

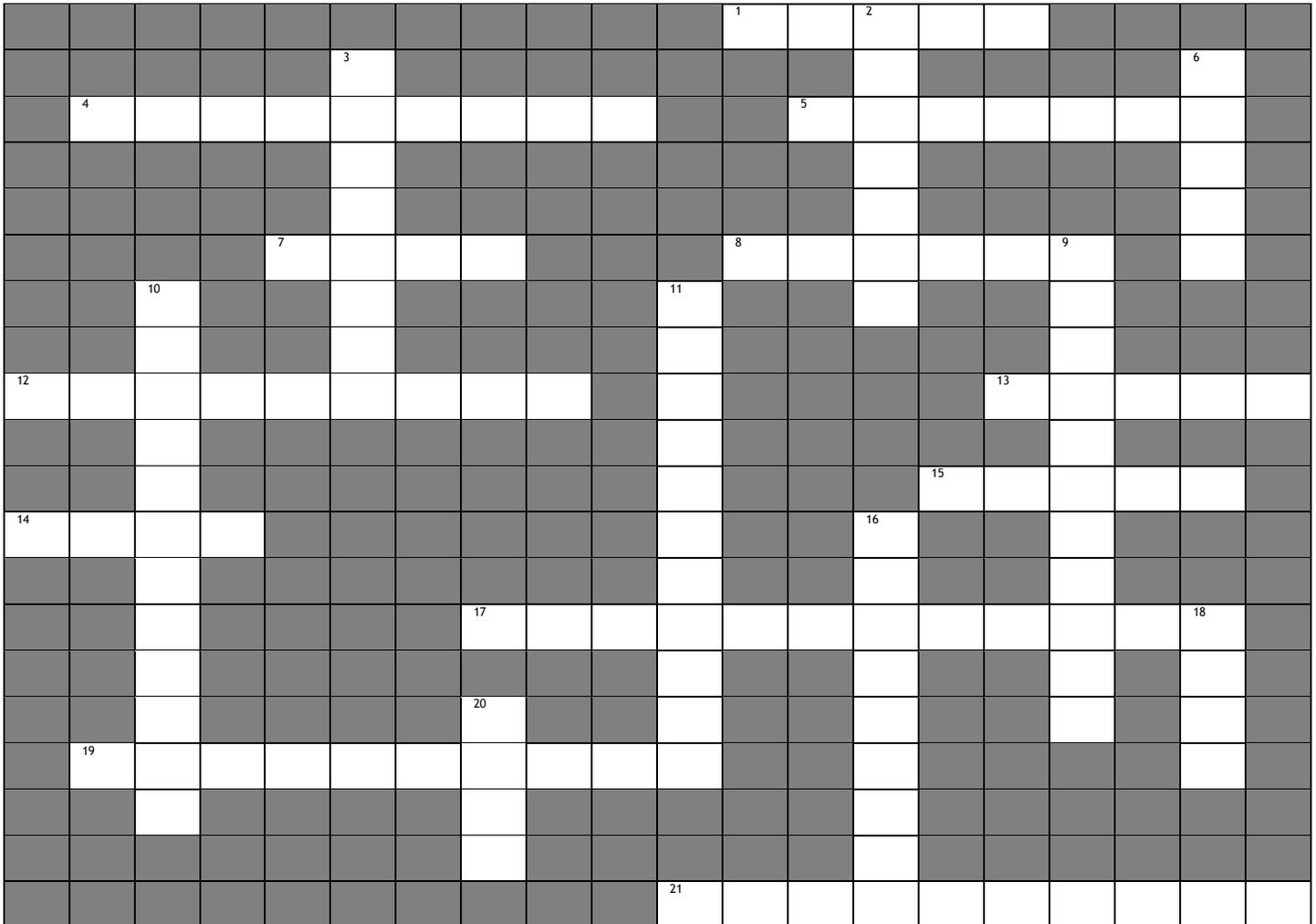
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Confirmation Preparation
Chapter Two
God's Gifts Change Us

