the bottom of page 139 of the catechist guide to explore Jesus’ preaching style.
 - After the candidates have completed the activity, ask the candidates to imagine that the bishop who will be confirming them is asking them these questions:
 - Why do you want to be confirmed?
 - What effect will your receiving the sacrament of Confirmation have on your daily life?
- Have them choose one of the questions and write a response to the bishop.
- Encourage the candidates to continue considering these questions as they prepare for Confirmation.

Guide Page 140 and 141 Student Page 76 and 77

- Use **FOCUS, DISCOVER**, and **REINFORCE**.
- Ask the candidates why Nicodemus came to Jesus in secret at night. Summarize responses by emphasizing that Nicodemus did not want the Pharisees or members of the Sanhedrin to know of his interest in Jesus’ teachings.
- Ask the students to name situations in which they turned to Jesus for answers to questions or solutions to problems. After several responses, remind the young people that we can always bring our problems and needs to Jesus in prayer.
- Continue with **INTEGRATE**.

Guide Pages 142 Student Pages 78

Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.

- Have the candidates discuss why Jesus’ promise of eternal life gives us hope.
- Remind the candidates that their baptismal rebirth in the Holy Spirit will be confirmed, or “sealed,” in Confirmation.
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- Point out the two passages from John that you wrote on the board. Call on volunteers to read them aloud. Ask and discuss: How can you tell by Nicodemus’s actions that his conversation with Jesus changed his life?
- Summarize responses by emphasizing that in his first response Nicodemus defends Jesus when the chief priests and Pharisees want to arrest Jesus. In John 19:39–42 (when he claims Jesus’ crucified body) the actions of Nicodemus portray him as a disciple of Jesus.
- Explain that Nicodemus’s conversion to Christ and journey of faith were gradual, taking place over time. Conclude by pointing out that when we are responsive to the Holy Spirit’s presence, we too grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Guide Pages 143 Student Pages 79

- Use **HIGHLIGHT** and **DISCOVER**.
- Refer to the “Background: Catholic Tradition” box at the bottom of page 143 in the catechist guide.
- Have the candidates review and discuss the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy on page 142 in their texts. Clarify that these works are practical ways to put Jesus’ teachings into action. Discuss with the class how living the fourteen works of mercy can bring the light of Christ to others and give them hope.
- Use **INTEGRATE**.
- Distribute the “Followers of Jesus” activity on page 12 of this booklet. Provide the candidates with a list of parish ministries, or brainstorm a list of the ministries of your parish and list them on the board. Discuss with the young people the work of each ministry.
- Have the candidates complete the activity and share their responses with the class. Ask them to name a parish ministry that they would like to participate in and to tell how being part of that ministry would help them to bring the light of Christ to others.

Conclude the lesson . . .

- Discuss text pages 80 and 81 (pages 144 and 145 in the catechist guide) with the students and have them complete the “Faith Decision” activity.
- Use **REVIEW** on text page 82 (page 146 in the catechist guide) to reinforce the young people’s understanding of the lesson content.
- Use **PRAY**.
- Distribute copies of the “Together as a Family” page on page 13 of this booklet. Encourage the candidates to share the page with their family.

Prayer Ritual

You will need:

- A recording of instrumental music or words and music for an appropriate hymn
- A large bowl of water (if you do not gather at the baptismal font)
- Bible or Lectionary or Book of the Gospels

Prayer Ritual— Blessing with Water

Gathering

Gather the students around the baptismal font in the church. Invite them to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence within and among them.

Alternative: Play a recording of instrumental music or an appropriate hymn. Gather the students in the prayer area around a table on which there is a large bowl of water. Invite the students to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence within and among them.

LEADER: Let us begin as we were baptized.

ALL: *Make the sign of the cross, saying,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
you are with us as we come together
in prayer.

Open our hearts to the Holy Spirit.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Scripture Reading

LEADER: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us listen to the word of God by signing our forehead, lips, and heart with the sign of the cross.

READER: A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: *Reverently make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and over their heart, and then say,*
Glory to you, Lord.

READER: *Proclaim or invite a volunteer to proclaim aloud Matthew 3:13–17 from the Bible. Conclude the reading, saying,*

READER: The gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Ritual

LEADER: Each of you will come to the baptismal font (or to the bowl of water). When you do, thank God for the gift of your Baptism. Dip your right hand into the water and bless yourself, making the sign of the cross.

As each student comes to the water, say, (Name), be blessed by this water and remember the gift of your Baptism.

Closing

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
we thank you for the gift of our
Baptism.

You welcome us into your Church.

Send us the Holy Spirit

to help us live as children of God.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Followers of Jesus

Our church family gathers for Mass each week on Saturday evening and on Sunday. The priest and other ministers process into the church behind a cross. The cross reminds us of Jesus' love for us. Processing behind the cross reminds us that we are followers of Jesus Christ.

What other things does your parish do that show it is a community of followers of Jesus Christ? On the vertical beam of this cross list those things. On the horizontal beam describe how one of those things helps you live as a follower of Christ.

Followers of Jesus

The form consists of a large cross shape. The vertical beam is on the right side, and the horizontal beam is on the left side. The cross is outlined in black and has four dark gray quarter-circle shapes at the corners where the beams meet. The title "Followers of Jesus" is centered above the top of the vertical beam. The vertical beam is intended for listing things the parish does, and the horizontal beam is intended for describing how one of those things helps live as a follower of Christ.

TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Remembering Together

In this lesson your child learned the faith story of Nicodemus's conversion to Christ. Nicodemus's conversation with Jesus is a model that can help us understand our own coming to a deeper faith in Jesus. Through Baptism and Confirmation, we are reborn through water and the Holy Spirit. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who guides and strengthens us in that journey. Use these or similar questions to explore your faith in Christ.

