

Ignorance of Scripture Is Ignorance of Christ

-St. Jerome

Daily prayer is a wonderful way to get to know our Lord better. The daily formal prayers listed here are called "Liturgies" and they are designed to prepare your family for the celebration of Confirmation by experiencing a taste of the Word of God, the ritual actions of the Sacrament of Confirmation, as well as one of the songs we will sing at the Confirmation Mass. As we enter this final phase of our preparation, we invite and encourage all of our families to spend some time together this week with each other and with God. As you celebrate these Liturgies of the Word this week as a family, be extra attentive to what Christ is saying to you through the readings, songs, and actions. As all of the Confirmation families participate in this Liturgy of the Word throughout this week, we hope that you are uplifted and inspired. Though physically apart, we remain spiritually united in the same Christ who brings us light and joy.

What is the Liturgy of the Word?

- In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word (cf. Sacrosanctum Concilium, no. 51). The Scriptures are the word of God, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. In the Scriptures, God speaks to us, leading us along the path to salvation.
- The Responsorial Psalm is sung between the readings. The psalm helps us to meditate on the word of God.
- The high point of the Liturgy of the Word is the reading of the Gospel. Because the Gospels tell of the life, ministry, and preaching of Christ, it receives several special signs of honor and reverence.
- Since these Liturgies of the Word are specially designed to prepare your Confirmation candidate for the celebration, each liturgy concludes with a special ritual action. Each of these actions are a part of the ceremony of Confirmation. By experiencing these actions ahead of time, the Confirmation candidate can explore more of what the action means and have a fuller, more prayerful experience during the Celebration of Confirmation.
- The Liturgy concludes with the Universal Prayer, also called the Prayer of the Faithful. The gathered assembly intercedes with God on behalf of the Church, the world, and themselves, entrusting their needs to our faithful and loving God.

Instructions for celebrating daily Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word is separated into various parts which are each led by a leader (presider) in dialogue, proclamation and response, with the others assembled. The leader may vary or change from one section to another. For this Liturgy of the Word for your family, the parts have been preassigned. Parts to be read by a parent or adult are labeled by "Parent", the parts that should be read by a youth are marked with a "Youth", and some parts are labeled "All". The whole family can participate and feel free to include all members of your family!

Liturgy of the Word: Tuesday

Supplies needed today: *this paper and your family!*

Opening Song: Set a Fire

All: (Either play the song from the link at saintraphael.org/week-of-prep or sing it as a family with the enclosed sheet music)

Sign of the Cross

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

Opening Prayer

Parent: Let us pray in the Spirit who dwells within us.

Pause for silent prayer.

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that the splendor of your glory may shine forth upon us and that, by the bright rays of the Holy Spirit, the light of your light may confirm the hearts of those born again by your grace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

*(Pentecost, At the Vigil Mass [Simple Form], *The Roman Missal*)*

Reading (All sit.)

Ezekiel: 36: 24-28

Youth: A reading from the book of Ezekiel. Thus says the Lord God: I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new Spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my Spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *(If your family is musical, this psalm may be sung using the sheet music available at saintraphael.org/week-of-prep)*

Youth: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

All: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Youth: Bless the Lord, my soul, you fill the world with wonder. You shape creation with wonderful wisdom, the earth is full of your creatures.

All: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Youth: Your creatures look to you in their hunger, you give them food in due season. You open your hand, you feed and sustain them. You fill your creatures with good things.

All: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Youth: You breathe out your Spirit and they come to life, the earth is renewed in your radiance. May God's glory endure forever, to Creator delight in creation.

All: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Gospel (All stand)

Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15

Parent: A reading from the Gospel of Luke. When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to Jesus, he spoke in a parable.

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of temptation. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance." The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Ritual: Signing Each Person with the Cross (All stand.)

Parents: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given life to your children by the life, death, and resurrection of your Son Jesus. For so great a gift we thank and praise you. Through baptism we have all been marked with the sign of Christ: the sign of the cross. It is our faith and our heritage. May the Spirit of God renew you in its power.

Parent, invite each other member of your family forward and use your thumb to make the sign of the cross on their forehead while you say:

I sign you with the cross of Christ.
By this sign of his love and sacrifice
may you be reminded that Christ alone is your strength.