2 Warm Up

Sacraments of Initiation Crossword



Across

1. The word of God, written by men inspired by the Holy Spirit
4. A visible sign of invisible grace
6. Our statement of belief, our profession of faith
7. A symbol of the Holy Spirit describing how He comes to each person with peace
8. The ordinary celebrant of Confirmation, a successor to the apostles
12. The feast day that celebrates the Holy Spirit coming upon Mary and the Apostles
13. We begin a Sacrament by making the sign of the _____
14. A symbol of the Holy Spirit describing His energy and power.
15. When the Bishop asks the Holy Spirit to come upon us, he holds his _____ over us
17. Holy oil used to anoint us at Baptism and Confirmation
19. Third person of the Holy Trinity, the giver of life, our advocate and guide
21. A word that means beginning, the 3 Sacraments of _____ begin our life of faith.

Down

2. Sacrament that gives us a new birth as a child of God
3. The Church begun by Jesus through His apostles
5. A person who stands with us at Confirmation and supports our faith life
9. A saint we choose who inspires us and guides us with their prayers
10. Sacrament that seals us with the Holy Spirit and strengthens us for mission
11. The Son of God who redeemed us and shows us the Father's love
16. Sacrament that gives us Jesus' body and blood as our spiritual food
18. Our Blessed Mother, who conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit
20. A symbol of the Holy Spirit describing how He moves in the world in unseen ways

Word List:

Baptism Bible Bishop Catholic Confirmation Creed Cross Dove Eucharist Fire Hands Holy Spirit
Initiation JesusChrist Mary PatronSaint Pentecost Sacrament SacredChrism Sponsor Wind

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.*



Dominic cleans his room

Dominic saw Margaret in the lunch room at school and slammed his lunch box down next to her. He sat down with a huge sigh.

“Wow,” commented Margaret, “someone must have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed this morning!”

“Well, my dad made me *clean* my bed, and my whole room, last night, so I guess the wrong side of my bed is the clean side!”

“Why are you so mad about cleaning your room? I’m sure it needed it,” asked Margaret.

“It sure did!” answered Dominic, “my room was a total mess. I guess I’m really mad at myself for letting it get so messy that my dad had to tell me to clean it. And I’m mad about what I found in my room.”

“What did you find?” asked Margaret

“Well, you remember my birthday party in the summer? I got a lot of cool gifts and some gift cards to my favorite store. I put the gift cards in my room and then I forgot about them under all the mess! I wanted to use them to buy that cool Lego set I told you about. But I took so long that the set is no longer sold at the store—now I can’t get it! What a waste! I wish I had used my gift cards right away! I wish I hadn’t let my room get so messy!”

“That’s too bad,” agreed Margaret, “and it’s a good lesson for me. I wonder if I have any gifts under all the mess in my room? Maybe I’ll go clean *my* room tonight.”

4 Table Talk



Sometimes we are so happy to get gifts, but then we forget about them and don't use them. Gifts don't help us if we won't use them! Think about gifts you have received and given, and share at your tables:

Tell about a gift you <u>received</u> that meant a lot to you. What made the gift so special?	
Tell about a gift you <u>gave</u> that meant a lot to you. What made the gift so special?	
We talk about faith being a gift from God. How do you open and use this gift?	

Margaret and Dominic Think About the Gift of Faith

A few days later, Margaret caught up with Dominic as they both walked home after school. Dominic was whistling to himself and dribbling a basketball down the sidewalk.

"Hey, Dominic," said Margaret, "is that a new basketball?"

"Yeah," said Dominic, "I just got it last night with those gift cards I told you about. I needed a new one and I could never have afforded such a nice one without those gift cards, so it's kind of good that I had lost them for so long!"

Margaret smiled, "You know, I went home and cleaned up my room and I found a gift, too! I had put a book I got for Christmas next to my bed and then I had accidentally shoved it under my bed one day. I just found it again and read it, and I love it! It sure pays to put gifts to use, doesn't it."

"My dad told me that this whole thing was a good lesson for my faith, too," said Dominic.

"How?" asked Margaret.

"Well, Dad said that sometimes we don't seem to pay attention to the gifts God gives us. We don't open them and put them to use, just like me losing those gift cards. Even though I *had* those gift cards, it really did me no good when I misplaced them. In the same way, God's gifts of grace in the Sacraments

are always given to us, but sometimes we don't put any effort into actually using them."