- How do we as a family celebrate our new life in Christ?
- How do we deepen our relationship with Jesus?
- What fears do we struggle with that hinder us from living as disciples of Jesus?
- How do we share faith with our neighbors and others who do not yet believe in Jesus?

Sharing Together

Choose and together do one of the activities below or design a similar family activity of your own:

- Set aside a specific time this week to have a family conversation about the importance of faith in the life of your family.
- Choose a parish outreach ministry and join in its work over the next several months. Talk about how your involvement in this ministry will help share the light of Christ with others.
- On craft paper, draw and cut out the outline of a large candle. Ask each family member to write a resolution on the candle, stating one specific way in which they will try to be a sign of Jesus' light for other members of the family this week. Post the paper candle on the refrigerator or another prominent place as a reminder to all family members to put their resolution into practice.

Praying Together

Pray this or a similar prayer at a family meal or at another family prayer time this week.

Place a clear bowl containing water on a table. Have each member of the family extend their hands over the water and pray together:

Lord,
we are reborn through water
and the Holy Spirit.
May this water remind us
of our Baptism. Amen.

Following the prayer over the water, take turns using the water to sign each family member with a sign of the cross, praying, (Name), remember your Baptism, when you were received new life in Christ.

Getting Ready Together

At Confirmation your child will renew the promises made for them by you and their godparents at Baptism. Following this profession of faith, the bishop will extend his hands over them and pray that the Holy Spirit fill them with his gifts. The bishop will place his hand on the young people as he anoints them with chrism.

The reception of Confirmation is a cause of celebration for the candidates, who have prepared diligently for this sacrament, for their sponsors and families, and for the parish community, all of whom served as role models and witnesses to the young people. While the celebration of Confirmation is a cause of celebration, it is vital that you and your child recognize that their formation in faith is not completed with the celebration. As a parent, it is your continuing responsibility to help them understand that formation in faith and growth as a disciple of Christ is a lifelong process—a lifelong process of conversion to Christ. Following the celebration of Confirmation, your child will continue to need your guidance, example, and prayers as they continue to learn what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

Using Chapter 8—Baptism and Confirmation

Part I: Baptized into New Life

Preparing for Confirmation

There are three sacraments of Christian initiation that lay the foundation of every Christian life. They are Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Through Baptism we are joined to Christ and begin our initiation into the Church, the Body of Christ. Confirmation strengthens Baptism and is necessary for the completion of the baptismal grace. Celebrating Eucharist renews our baptismal inheritance, nourishes us with the Body and Blood of Christ, joins us most fully to Christ and to one another, and is the pledge of eternal life.

Baptized with water and the Spirit, we are joined to Christ the Risen Savior and reconciled with God. We become members of the Church and are marked forever as belonging to Christ. We receive the gift of God's love, the Holy Spirit. Both original sin and personal sins are forgiven in Baptism. We receive the grace to avoid sin and live as children of God. Through Baptism we enter a permanent relationship with God. That is why a person can be baptized only one time.

Present this chapter in two sessions, discussing Baptism in this session and Confirmation in the next session. Include the rite of the blessing with water in your presentation of this chapter to celebrate and recall that at Baptism the young people were marked with the sign of the cross and claimed for Christ. The cross is the symbol of Christ's love for the Father and for all people.

Objectives

- Explain what it means to be initiated into the Church through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.
- Identify the essential parts of the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism.
- Describe the ritual signs and symbols of Baptism.
- Explain what is meant by the spiritual character received in Baptism.

Resources

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 405, 790, 798, 903, 1113, 1121, 1235–45, 1246, 1256, 1266–67, 1272, 2340
- *Echoes of Faith* video, *Liturgy and Sacraments*, Segment 3: “Sacraments of Initiation”

Materials Needed

- Prayer Ritual—Anointing with Oil
- Activity Master—Living the Faith
- Family Page
- Copy of the Rite of Baptism



Begin the lesson . . .

- Explain that the study of Chapter 8 will take place in two sessions. Point out that the first session will focus on the sacrament of Baptism and that the second session will focus on the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Lead the candidates in the celebration of the prayer ritual found on page 16 of this booklet.

Guide Page 151 Student Pages 83

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Invite the candidates to share experiences of witnessing the celebrations of the Baptism and Confirmation of a sibling, other relative, or friend.
- Ask the candidates to identify what they saw happening during the celebration. Summarize by pointing out the essential parts of the rites of Baptism and Confirmation.

Guide Pages 152 and 153 Student Page 84 and 85

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Discuss what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ. Read aloud 1 Corinthians 12:12–27. Help the candidates appreciate that Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, and we are its members.
- Emphasize that each member of the Church—including the candidates—has different gifts and responsibilities given to them by the Holy Spirit to build up the Church and continue the work of Christ in the world.
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- Ask the students to identify the newly baptized in the second photograph on page 84. Point out that the individuals wearing the white robes are celebrating the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil as the culmination of their participation in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).
- Use the “Background: Liturgy” box on page 153 of the catechist guide to explain the RCIA process.
- Distribute copies of the “Living the Faith” activity on page 17 of this booklet and have the candidates work independently to complete it.
- Call on volunteers to share the name of the witness whom they chose and how that individual lived out their faith in Christ. Summarize by remind the candidates that saints are important role models for all Christians in our journey of faith.

Guide Pages 154 and 155 Student Page 86 and 87

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Direct the candidates’ attention to the photographs on pages 86 and 87. Clarify that after individuals are baptized by the pouring of or immersion into water, they are anointed with chrism, one of the three oils that the Catholic Church uses in the celebration of the liturgy.
- Read aloud the prayer that accompanies the anointing after Baptism:

The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / has freed you from sin / and brought you to new life / through water and the Holy Spirit. / He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, / so that, united with his people, / you may remain for ever a member of Christ / who is Priest, Prophet, and King.

