

Name: _____



paint the world
SUPER
COLORING

Confirmation Preparation
Chapter One
We Belong to God's Family

2 Warm Up

Baptism Word Find: See if you can find all the words!



BIBLE
BLESSING
CANDLE
CREED
DEACON

FORGIVE SINS
GODPARENT
NEW LIFE
OIL
PRIEST

SACRED CHRISM
SAINTS
SIGN OF CROSS
WATER
WHITE GARMENT

Think about why each word is included in this word find about the Sacrament of Baptism...

Opening Prayer: Come Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit.

Fill our hearts with God's love.

Bless our time together and pour out your gifts of wisdom, knowledge and understanding, of right judgment, wonder and awe, of courage and reverence.

Help us grow closer to the Father who loves us, to the Son who is our Lord and Savior, and to You, dear Holy Spirit, who brings us new life.

May Our Blessed Mother, filled with God's Holy Spirit, pray for us. *Amen.*



Meet Margaret and Dominic

Meet Margaret and Dominic who attend St. Benedict Catholic Church:

“Hi, everyone!” My name is Margaret and I want to help you learn more about the Sacrament of Confirmation. You see, Dominic and I are preparing for the Sacrament, too! We can't wait to receive Confirmation *and* our First Holy Communion, too!”

“That's right! My name is Dominic and I hope you are ready to learn more about Jesus and our Catholic faith. We are all old enough to know Jesus for ourselves. Jesus loves me and Margaret and you so much—and He wants us to follow Him each and every day. Preparing for the Sacraments shows we are ready to follow Jesus and really live our faith.”

“Dominic and I belong to a special club at our school called the Helping Club. We look for ways we can make a difference in our school—like helping a teacher clean up their classroom or helping someone who is on crutches and can't carry their books.”

“Yeah, Margaret,” Dominic said, “the Helping Club *is* fun and we can make a real difference for our school! One thing that makes the Helping Club fun is that we made up a special handshake we give each other. We also made up our own song, and every time we get together, we eat popcorn and drink lemonade! Doing these things together helps us feel like we really belong!”

4 Table Talk

Imagine you are making a new group at your school. What are some ways you can help all the members know that they belong to the group? Think of some ideas for...

Your Group's Name:	
Special Handshake/Action:	
Pledge or Motto:	
Special Food:	
Theme Song:	

Table Talk: Share about your groups with each other. Create a handshake for your table.

Margaret and Dominic Think About Belonging to God

Margaret looked over at Dominic and clapped him on the shoulder, “You know, Dominic, I was thinking about the things we do to help people feel like they belong to the Helping Club. God gives us signs that help us know we belong to His family, the Church: like at our Baptism.”

“You’re right, Margaret,” said Dominic, “but with the Helping Club, we just made those things up. With God’s signs, they really do make us a part of his family—they really change us, they aren’t just things people made up.”

Margaret thought for a moment, then her eyes lit up and she said, “Dominic! That’s what our catechist was talking about when she told us about Sacraments! Sacraments use signs that we can see or hear or touch or taste in order to

point out what God is doing inside of us that we can’t see!”

Dominic smiled and said, “Yeah, like the water of Baptism is a sign of what God is doing inside of us. Water cleans the outside of us, and God cleans up the inside of us by forgiving our sins.”

Margaret thought for a moment, then she said, “I wonder if we could think of some of the things we do that tell us we belong to God’s club—to His family? Like maybe the ‘special handshake’ for God’s family is the sign of the cross?”

“Yeah,” Dominic added in an excited voice, “and think of all the things we do at Mass to show we belong to God.”

Think about belonging to God’s family, to the Church. What are some of the actions we do at Mass that help us understand that we belong to God?