"Yeah, I can see that," agreed Margaret.

"Dad said that when we get confirmed, we get the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts can help us so much if we'll only get in the habit of using them," said Dominic.

"That reminds me of something Fr. Mark told us," said Margaret, "he said that the gifts of Baptism and Confirmation are connected. In Baptism, God's grace is poured *into* our hearts. In Confirmation, God's grace is unleashed *from* our hearts. Didn't he say it was like building a dam?"

"Yeah," Dominic interrupted excitedly, "Baptism is like when they build a dam and the river backs up and makes a deep pool—the dam helps hold in the water. And Confirmation is like the Holy Spirit opening the gates of the dam so that water can spin the turbines and make energy!"

"That's right!" added Margaret, "Baptism pours grace into our hearts—it changes who we are, just like a river is changed into a lake by the dam. All that stored water can be used to create energy once the gates are open. When we get confirmed, Dominic, the love of God can pour out of us with so much power!"

Who is the Holy Spirit? What do we profess in our Creed?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,	<i>We believe that God is a Holy Trinity—3 Persons, 1 nature. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each Person of the Holy Trinity is truly God. There is only ONE God who is a communion of love—3 Persons, 1 God. The “spirit” of a person is what makes that person alive and the qualities that make that person a certain kind of person.</i>
the Lord, the giver of life,	<i>The Holy Trinity is a communion of love—the Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father, the love between them is the Holy Spirit—the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. It is through the Holy Spirit that the Father and Son share the life of God with us.</i>
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,	<i>The Father sent the Son into the world to redeem us from sin and death. The Son, risen and glorified, is in heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit is the “spirit” or “life breath” in the Body of Christ.</i>
who with the Father and Son is adored and glorified,	<i>As the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit is God. We worship God by adoring Him and serving Him. We pray to the Holy Spirit for inspiration, guidance, and strengthening. The Holy Spirit is our helper and guide.</i>
who has spoken through the prophets.	<i>The Holy Spirit inspires people to speak and act in the name of God. The Holy Spirit is the energy and power that fills the Church, and each believer. We can speak about God because we have God within us. The Holy Spirit inspires us to speak about the Son to help lead people to the Father.</i>

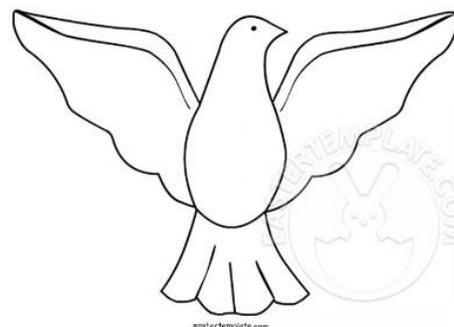
Read these verses from the Bible to find out more about the Holy Spirit:

“No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.” (John 3:5)

“The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8)

“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.” (John 14:26)

“Jesus breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’.” (John 20:22)



6 The Holy Spirit: Advocate and Guide

Dominic and Margaret Learn More About the Holy Spirit

That weekend, Dominic rode his bike over to Margaret's house. He jumped off his bike, took his basketball out of his backpack and ran up to the front door. He rang the door bell and started dribbling his basketball.

Margaret's father answered the door.

"Hey Dominic," he said, "come on in. Margaret is just finishing her breakfast."

"Good morning, Mr. Gibson," Dominic walked in and made his way to the dining room. Margaret was finishing a plate of pancakes. Margaret's mom offered some to Dominic, who smiled and said, "Sure, I'd love a second breakfast!"

Margaret laughed and said, "Yeah, I've never seen you turn down food!"

After Dominic started eating, Margaret's father sat down with his coffee. "Margaret told me about the lesson you had from cleaning your room. Thanks for telling Margaret, I didn't even have to tell her to clean *her* room!" He chuckled then went on, "But what I really appreciate is that you two went deeper about what happened to you and connected it to your faith. What a great thing! And you know what, it's a lesson we all need to learn. I was thinking about how easy it is to get lazy and forgetful about the gifts God gives each of us—not even bothering to make use of them. It's been many years since my own confirmation, and sometimes I need a reminder to call upon the Holy Spirit and the gifts He gives me."