Rite of Baptism
- Explain that the titles “Priest,” “Prophet,” and “King,” which are part of the prayer of anointing in Baptism, summarize the ministry of Jesus Christ. Point out that in the Old Testament the priests, prophets, and kings of God’s people were anointed with oil. This anointing was a sign that God had chosen them and was with them to do their work of serving and guiding God’s people in living the Covenant.
- Recall the words of Samuel anointing Saul as the first king of Israel, “The Lord has anointed you ruler over his people” (1 Samuel 10:1).
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.

Conclude the lesson . . .

- Close by praying together the “Prayer to the Holy Spirit” on page 135 of the text.
- Distribute copies of the “Together as a Family” page on page 18 of this booklet. Encourage the candidates to share it with their family.

Prayer Ritual

You will need

- A recording of instrumental music or words and music for an appropriate hymn
- Olive oil, fragrant oil, a small bowl
- Bible or Lectionary or Book of the Gospels

Ritual Prayer— Anointing with Oil

Gathering

Gather the students in the prayer area. Play a recording of instrumental music or an appropriate hymn. Invite the students to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence within and among them.

LEADER: Let us begin as we were baptized.

ALL: *Make the sign of the cross, saying,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
you give us the Holy Spirit to be
our helper and guide.
Send us the Holy Spirit
to open our hearts
to listen to your word.
We ask this through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Scripture Reading

LEADER: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us
listen to the word of God
by signing our forehead, lips, and heart
with the sign of the cross.

READER: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

ALL: *Reverently make the sign of the cross on
their forehead, lips, and over their heart.*

READER: *Proclaim or invite a volunteer to
proclaim Acts of the Apostles 2:1–42
from the Bible. Conclude the reading,
saying,*

READER: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Ritual

LEADER: *Mix olive oil and a few drops of a
fragrant oil in a small glass bowl, which
you have placed on the prayer table. Tell
the students that you will rub the oil on
the palms of their hands. Point out that
this action is called anointing. Invite the
students to process forward, using these
or similar words:*

I invite you to come forward in
procession. I will anoint the palms
of your hands. After I have anointed your
hands, please respond,
“Thanks be to God.” Then rub
your hands together and rub the oil into
your hands.

*Anoint the palms of each student's
hands, saying,*

Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord.

CHILD: Thanks be to God.

Closing

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
today our hands were anointed with oil
to remind us that at Baptism we
were anointed as followers of
your Son.

Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit
who helps us live as Jesus taught us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Living the Faith

The Church is the Body of Christ, the People of God, the Temple of the Holy Spirit. We are joined to Jesus Christ and become full members of the Church through the celebration of the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

The Church recognizes people whose lives gave witness to their faith in Jesus Christ. Some of those followers of Christ are Saint Paul, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Katharine Drexel, Blessed Pope John XXIII, and Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Choose one of these Christians or another follower of Christ whom you know or have learned about. Reflect on why you chose that person. What did she or he do to live their faith in Christ? Write the person's name on the line. In the flame write or draw what that person did.



TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Remembering Together

In this chapter your child learned about Baptism and the difference that being baptized makes in our lives. This is a good time for your family to share stories about family celebrations of Baptism. Share mementos and memories about your child's Baptism. Include:

- the reasons you chose your child's baptismal name.
- the date of the Baptism and the name of the church.
- the names of the godparents.
- the name of the priest or deacon.
- the names of other people who celebrated with your family.

Sharing Together

Choose one of these activities to do together or design a similar activity of your own:

- Have family members choose one thing they can do to live as followers of Jesus Christ at home this week.
- Make thank-you cards for your child's godparents or someone else who has helped your son or daughter grow in faith.

Praying Together

Pray this or a similar prayer at family meals or at other family prayer times this week:

God, our loving Father,
through the waters of Baptism
we become followers of Jesus Christ
and members of the Church.

Send us the Holy Spirit
to help us learn to live as
your children.

We ask this in the name of Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Getting Ready Together

At Baptism our parents chose godparents who would help us on our journey of faith. This is a good time to share ideas about your child's Confirmation sponsor. A Confirmation sponsor has a vital role in a person's preparation for Confirmation and in the future faith life of a confirmed Christian. Share ideas about why your child's sponsor was or will be chosen.

Using Chapter 8—Baptism and Confirmation

Part 2: Witnesses for Christ



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Preparing for Confirmation

In Baptism and Confirmation, we are joined to Christ and anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit. Baptism unites us firmly with Christ. Confirmation completes Baptism and strengthens us to share in Christ's mission. It increases in us the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are necessary for living a truly successful life on earth.

Confirmation fortifies us to live our faith. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us keep our eyes focused on God. They guide us in remaining faithful to our baptismal promises, in living with dignity as children of God, in growing in love for God and other people, and in supporting our fellow pilgrims on this earthly journey.

The essence of the rite of Confirmation is the anointing of the baptized with chrism on their forehead as the bishop, or priest delegated by the bishop, simultaneously lays his hand on the head of the one being confirmed, saying, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" (*Rite of Confirmation* 27). The celebration of Confirmation continues the initiation of the baptized into the Church. Joined more closely to the Body of Christ, the Church, the baptized are more strictly obligated to spread the faith, both by word and by deed, and to strive to live as true witnesses of Christ. (See *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* 11.)

This lesson continues the immediate preparation of the young people for the sacrament of Confirmation by focusing on the rite and effects of Confirmation.

Objectives

- Describe that Confirmation completes Baptism and strengthens us as members of the Body of Christ, the Church.
- Discuss that Confirmation renews in us the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Explain the ritual symbols of Confirmation.
- Explain the effects of celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation.
- Review the rite of Confirmation.

Resources

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 1113, 1212, 1285, 1287, 1293–1296, 1289, 1297, 1302, 1303, 1312–1313
- **Faith First** video, *Liturgy and Morality*, Segment 2: *The Visual Bible™*, "The Story of Pentecost"

Materials

- Prayer Ritual—Laying on of Hands
- Activity Master—The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Family Page

Begin the lesson . . .