Our name:	“Catholic Christian”	<i>We belong to the Body of Christ through our Baptism—we are sons and daughters of God. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. We are temples of the Holy Spirit.</i>
Our special sign:	Sign of the Cross	<i>When we enter a church, we dip our finger in Holy Water and trace the sign of the cross on our bodies. This reminds us that we belong to God through our Baptism.</i>
Our special pledge:	The Apostles’ Creed	<i>We stand up and profess our faith together. We say what we believe in. We believe these things because God has told them to us, not because people made them up.</i>
Our special meeting place:	A Catholic Church	<i>We gather together as the family of God to worship Him and receive His grace. Our church has Jesus with us in the Tabernacle—Jesus is always with His people in the Holy Eucharist to love them and help them.</i>
Our special food:	The Holy Eucharist	<i>When we go to Mass and receive Holy Communion, we receive Jesus Christ. He offers Himself to us as real food and drink. Jesus’ Real Presence fills us and transforms us.</i>
Our memories and rules:	The Bible	<i>The Bible is God’s word to us and tells us about His plan of salvation. The Bible gives us the truth about who God is, who we are, and what God wants us to do.</i>

Read these verses from the Bible to find out what Jesus tells us about belonging to God:

“To those who accept him [Jesus] gave power to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

“Whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother and sister, and mother.” (Matthew 12:50)

“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.” (John 15:16)

“Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Luke 18:16)



6 Sacraments of Initiation

Margaret Tells About Her Sister's Baptism

Dominic and Margaret were walking home from school last Monday, and Dominic asked Margaret about her baby sister.

“Was that your baby sister that got baptized after Mass on Sunday? I thought I saw you with your parents.”

“Yep! My baby sister, Claire, got baptized! She was pretty quiet, until the water got poured on her head!” Margaret laughed when she remembered her little sister's eyes getting really big before she let out a little yell about that cold water!

Dominic thought for a minute then asked Margaret a question. “Hey Margaret, I remember going over all the signs of Baptism in our Sacraments class, but I'm not sure if I remember them all. Could you tell me about Claire's baptism?”

“Sure!” said Margaret. “The first thing that happened was that my mom and dad got to announce Claire's name to everyone and then say that they wanted her baptized. Fr. Mark then traced a sign of the cross on her forehead and said that she belonged to Jesus now. He put oil on her and prayed for her. Then Fr. Mark blessed the water, and then he asked my parents and Claire's godparents to profess their faith.”

“Wow,” interrupted Dominic, “what was Claire doing—did she really know what was happening?”

Margaret smiled, “She was sleeping! Fr. Mark said God wanted to make Claire His daughter because He loves her, not because she could earn it or completely understand it. That's why the Catholic Church baptizes babies. I know Claire is part of my family right now—we don't wait until she's old enough to prove she belongs to us. It's the same way with God's family—He loves us so much He wants us to belong right away.”

“That's cool,” said Dominic, “I remember Fr. Mark telling me that when we celebrate a Sacrament, it's mainly about what God is doing for us, not what we can do for God. He said that's because Sacraments really give us grace, and grace is a free gift from God.”

“Yep! That's grace, all right!” added Margaret, “we can't earn God's grace, but we need to respond to it. It's like getting a present in a beautiful box. We have the present when we are given it, but if we don't unwrap it and use it, it's doesn't do us much good.”

“So what happened next at Claire's baptism?” asked Dominic.



“Well,” said Margaret, “after that profession of faith, Fr. Mark asked them one more time if they really wanted Claire baptized. After they said yes, he poured water on her forehead three times while he said, ‘I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’ That's when Claire cried a little bit—I think the water was a surprise! My mom smiled and said it's hard work getting born, so most babies cry a bit!”

Dominic laughed and told Margaret, “My mom told me that when I was baptized, I looked up at Fr. Mark and smiled at him. She said Fr. Mark just smiled back and whispered, ‘Welcome to the family!’”

“That sounds like you!” said Margaret, “Well, after Claire was baptized, she got another oil put on her. Fr. Mark said it is called Sacred Chrism: it’s a special oil that shows God has a plan for Claire. Fr. Mark told me that the same oil is going to be used on us when we get confirmed by the bishop!”

Dominic stopped and turned to Margaret, “Baptism and Confirmation both use the same oil! Sacred Chrism is a sign that we belong to God’s family when our life begins and also when we get older and are ready to live out our faith.”

“That’s what my dad said, too,” added Margaret, “he said that Confirmation is about sealing in the grace of Baptism—and reminding us that as we grow older, we are supposed to give what we have been given.”