Dominic thought for a moment and then admitted, "You know, Mr. Gibson, I don't even think I could explain who the Holy Spirit is. How do you describe the Holy Spirit?"

Margaret's father smiled and then said, "When I think about the Holy Spirit, I first think about the images used in the Bible to describe Him: wind, fire and a dove. Wind teaches us that the Holy Spirit is unseen energy and movement. Fire teaches us that the Holy Spirit's energy changes us and spreads. The dove teaches us that the Holy Spirit's energy is active in our lives in a personal way—like the dove hovering right above Jesus' head at His baptism."

"When we make the sign of the cross, we say in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," said Margaret, "and I just thought to myself, why do we say in the *name* of and not in the *names* of?"

"Great question, Margaret," agreed Dominic, "it seems like we are saying three names—Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

"You are right about naming three persons," agreed Mr. Gibson, "but we are still praying to ONE God. We say in the *name* of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, because these three Persons of God make up one Holy Trinity."

"Okay, let me think," said Margaret. "The Holy Spirit is God. The Father is God. The Son, Jesus Christ, is God. Together these three persons are the Holy Trinity—one God and three persons. Is that right?"

"Good job!" her dad said, "It's a great mystery, but God has given us a visible sign about this three-in-one business.

Think of a family. A man and woman join together in marriage and become one flesh, one life. When they have children, the love they have for each other has become a whole other person. They are one family, sharing one life, but they are distinct persons. God is a communion of love in His very nature, and He designed families to show that to the world."



"So the Father and Son love each other so much that their love *is* the Holy Spirit," said Dominic, "and the Holy Spirit comes to us at Baptism and Confirmation to bring us into God's family."

"That's a good way to put it," agreed Margaret's dad, "and that means that we have a huge responsibility as a Christian family to show God's love to the world. Thank God He helps us with His grace!"

"Like the gifts of the Holy Spirit, right?" asked Margaret.

Dominic added, "My brother memorized all seven gifts to prepare for his Confirmation. I remember some of them. Let's see.... Wisdom, Knowledge..."

Margaret added, "Courage? Reverence?..."

“Good start,” said Mr. Gibson, “I can see you are good listeners and are taking your own preparation for Confirmation really seriously. I can tell you how I remember the gifts of the Spirit. I put them into two groups. The first group I call ‘head gifts’—because they are gifts that help me use my thinking in godly ways. Wisdom, Knowledge, Right Judgment and Understanding all help us think about God and what God want us to do. The other group I call ‘heart gifts’—because they help me use my emotions and attitudes in godly ways. Reverence, Courage, and Wonder and Awe. That’s all seven gifts—putting them into two groups makes it easier for me to remember them.”

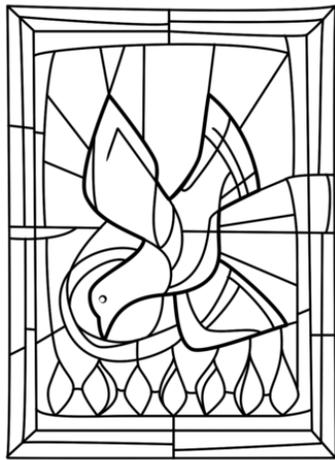
“Head and heart gifts. That’s a good way to remember them. I think that will help me,” said Margaret, “but, Dad, I was wondering: how do we know about these gifts? Are they in the Bible?”

“Yes, they are,” said her dad, “we find this list of gifts in the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament. In Isaiah 11:2, the prophet tells about the Messiah who will come with the Spirit of the Lord in Him—and that He will have these gifts. We know Jesus is the Messiah, the one promised by God to redeem us and to show us the way to heaven. Jesus came with the gifts of the Spirit, and everything Jesus has He gives to those who are part of His mystical Body—the Church.”

“So we have the gifts of the Spirit because we believe in Jesus and are members of the Body of Christ,” summed up Dominic.