Lead the candidates in the celebration of the ritual prayer found on page 21 of this booklet.

Guide Page 156

Student Page 88

- Use **FOCUS**.
- Recall that Jesus promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit, the Advocate. Elicit from the candidates that an advocate is someone who stands by a person's side and speaks up for them.
- Explain that the Holy Spirit dwells within the Church, the Body of Christ, to nourish us, to heal us, and to send us forth to bear witness to the Father.
- Remind the students that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, as Jesus promised, on Pentecost. Point out that the Church celebrates the solemnity of Pentecost each year at the end of the Easter season.
- Show the **Faith First** video, *Liturgy and Morality, Segment 2: The Visual Bible™ "The Story of Pentecost."*
- After viewing the video with the candidates, discuss with them what the biblical images of wind and flames of fire tell us about the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Discuss with the candidates how Saint Peter and the disciples used the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to continue Jesus' work in the world.
- Continue with **DISCOVER**.
- As you discuss the "Rite of Confirmation," point out that the bishop usually delegates the pastor or parish priest to confer Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.
- Make sure all the candidates understand that the essential elements of the Confirmation rite are (1) the laying on of hands by the bishop on each candidate's head (2) as he anoints the candidate's head with chrism and says, "(Name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."
- Use **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- Distribute copies of "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit" activity found on page 23 of the booklet. (The list of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit can be found on page 142 of the text.) Explain the directions to the activity and have the candidates complete it. Invite volunteers to share their responses with the group.
- Explain the role of the confirmation sponsor. Remind the candidates that the role of a sponsor is to provide help and encouragement to a candidate who is preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and to serve as a lifelong role model for living the Catholic faith. A sponsor provides an example of how to live the Christian life, how to be a follower of Jesus, and how to be a faithful and active member of the Catholic Church. A sponsor encourages us, especially when it seems difficult to live out our faith. Emphasize that because Confirmation strengthens the graces of Baptism, it is fitting for the young people to choose one of their baptismal godparents to be their Confirmation sponsor.
- Brainstorm a list of desirable qualities in a Confirmation sponsor. List the qualities on the board. Encourage the candidates to give very serious thought to whom they choose to be their sponsor.

Conclude the lesson . . .

- Discuss pages 89–91 (pages 157–159 in the guide) with the students.
- As you explore the quality of hospitality on the "What Difference Does Faith Make in My Life?" pages, recall that hospitality was a hallmark of the early Church. Read aloud Acts 2:42–47 and have the students complete this session's "Faith Decision" activity.
- Use **REVIEW** on page 92 (page 160 in the catechist guide) to reinforce the content presented in this session. Answer any questions the candidates may have.
- Have the candidates renew their baptismal promises together by using **PRAY**.
- Distribute copies of the "Together as a Family" page on page 23 of this booklet. Encourage the candidates to share it with their family.

Prayer Ritual

You will need

- A recording of instrumental music or words and music for an appropriate hymn
- Bible or Lectionary

Ritual Prayer— Laying on of Hands

Gathering

Gather the students in the prayer area. Play a recording of instrumental music or an appropriate hymn. Invite the students to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence within and among them. Remind the students that at Baptism they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and the grace to live as children of God.

LEADER: Let us begin as we were baptized.

ALL: *Make the sign of the cross, saying,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
you are with us as we come together
in prayer.
Open our hearts to the Holy Spirit.
We ask this through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Scripture Reading

LEADER: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us
listen to the word of God by signing our
forehead, lips, and heart with the sign of
the cross.

READER: A reading from the first letter of Paul to
the Corinthians.

ALL: *Reverently make the sign of the cross on
their forehead, lips, and over their heart.*

READER: *Proclaim or invite a volunteer to
proclaim 1 Corinthians 12:4–13 from
the Bible. Conclude the reading, saying,*

READER: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Ritual

LEADER: *Invite the students to come forward
one at a time. Place your open hands
on the head of each one, silently pray,
and conclude by saying aloud,*
Remember that the Holy Spirit
is always with you.

CHILD: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: *After you have completed this ritual,
say aloud,*
Let us now pray the prayer Jesus
taught us.

ALL: Our Father . . .

Closing

LEADER: *Hold your hands outward, palms down,
extended over the students, and pray,*
God, our loving Father,
we thank you for sending us
your Holy Spirit.

Fill us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to help us live as children of God.
We ask this through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

At Confirmation the Holy Spirit strengthens the baptized with seven special gifts to live their baptism.

Read about each of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Put a check next to the gift or gifts that can help you live as a follower of Jesus Christ. Choose one gift and write or draw how it can help you to live your faith in Jesus Christ.

Wisdom

helps you to love God with all your heart.

Understanding

helps you to learn about your faith in God.

Right judgment

helps you to make decisions to live the faith.

Courage

helps you to love God and others, especially when it is difficult.

Knowledge

helps you to see yourself and others as images of God.

Reverence

helps you to honor and respect God, and all people as children and images of God.

Wonder and awe

help you to trust and obey God.

TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Remembering Together

In this chapter your child learned that Confirmation strengthens us to live our Baptism. The Holy Spirit strengthens the baptized with seven special gifts to live as children of God and disciples of Jesus Christ. This week discuss these or similar questions with your child:

- How might the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us live as a Christian family?
- When might we help one another use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?
- What do we do that shows we believe that the Holy Spirit is our helper and teacher?
- Why is it important for our family to use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Sharing Together

Choose one of these activities to do together or design a similar activity of your own:

- Place seven pieces of paper, with one Gift of the Holy Spirit written on each piece, in a basket. Place the basket near the doorway of your home. Each morning have each family member take a piece of paper from the basket, read it, place it back in the basket, and strive to use that gift several times during the day.
- Name a situation in the world that you learn about from watching television that goes against what Jesus taught. Describe how using one or several of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit might help people work together to change that situation to be more in harmony with what Jesus taught.