“What else happened at Claire’s baptism,” asked Dominic, “I think I remember something about clothes and a candle.”

“Yep!” said Margaret, “you’re right! Claire was put in a long white gown. Fr. Mark said the white robe shows that she really is a citizen of heaven now as a member of God’s family. Then the godparents were given a candle to keep for her. The candle stands for the light of Christ in her life. We all have the love of God lighting up our hearts, and we are supposed to shine that light out for others to see. After the candle, Fr. Mark blessed my mom and dad and all of us, and then we had a party to celebrate Claire’s new birthday.”

“New birthday?” asked Dominic.

“Yeah,” Margaret said, “Claire was really reborn on Sunday as a new creation, a beloved child of God. It’s her birthday into God’s family.”

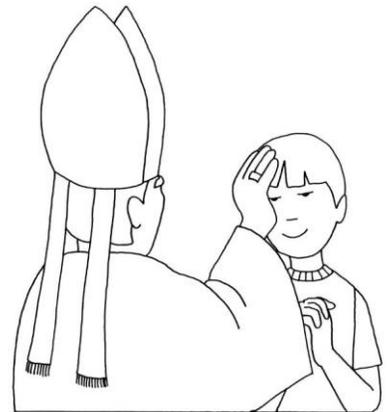
Some things to know and think about:

A **Sacrament** is a visible sign of God’s invisible grace. Sacraments continue the ministry of Jesus through His Church. Sacraments really have an effect in us, they change us by God’s power.

There are 3 **Sacraments of Initiation**. Initiation means ‘beginning’—these Sacraments begin our life of faith in Jesus Christ. They bring us into God’s family and point us to heaven. They are: **Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist**.

Baptism is the first Sacrament of Initiation. In Baptism we are reborn as God’s sons and daughters. We are brought into God’s family, the Church. We are given Grace and made clean and pure as a Temple of the Holy Spirit. The main signs of the Sacrament are water, Sacred Chrism, a white garment and a candle.

Confirmation is the second Sacrament of Initiation. In Confirmation, we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we can truly live as God’s



sons and daughters. We receive power and energy to bring Jesus to the world. The signs of the Sacrament are anointing with Sacred Chrism and the laying on hands by the bishop.

Holy Eucharist is our re-presentation of Jesus’ Last Supper, recalling His death on the Cross. Jesus offers us His Real Presence—body and blood, soul and divinity—in the signs of bread and wine. We receive the Holy Eucharist at our celebration of the Mass.

8 Your Turn

A Sacrament is a _____ (S I B I L V E) sign of God's
_____ (S I B I L V E N I) grace.

The three Sacraments of Initiation are...

_____ T S A I M B P
_____ M N O N C R F I I T O A
_____ Y H H O R I L C T A S U E

Signs of the Sacraments

Draw a line from the signs to the correct Sacrament (hint: one sign is used in two of the Sacraments):

White
garment

Laying on of
Hands

Sacred
Chrism

Bread

Candle

Wine

Water

Baptism

Confirmation

Holy Eucharist

Cool Quote from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

“Sacraments are **powers** that come forth from the Body of Christ.

They are the **actions** of the Holy Spirit...

They are the **masterworks** of God.”



Look up these verses in your Bible and fill in the words that are missing (the verses use the New American Bible, Revised Edition translation).

John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the _____ of God without being _____ of water and _____.”

John 20:22-23 And when he had said this, he _____ on them and said to them, “Receive the _____. Whose sins you _____ are forgiven them, and whose sins you _____ are retained.”

Luke 22:19 Then he took the _____, said the blessing, broke it and _____ it to them, saying, “This is my _____, which will be given for _____; do this in _____ of me.”

<p style="text-align: center;">Laying on of Hands during Confirmation</p> <p><i>This prayer will be said over you by the bishop at your Confirmation:</i></p> <p>All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide.</p> <p>Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence.</p> <p>Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.</p> <p>We ask this through Christ our Lord.</p> <p>Amen.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pray and answer these questions:</p> <p><i>The first part of this prayer says that you were freed from sin and given new life in Jesus. What does “new life” point to?</i></p> <p><i>The bishop asks the Holy Spirit to be your helper and guide. How might the Holy Spirit help and guide you?</i></p> <p><i>Choose one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and explain what it means:</i></p>
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10 Wrap Up

Margaret and Dominic Wonder about Confirmation

Dominic and Margaret were eating lunch together on the school playground. Margaret turned to Dominic and asked, “Okay, you know how we were talking about my baby sister’s Baptism?”