“And I suppose we have these gifts for the same reason Jesus had them—so we can pour them out in the world,” added Margaret.

“You two are really growing in your faith!” commented Margaret’s dad, “The gifts of the Holy Spirit are poured into our hearts, and then we pour them out to the world, like the water in a big dam doesn’t just get shut up behind the dam, it pours out and serves the needs of so many people. That’s what our lives should be like.”



Some things to know and think about:

The Holy Spirit is the **third Person of the Most Holy Trinity**, so the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is the **spirit of love breathed out from the Father and the Son**.

The Holy Spirit is the spirit (the life breath) of the **Church**. The Holy Spirit is the spirit (the life breath) of each **Christian**.

The Holy Spirit is our **Advocate**—the One who speaks up for us and knows what we need.

The Holy Spirit is our **Guide**—the One who speaks to our hearts and minds about what God wants us to do.

The Holy Spirit is the **Gift Giver**—the One who pours out into our hearts the gifts from the Father to make us like His Son.

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

Head Gifts—give us Godly thinking

Knowledge: Learning and remembering facts about God and about His creation

Wisdom: Putting our knowledge to good use

Right Judgment: Making decisions in line with what God wants us to do

Understanding: Figuring out what people are really saying or really needing

Heart Gifts—give us Godly emotions & attitudes

Reverence: Giving God the honor, respect and worship that is His due

Courage: Doing what is right even when we are afraid

Wonder & Awe: Seeing and appreciating God’s work in creation and in our lives.

8 Your Turn

The Holy Spirit is the _____ (D H I T R) Person of the Most Holy Trinity.

The Most Holy Trinity is the title for God who is

_____ (N E O) God in _____ (E R E H T) Persons.

Draw a line from each gift to its definition:

Knowledge	Making decisions in line with what God wants us to do
Wisdom	Doing what is right even when we are afraid
Right Judgment	Giving God the honor, respect and worship that is His due
Understanding	Learning and remembering facts about God and about His creation
Reverence	Seeing and appreciating God's work in creation and in our lives
Courage	Putting our knowledge to good use
Wonder & Awe	Figuring out what people are really saying or really needing

Cool Quote from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

"The Holy Spirit comes to meet us
and kindles faith in us ...

To be in touch with Christ,

we must first have been touched by the Holy Spirit."



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).

Romans 5:5 (look at last ½ of this verse) “...the love of _____ has been _____ out into our hearts through the _____ that has been _____ to us.”

1 Corinthians 12:3 (look at last ½ of this verse) “And no one can say _____ is _____ except by the Holy Spirit.”

Galatians 4:6 “As proof that you are _____, God sent the _____ of his Son into our _____, crying out, ‘Abba, _____!’”

Anointing during Confirmation

At your Confirmation, the Bishop will anoint you on the forehead with Sacred Chrism, a holy oil that was also used at your Baptism:

He will say: “(Your name), be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit”

You respond: “Amen.”

Then the bishop will shake your hand while saying, “Peace be with you.”

You respond: “And with your spirit.”



Pray and answer these questions:

We are anointed with oil as a sign that God has set us apart (consecrated us) to bring Jesus to others. How can you share Jesus with others?

Being marked on the forehead is a sign of ownership—God is giving us a sign that we belong to Him. If we belong totally to God, then we need to act as His children. What is one action or behavior that you want to work on to show you belong to God?

10 Wrap Up

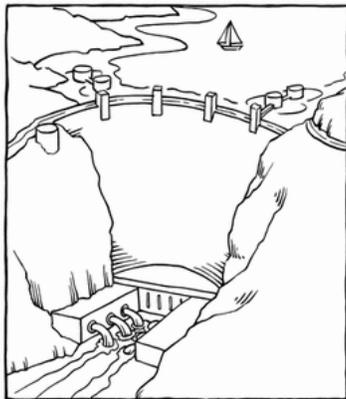
Margaret and Dominic Think About the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Later that day, Margaret and Dominic were enjoying a bowl of popcorn in Dominic's backyard. They were tossing popcorn to Dominic's dog, Candy, who would catch each kernel in midair.

"Hey Dominic," Margaret said, "you know how my dad told us about the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?"