Praying Together

Pray this prayer or a similar prayer at family meals or at other family prayer times this week:

LEADER: Holy Spirit, gift of the Father and the Son,

ALL: be with us.

LEADER: Holy Spirit, our advocate,

ALL: be with us.

LEADER: Holy Spirit, our teacher,

ALL: be with us.

LEADER: Come, Holy Spirit,
set our hearts on fire with
the power of your love.

ALL: Amen.

Getting Ready Together

At Baptism, you and the godparents signed your child's forehead with the sign of the cross. Your child was also anointed with oil. At Confirmation, your child will again be anointed with sacred chrism with the words, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." Talk with your child about ways Confirmation will strengthen the anointing and gifts first received at Baptism.

Using Chapter 9—Eucharist

Preparing for Confirmation

The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life” (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, 11). The whole spiritual good of the Church is contained in the sharing of the Body and Blood of Christ. Christ touches us, becomes one with us, and loves us in a very tangible way. When we receive the Eucharist, we receive Christ’s Body and Blood and a pledge of eternal life.

Eucharist is one of the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Christian initiation means “to admit to sacred rites, to share in the mysteries.” Christian initiation that takes place in the Sacraments of Christian Initiation is a sharing in the mystery of Christ, a union with him in his dying and rising and the sending of the Holy Spirit so that we henceforth live in him and for him. In sharing his life, we become members of his Body, the Church.

Saint Paul frequently writes about our participation in the mystery of Christ, a participation that enables us to live in Christ and be incorporated in him. (See Romans 6:3–4.) Paul goes on to speak of the Eucharist in the same way—as incorporation in the mystery of Christ that forms us into his living Body, the Church. (See 1 Corinthians 10:16–17.)

Christian initiation, then, is incorporation into Christ, sharing fully in his death and Resurrection and sending of the Holy Spirit. Because we are in him and are joined to his body, we belong to each other in his Church.

Objectives

- Describe that the celebration of Eucharist makes it possible for us to share in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus.
- Explain what is meant by the true presence of Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine.
- Identify that the different elements of the Mass constitute a single act of worship.
- Explain that the celebration of Eucharist renews in us a life of grace and makes us closer to Christ and to one another.

Resources

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 1324, 1352–1354, 1365–1366, 1377–1378, 1407
- **Faith First** video, Grade 2, Segment 7: *The Visual Bible™*, “The Lord’s Supper”

Materials

- Prayer Ritual—Sharing a Sign of Peace
- Activity Master—The Prayer of the Faithful
- Family Page
- Copy of the Sacramentary or a missalette



Begin the lesson . . .

Lead the candidates in the celebration of the prayer ritual found on page 26 of this booklet.

Guide Page 165

Student Page 93

- Use **FAITH FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Explain that the sacrament of the Eucharist is the third Sacrament of Christian Initiation. Celebration of all three of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation fully initiates a person into the Church, the Body of Christ.
- Point out that in the early centuries of the Church the Sacraments of Christian Initiation were celebrated at the same time. Explain that for pastoral reasons, the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist in the Church in the West became separated. Clarify that the celebration of the three sacraments at the Easter Vigil reflects the way that they were originally celebrated.
- Emphasize that Eucharist is at the heart of Christian life. Explore with the students what they think the statement, “The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life” means. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1324.)

Guide Pages 166 and 167

Student Pages 94 and 95

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Have the candidates recall the meaning of the term *Paschal Mystery*, which was presented in Chapter 6. Remind them that the Paschal Mystery is the saving events of the Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension of Jesus Christ. Emphasize that in the celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments we are made sharers in Christ’s Paschal Mystery through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Show the **Faith First** video, Grade 2, Segment 7, *The Visual Bible™*, “The Lord’s Supper.”
- Have the candidates discuss the similarity of the words of Jesus at the Last Supper with the words that

they hear the priest proclaim at Mass, namely, “Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you” and “Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood.”

- Use **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- Remind the candidates that in Holy Communion we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. The Eucharist is truly and really Jesus.
- Review the Gifts of the Holy Spirit presented in the last session—Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgment (Counsel), Courage, Knowledge, Reverence (Piety), and Wonder and Awe (Fear of the Lord). Discuss how each of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit touches and enriches the lives of all who participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Guide Pages 168 and 169

Student Pages 96 and 97

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Review the parts of the Mass, using both “Celebrating the Mass” on page 145 of the text (page 230 of the catechist guide) and the missalettes you brought to class.
- Summarize the basic teachings on the Mass by writing on the board the six sentences in the “Background: Liturgy” box on page 166 of the catechist guide.
- Continue with **REINFORCE** and **INTEGRATE**.
- Discuss that the Eucharist nourishes and strengthens us to live the faith. Use the “Teaching Tip” at the bottom of page 169 of the catechist guide to guide the discussion.
- Remind the candidates that the service activities that they have experienced as part of their Confirmation preparation guided them in living their faith. Explore with them how these activities have been examples of the dismissal command at Mass “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”
- Distribute the “Prayer of the Faithful” activity on page 27 of this booklet. Explain the directions and

have the candidates work independently to complete it. Incorporate the students’ petitions into your closing prayer at the end of this session.

Guide Page 170

Student Pages 98

- Use **FOCUS** and **DISCOVER**.
- Have a volunteer read aloud John 12:15 from a Bible. Ask volunteers to tell how this passage relates to Eucharist and Confirmation. Help the candidates understand that through regular participation in the Eucharist we continually deepen our communion with Jesus and that in Confirmation we are strengthened to live as his friends and followers.
- Explain that the Eucharist is a sacrament of forgiveness. In your explanation be sure to emphasize the distinction between forgiveness of venial sins and mortal sins. Emphasize that we need to seek forgiveness of all mortal sins before we receive Holy Communion.
- Take the time to review the process for celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation (see Chapter 11 of the student text) and to arrange for the students to celebrate this sacrament with their families or sponsors prior to the celebration of Confirmation.