Intercessions

Youth: For all who are preparing to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation: May their preparation be a time of deep conversion in their lives, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Youth: For all who are hearing the call of faith for the first time, that the Spirit of God continues to light a fire in their hearts, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Youth: For all who are presently in our initiation processes and who are preparing for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist: May God's Spirit be upon them and may they receive the support of the Christian community, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Youth: For all the sick, suffering, homeless, depressed, hungry, and broken hearted people in our midst and in the world: May they be touched by the mercy and healing love of God and by the service of compassionate Christians, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Youth: For all who are gathered here (*include their names*): May the Spirit of God be upon them, and may they experience the love of Christ through the love and prayers of this community, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Youth: Let us pray the prayer that 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 have trespassed against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Concluding Prayer

Parent: Creator God, we are confident that you are with us to teach us, guide us, and prepare our hearts for the celebration of your sacrament of love. Open our hearts to receive your word and to live it in our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Liturgy of the Word: Wednesday

Supplies needed today: *this paper, a bowl of water, and your family!*

Opening Song: Set a Fire *(All Stand)*

All: (Either play the song from the link at saintraphael.org/week-of-prep or sing it as a family with the enclosed sheet music)

Sign of the Cross

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

Opening Prayer

Youth: Lord, send us your Holy Spirit to help us walk in unity of faith and grow in the strength of his love to the full stature of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(Rite of Confirmation, 35)

Reading *(All sit.)*

Acts 8:1bc, 4, 14-17

Parent: A reading from the book of Acts. On that day, there broke out a severe persecution of the Church in Jerusalem, and all were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria, except the Apostles. Those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. When the Apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen upon any 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. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *(If your family is musical, this psalm may be sung using the sheet music available at saintraphael.org/week-of-prep)*

Parent: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

All: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Parent: Bless the Lord, my soul, you fill the world with wonder. You shape creation with wonderful wisdom, the earth is full of your creatures.

All: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Parent: Your creatures look to you in their hunger, you give them food in due season. You open your hand, you feed and sustain them. You fill your creatures with good things.

All: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Parent: You breathe out your Spirit and they come to life, the earth is renewed in your radiance. May God's glory endure forever, to Creator delight in creation.

All: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Gospel (All stand)

Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15

Youth: A reading from the Gospel of Luke. When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to Jesus, he spoke in a parable.

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of temptation. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance." The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Ritual with Water

Parent: Let this water remind us of our baptism and let us ask God to bless it.

Invite everyone to extend hands over the water.

Creator God, you have filled us with your presence in the life-giving waters of baptism. Free us from our sins and deliver us from all that cripples us with fear. Renew and refresh us as we encounter rebirth in these waters. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Invite everyone to come to the water to bless themselves lavishly with the water.

Intercessions

Parent: For all who are preparing to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation: May their preparation be a time of deep conversion in their lives, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Parent: For all who are hearing the call of faith for the first time, that the Spirit of God continues to light a fire in their hearts, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Parent: For all who are presently in our initiation processes and who are preparing for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist: May God's Spirit be upon them and may they receive the support of the Christian community, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Parent: For all the sick, suffering, homeless, depressed, hungry, and broken hearted people in our midst and in the world: May they be touched by the mercy and healing love of God and by the service of compassionate Christians, we pray to the Lord.

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Parent: For all who are gathered here (*include their names*): May the Spirit of God be upon them, and may they experience the love of Christ through the love and prayers of this community, we pray to the Lord.

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Lord's Prayer

Youth: Let us pray the prayer that 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 have trespassed against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Concluding Prayer

Youth: God our Father, complete the work you have begun and keep the gifts of your Holy Spirit active in the hearts of your people. Make them ready to live his Gospel and eager to do his will. May they never be ashamed to proclaim to all the world Christ crucified living and reigning for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(Rite of Confirmation, 49)

Liturgy of the Word: Thursday

Supplies needed today: *this paper, a loaf of bread, a glass of juice to represent wine, and your family!*

Begin with a procession with a loaf of bread and carafe of wine.

Opening Song: Set a Fire (All Stand)

All: (Either play the song from the link at saintraphael.org/week-of-prep or sing it as a family with the enclosed sheet music)

Sign of the Cross

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

Opening Prayer

Parent: Graciously pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, O Lord, so that, walking in oneness of faith and strengthened by the power of his love, we may come to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(The Roman Missal, Collect B "For the Conferral of Confirmation")

Reading (All sit.)