“Yeah,” said Dominic, “it was fun to think about all that happened to her.”

“It was,” agreed Margaret, “but now I am wondering. If Baptism really makes us into God’s child and pours His grace into our soul, if we become brothers and sisters of Jesus and a temple of the Holy Spirit, then why do we need to be Confirmed? Isn’t being Baptized enough for us to get to heaven?”

Dominic smiled at her, then said, “You know, I had the same question last night. I talked to my brother and dad about it. My brother, Andrew, was confirmed a few years ago. I asked him why Confirmation was so important if Baptism had already changed us.”

“Did he have an answer?” asked Margaret.

“Yeah, he did,” said Dominic, “he told me to think about what it means to play on a sports team. Andrew’s on the basketball team at his high school. When he got put on the team, he belonged to it. He really was a teammate. But when they started practicing, no one really knew who could do what and how they could work together to win games. That takes time. After a lot of practices, the coach told them what position they would play and whether they

would be a starter or come off the bench to support. The teammates now belong to the team in a more focused way—they know what to do to help the team win games.”



“I get the point,” Margaret said excitedly, “just like in Baptism we all are made part of God’s team—we really do belong to Him and to the Church. But we don’t yet know how we

can serve God until we’ve grown up in our faith, until we’ve practiced a bit with the team! Confirmation is God’s time to tell us how we can play as a teammate—how we can serve with our gifts.”

“That’s right,” agreed Dominic, “but unlike basketball, God isn’t just watching to see *if* we have talents and skills. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, God actually *gives* us the gifts we need to play on His team! Even so, He does want us to work hard and develop our skills, just like any good coach.”

“Thinking about it that way,” said Margaret, “I can’t wait to be confirmed!”

To Sum Up:

Baptism makes us a **new creation** in Christ. We are filled with grace as a **Temple of the Holy Spirit**. Through Baptism, we belong to God as His **beloved child**. Baptism begins our life in the family of God—the Church. Baptism makes us **citizens of heaven**—our destiny is sainthood.

Confirmation continues the grace of Baptism in a new direction—it **deepens and strengthens** our belonging to God’s family by giving us the graces we need to **serve and act in His family**. Through Confirmation, we are given the **gifts of the Holy Spirit** to help build up the Body of Christ.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

At your Baptism, your parents and godparents spoke on your behalf. They promised to raise you according to the Catholic Faith. Every Easter season, you have an opportunity to solemnly renew your Baptismal Promises. Before you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you will be asked to profess your faith and renew the promises of your Baptism.

Leader: Before you were baptized, your parents and godparents spoke on your behalf in the presence of God's Church. As you begin your preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected Satan and his works and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church.

Leader: Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you reject the glamor of evil and refuse to be mastered by sin?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

All: I do.

Leader: God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgiven all our sins. May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever.

All: Amen.



12 Taking it Home

Choose at least one of these projects to do together as a family (or create your own!).

Interview Your Parents About Your Baptism

Pretend you are a reporter and interview your parents about your Baptism. Look at pictures, and pull out your baptismal candle and white garment. Be sure to ask for all the details such as:

Why did you want me baptized? _____

When was I baptized? _____

Where was I baptized? _____

Who baptized me? _____

Who are my godparents? _____

How did I behave during my baptism? _____

Who was with me on my special day? _____

Any other details or memories? _____

Search for Symbols of Belonging at Mass and in Your Home

We use many signs, symbols, words, objects and actions to help us understand that we belong to God: He loves us and brings us into His family. How many different things can you identify in our celebration of Mass OR that you can find in your home? See if you can locate 7!

	Symbol/Word/Object/Action	What it tells me about belonging to God...
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Create a Family handshake or motto or symbol

Make a poster about it and display it in your home! Be sure it points out what makes your family special and also connects to your Catholic faith.