Conclude the lesson . . .

- Discuss pages 99–101 (pages 171–173 in the catechist guide) with the candidates and have them complete the “Faith Decision” activity.
- Use **REVIEW** on page 102 (page 174 in the catechist guide) to reinforce the main concepts presented in this session.
- Close by celebrating Christ’s presence, using **PRAY**.
- Distribute copies of the “Together as a Family” page on page 28 of this booklet. Encourage the candidates to share it with their parents.

Prayer Ritual

You will need

- A recording of instrumental music or words and music for an appropriate hymn
- Bible or Lectionary or Book of the Gospels

Ritual Prayer— Sharing a Sign of Peace

Gathering

Gather the students in the prayer area. Play a recording of instrumental music or an appropriate hymn. Invite the students to settle themselves and to become aware of God's presence within and among them.

LEADER: Let us begin as we were baptized.

ALL: *Make the sign of the cross, saying,*
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
you give us the gift of new life in
Jesus Christ, your Son.
Open our hearts to your word.
Send us the Holy Spirit to help us
share the gift of Jesus with others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Scripture Reading

LEADER: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us
listen to the word of God
by signing our forehead, lips, and heart
with the sign of the cross.

READER: A reading from the holy gospel according
to John.

ALL: *Reverently make the sign of the cross on
their forehead, lips, and over their heart,
and then say,*
Glory to you, Lord.

READER: *Proclaim or invite a volunteer to
proclaim John 14:15–27 from the Bible.
Conclude the reading, saying,*

READER: The gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Ritual

LEADER: We are all children of God.
Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

LEADER: Jesus gave the gift of his peace to his
followers. Let us share that gift of peace
with one another.

ALL: *Share a sign of peace.*

Closing

LEADER: God, our loving Father,
you have given us the gift of your
Son, Jesus Christ.
Send us the Holy Spirit
to help us share Christ's love and
peace with others.
We ask this through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Eucharist—Give Thanks

Prayer of the Faithful

At the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Word during the celebration of the Eucharist, we pray the Prayer of the Faithful. We petition God to guide the Church and her pastors. We pray for our country and its leaders, for ourselves, for other people, and for those who have died.

On the lines below, write petitions asking the Holy Spirit to guide each of the groups.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,
you are the Advocate and Helper.
Come, be with and guide
those for whom we pray:

Spirit of God, we pray for the Church and her leaders that _____
_____.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Spirit of God, we pray for our country and her leaders that _____
_____.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Spirit of God, we pray for our parish and pastor and all those who serve us in your name
that _____
_____.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Spirit of God, we pray for all Confirmation candidates, their families, and their sponsors that
_____.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Spirit of God, we pray for the sick and all those who suffer and are in need that _____
_____.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Spirit of God, we pray for all the faithful who have died that _____
_____.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God, loving Father,
you sent your Son so that we made be made sharers in your saving and caring love.
Send the Holy Spirit
that we may know that love more and more.
We make our prayer in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Remembering Together

In this lesson your child deepened their understanding of the Eucharist and discovered its relationship to the sacrament of Confirmation. At Mass we receive the Bread of Life. Jesus gives us the gift of himself. We receive the grace to live as peacemakers and share ourselves with others. Use these or similar questions to discover and live this important belief of our faith:

- How do we share peace with one another at church?
- How do we share peace with one another at home?
- How do we share peace with our neighbors?

Sharing Together

Choose one of these activities to do together or design a similar activity of your own:

- Create a banner with the words “We Are All One in Jesus” on it. Display the banner in your home.
- Share a sign of peace with one another at the beginning of your next family meal.
- Brainstorm ways that your family can be peacemakers with one another. Choose one thing that everyone will agree to do. Do it together.

Praying Together

Pray this or a similar prayer at family meals or at other family prayer times this week:

God, our loving Father,
today we share in the peace
of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Send us the Holy Spirit
to help us share the gift of Jesus
by living as peacemakers.
We ask this through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

Getting Ready Together

The celebration of Confirmation takes place within the context of the Mass. The rite of Communion takes place after all the candidates have been anointed. This would be a good time to review the Liturgy of the Eucharist and emphasize the ritual activities, prayers, and responses of the Communion rite.

A Confirmation Retreat

Note: This retreat is designed for an entire day. By using only the shaded sections, the retreat can be completed in a shorter time period.

Materials Needed

- Name tags
- Brightly colored markers
- Newsprint
- Tape
- Pencils
- Bible
- Candle
- Basket
- Prayer table
- Copies of the activity master handouts
- Letter paper and envelopes

Welcome and Gather

Greet each of the participants individually as they arrive. Provide name tags and brightly colored markers and invite the participants to create and decorate a name tag that identifies and describes them.

When everyone has arrived and finished making their name tags, welcome them. Present a brief overview of what will happen at the retreat. Use these or similar words to welcome the participants:

I am happy that you are with us at this retreat. Does anyone know what a retreat is? Retreat comes from a French word meaning “to withdraw.” There will be some quiet time and some prayer time, but we will also be active in groups. There will be time to get to know a little more about yourself and to discover ways God is working in your life now.

We will talk about Confirmation and ways that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will be an active and vibrant part of your life. We will tell some stories. We will hear some people tell their stories. And we will do some fun things!

Let’s begin. (Lead the participants in the icebreaker activity.)

Icebreaker Activity

Ask all the participants to sit on chairs, which are arranged to form a large circle. Tell the participants that you will make a statement, and if that statement applies to them, they are to get out of their chair, and rush to sit in a different chair on the other side of the circle.

Use some statements that can apply to some of the participants, such as “Everyone with brown eyes.” Use other statements that can apply to all of the

participants, such as “Everyone who is in junior high.” Use some fun statements that will get the participants laughing, such as “Everyone who has a piece of useless junk in their pocket.”