Ezekiel: 36: 24-28

Youth: A reading from the book of Ezekiel. Thus says the Lord God: I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new Spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my Spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *(If your family is musical, this psalm may be sung using the sheet music available at saintraphael.org/week-of-prep)*

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All: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

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Gospel (All stand)

Luke 8:4-10a, 11b-15

Parent: A reading from the Gospel of Luke. When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to Jesus, he spoke in a parable.

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of temptation. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance." The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Ritual with Bread and Wine

Parent: O God, the giver of life, we praise you and bless you for the food we are about to share. We humbly pray that in your great kindness you will provide food for our brothers and sisters who are hungry. Blessed be God now and forever.

All: Amen.

Youth: Blessed are you, our almighty Father, who give us our daily bread. Blessed is Jesus Christ, your only begotten Son, who feeds us day after day on the word of life. Blessed is the Holy Spirit, who brings us together and fills us with awe and wonder. Blessed be God now and forever. *Lift up and break the bread.* Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation: you bring forth bread from the earth.

All: Amen.

Parent: Lift up the juice. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, creator of the fruit of the vine. Blessed be God now and forever.

All: Amen.

Each person breaks a piece of bread from the one loaf and eats it. Each person drinks from the cup.

Intercessions

Youth: For all who are preparing to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation: May their preparation be a time of deep conversion in their lives, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Youth: For all who are hearing the call of faith for the first time, that the Spirit of God continues to light a fire in their hearts, we pray to the Lord.

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Youth: Let us pray the prayer that 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 have trespassed against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Concluding Prayer

Parent: God our Father, complete the work you have begun and keep the gifts of your Holy Spirit active in the hearts of your people. Make them ready to live his Gospel and eager to do his will. May they never be ashamed to proclaim to all the world Christ crucified living and reigning for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(Rite of Confirmation, 49)

Liturgy of the Word: Friday

Supplies needed today: *this paper, a bowl of water, oil, bread, wine (or something to represent wine), and of course, your family! Make a display with the four items and highlight oil in a special way.*

Opening Song: Set a Fire (All Stand)

All: (Either play the song from the link at saintraphael.org/week-of-prep or sing it as a family with the enclosed sheet music)

Sign of the Cross

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

Opening Prayer

Youth: Lord, send us your Holy Spirit to help us grow in unity of faith and grow in the strength of his love to the full stature of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

(Rite of Confirmation, 35)

Acts 8:1bc, 4, 14-17 (All sit.)

Parent: A reading from the book of Acts. On that day, there broke out a severe persecution of the Church in Jerusalem, and all were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria, except the Apostles. Those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. When the Apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen upon any 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. The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *(If your family is musical, this psalm may be sung using the sheet music available at saintraphael.org/week-of-prep)*

Parent: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

All: Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Parent: Bless the Lord, my soul, you fill the world with wonder. You shape creation with wonderful wisdom, the earth is full of your creatures.

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Gospel (All stand)

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All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Ritual Action: Laying on of Hands

All: Raise hands over those preparing for confirmation while the prayer below is read. Those preparing for Confirmation should hold their hands in front of themselves, palms up.

Parent: Almighty and powerful God, send your blessing upon these candidates who are preparing for the sacrament of confirmation. Create in them a longing for an outpouring of your Spirit. Strengthen them in faith during this time of preparation so that they may fully encounter you in the celebration of this holy mystery of faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Parent: Go to each person in your family and lay hands on his or her head. Take a moment with each person and pray for them while your hands are on their head.

Intercessions

Youth: For all who are preparing to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation: May their preparation be a time of deep conversion in their lives, we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Youth: For all who are hearing the call of faith for the first time, that the Spirit of God continues to light a fire in their hearts, we pray to the Lord.

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Lord's Prayer

Youth: Let us pray the prayer that 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 have trespassed against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen*

Concluding Prayer

Parent: God our Father, complete the work you have begun and keep the gifts of your Holy Spirit active in the hearts of your people. Make them ready to live his Gospel and eager to do his will. May they never be ashamed to proclaim to all the world Christ crucified, living and reigning forever.

All: Amen.

(Rite of Confirmation, 49)