After you make the first few statements (and the participants get the idea of how the game is played), remove one of the chairs. This will leave one participant without a chair to sit on. Have that person stand in the middle of the circle, make the next statement, and run to find a chair when others move. Remember that not all participants will move with each statement. Conclude the activity by saying, “Everyone who is preparing for Confirmation.” (Be sure at this time to replace the chair that you removed.)

All the participants should now be sitting on different chairs than the ones they were sitting on when they first arrived. Allow a few minutes for the participants to chat and laugh about the activity and to begin to settle down a bit.

Summarize, saying these or similar words:

That was a fun way to discover how each of us is different from one another, but each of us also has one very important thing in common with one another: Each of us has been blessed by God and created by God in his image and likeness.

Prayer and Scripture Reading

Invite the participants to stand and listen as you read the parable of the talents.

Leader: A reading from the gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

Leader: (Read Matthew 25:14–30.)

The word of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Ask the participants to be seated and distribute copies of the handout on page 32. Allow sufficient time for the participants to reflect on and answer each of the questions. Invite volunteers to share how they responded to the questions. Then conclude with one of the participants reading this prayer:

God, our Father, open our minds and hearts to the teachings of the Spirit. May we use our talents to spread the message of Jesus, your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Story

Have the participants sit comfortably as you tell this story.

There was a young boy named Gianni who lived in a small village nestled in the mountains of northern Italy. Tucked into the hills were rock quarries containing marble. Every day Gianni would walk to school, winding his way through the narrow streets of the village past all the stores and shops and houses. On his way home, he always paused and spent some time at the workshop of Giuseppi the sculptor. It was fun to watch him work as he used his hammers and chisels. Gianni was especially excited one day when a large block of glistening white marble appeared in Giuseppi's workshop. Every day, Gianni would rush out of school to stand at the door of Giuseppi's workshop. Gianni watched curiously as the block of marble slowly changed its shape. Then one day when Gianni gazed into the workshop, there it was, looking straight at him—a huge statue of a lion. He was amazed and turned to Giuseppi and asked, "How did you find the lion in that big piece of marble?" "Easy," responded Giuseppi. "I simply chipped away everything that was not the lion."

Connection

Discuss the story with the participants. Use these or similar points:

1. You cannot always tell who a person is or what a person is like by merely looking at the person's outside. Looking beyond the outside of a person (chipping away at the marble) can help us discover who a person really is.
2. Each person has strengths and weaknesses.
3. Growing as a responsible Christian includes discovering our qualities, developing those qualities, and using them to live our faith. God works in us and through us to build on the gifts that each of us has been given.

Explain that at this retreat today, we are going to spend some time reflecting on the gifts that God has given us. The challenge now is to work with the Spirit and develop our gifts. Let's begin by identifying those positive qualities that are important for a person to have.

Group Activity

Introduce the group activity by asking the participants to talk about people whom they respect and admire. Use these or similar words:

All of you know people you respect and admire. Who is someone you look up to? Who are some well-known people you look up to? What other people do you look up to? Which saints do you look up to? Think about why you look up to these people. Think about some of the qualities these people possess that you admire. Talk about some of the positive qualities that these people possess.

Divide the participants into groups of four or five. Have each group brainstorm and list on a sheet of newsprint at least five qualities they look for in persons whom they admire. Then have the group choose and circle the three most important qualities on this list.

Gather the whole group together. Discuss and share the top three qualities circled from the list made by the individual groups. From this discussion have all the participants decide on the five most important qualities for them as a group. Write these on a sheet of newsprint.

Presentation: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Use these or similar words to begin a discussion of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Together, we have identified qualities that we look for and admire in other people. How do we discover that someone has one or more of these gifts? It is because we see people using their gifts. We cannot see wisdom, but we can see the ways that people act wisely.

We too are called to develop our gifts in the same way as the people in the parable of the talents. Three people received gifts and were accountable for their gifts to their master. We must develop our gifts and talents. The Holy Spirit dwelling within us helps us do this.

Give a copy of the handout on page 33 to each participant. Discuss and explain the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Allow time for the participants to quietly reflect on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to respond to the questions.

Activity

Have the participants create a skit that depicts people their age using the Gifts of the Spirit. Form seven

groups and assign one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to each of the seven groups. Encourage the participants to role-play a situation that portrays the use of the gift of the Holy Spirit assigned to their group.

Personal Witness to the Gifts of the Spirit

One aspect of the Church's life is the faithful living their Baptism by sharing their gifts. Illustrate a situation of someone giving witness to Christ by sharing their gifts. This could be done in several ways. For example:

1. Invite one or several of the group leaders of the retreat day to share their reflections on what the Holy Spirit means to them.
2. View and discuss a video that shows how people use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
3. Invite the participants to role-play the story of some of the people who are important in the history of the Church.

Activity: Identifying Your Gifts

Involve participants in an activity that will help them identify the gifts that others see in them and the gifts that they see in themselves. Have them write a letter that will be used in the closing prayer celebration, thanking God for these gifts.

- Tape a cutout copy of the flame from the handout on page 34 to each participant's back.
- Tell all the participants to walk around the room and write on each other's flame a positive quality that they see in that person.
- After sufficient time, have the participants sit down in a comfortable position and take the list of positive qualities from their backs. Let them read the list.
- Play some appropriate music for reflection. Invite each participant to reflect on what these gifts and qualities mean to them.
- Distribute letter paper and envelopes and invite the participants to write a letter to God. This letter should include three parts: naming some of their gifts, thanking God for their gifts, and telling ways in which they will use these gifts.
- When everyone has completed writing the letter, tell the participants that they will offer their letter to God during the closing prayer.

Closing Prayer Celebration

Gather the participants for prayer. Play a recording of reflective music to help the participants focus. On the prayer table place an open Bible, a candle, and a basket.

Leader: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Father, always and for everything.

All: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reader: (Proclaim Matthew 5:14–16.)

Leader: Let us spend a few minutes quietly reflecting on the words of Jesus and the meaning of those words for our lives. Think about all that we did together at this retreat, and reflect on ways that you can be lights to the world.

After some time for quiet reflection, continue playing music and invite the participants to bring the letter that they wrote to God and reverently place it in the basket. When all the participants have placed their letter in the basket, invite everyone to sing.

Response: (Sing “We Are the Light of the World” [Jean A. Grief, GIA Publications, 7404 South Mason Avenue, Chicago, IL 60638] or another appropriate song.)

All: (Provide a copy of the handout “Prayer to the Holy Spirit” on page 35. Have the participants take the prayer home as a reminder of the retreat day.)
Pray the “Prayer to the Holy Spirit.”

Leader: Good and gracious God,
thank you for blessing us with your gifts.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit
so that we can truly see these gifts
and use them to bring the good news of Jesus
to the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus our Savior
and Brother.

All: Amen.

Invite all to share a sign of peace with one another, encouraging one another to be lights to the world, using these or similar words:

(Name), peace be with you. Go forth and be a light to the world.

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

1. What is the one thing you remember about the parable of the talents?

2. What would you say to the master when he returns?

3. What would the master say to you in response?

Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit

At Confirmation we are sealed with the sevenfold Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Read and reflect on the description of each of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Choose one of the gifts. Write about or illustrate a situation in the three panels that shows how that gift might enable a young person to live their faith.

Wonder and awe, or fear of the Lord enables us to acknowledge the greatness and power of God through our trust and obedience to God.

Reverence, or piety, enables us to honor and respect God and all people as children and images of God.

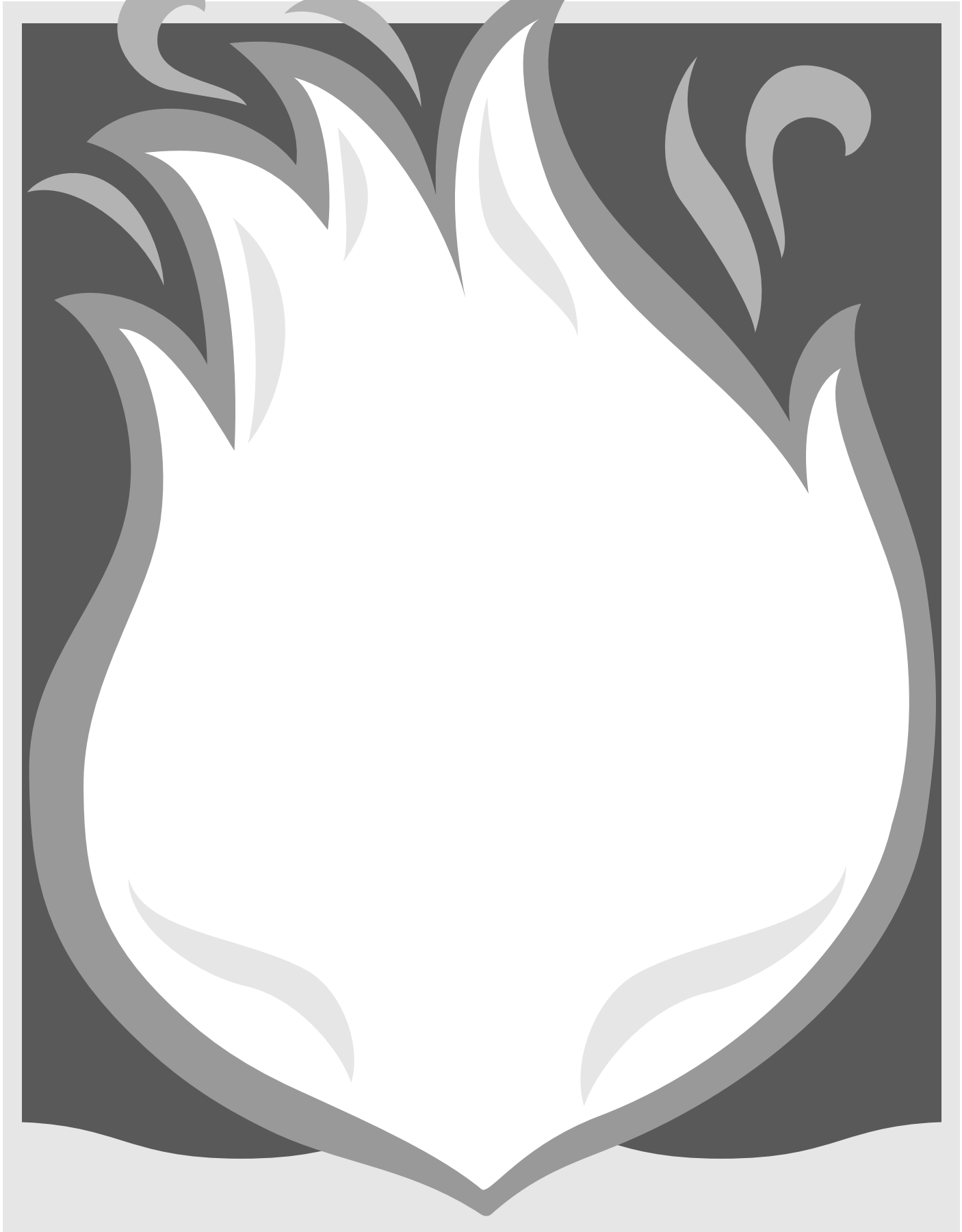
Knowledge enables us to see God, reflected in all creatures and to praise him.

Courage, or fortitude, enables us to overcome obstacles that stand in our way of loving God and others.

Right judgment, or counsel, enables us to make practical decisions to live our faith.

Wisdom enables us to value God above all creatures and to make decisions based on that value.

Understanding enables us to discover the meaning of our faith and to live according to its teachings.



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Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come,
Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts
of your
faithful.

And kindle in
them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created.

And you will
renew
the face
of the
earth.



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