"Yeah," said Dominic, "and we get those gifts when we are confirmed."

"That's what I've been thinking about," said Margaret as she tossed another piece of popcorn to Candy, "I think I made a connection with what we were talking about the day you got your new basketball. We were talking about Baptism and Confirmation being like a dam that holds back water. Baptism is like building the dam and changing the river into a lake—God fills us with grace. Then we get confirmed, and it is like starting up the turbines in the dam. We use those gifts to bless others, just like water pouring out of the dam over the turbines. The



water creates energy that helps people all over—it is poured out for others. But no matter how much is poured out, more water pours into the lake behind the dam and it never runs dry."

"I see what you mean," said Dominic excitedly, "the grace of Baptism and the grace of Confirmation never run out—they pour into us just like the water from upstream pouring into the lake behind a dam. Then they pour out of us, just like the water moving over the turbines. And God always keeps giving—we never run out, we never have to stop giving."

"We can be like God!" said Margaret, "God never stops giving to us, and He wants us to be like Him!"

"He doesn't just *want* us to be like Him," added Dominic thoughtfully, "He gives us everything we need to *be* like Him. It's like what Fr. Mark told us: Sacraments are about what God is giving us, not what we do for God."

"Sometimes I wonder if I am filled with the Holy Spirit. I don't always feel so holy and good," admitted Margaret.

"Me, too," said Dominic, "I asked Fr. Mark about it at my last confession. I asked him how I could know if the Holy Spirit was inside me."

"What did he tell you?" asked Margaret.

"Well, he asked me if I believed Jesus was the Son of God, if Jesus is Lord. I told him, yes, I really do believe that. Then he told me the only way I could say that is if the Holy Spirit was in me. He told me not to worry too much about if I *felt* holy, but to focus more on *behaving* in holy ways. That made a lot of sense to me."

"That helps me a lot! I also believe Jesus is Lord. The Holy Spirit must be in me, too. Thanks Dominic," said Margaret.

To Sum Up:

We believe there is **One God** who is a communion of three Persons: **Father, Son and Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the **Most Holy Trinity**. The Holy Spirit is the love breathed out between Father and Son. The Holy Spirit is the **spirit (life breath) of the Body of Christ**, the Church. The Holy Spirit **dwells in every Christian**: He inspires and guides us.

The Sacrament of Confirmation gives us the **gifts of the Holy Spirit**. We are **sealed** with the Holy Spirit in a way that deepens and strengthens the gifts we receive at Baptism.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

At your Confirmation, the Bishop will ask the Holy Spirit to come upon you in the same way that He came to the Apostles at Pentecost.

Leader: Let us begin in the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Reader: *A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.



The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: My dear candidates for confirmation, by your baptism you have been born again in Christ and you have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon his Apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptized.

The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you will receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be witnesses to his suffering, death, and resurrection. It will strengthen you to be active members of the Church and to build up the Body of Christ in faith and love.

My dear friends, let us pray to God our Father, that he will pour out the Holy Spirit on these candidates for confirmation to strengthen them with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ, the Son of God.

(brief period of silent prayer)

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

All: And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

All: And you shall renew the face of the earth. *Amen.*

12 Taking it Home

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

Interview a Parent or Godparent About their Confirmation

Pretend you are a reporter and interview an adult who is close to you who has been confirmed. Be sure to ask for all the details such as:

Why did you get confirmed? _____

When was your confirmation? _____

Where were you confirmed? _____

Who confirmed you? _____

Who was your sponsor? _____

Who was your patron saint? _____

Any other details or memories? _____

Learn more about the Holy Spirit in the early Church

Find the following stories in the Acts of the Apostles and take turns reading them out loud to each other. After each story, answer the questions about it:

Peter's speech to the people in Jerusalem: Acts 2:36-39

What did the people need to know?

What did the people need to do?

The disciples pray after Peter and John are arrested: Acts 4:29-31

What did the disciples ask for?

What did the Holy Spirit give them power to do?

Ananias heals Saul and baptizes him: Acts 9:17-18

What did Ananias call Saul—and why is this so surprising?

What happened when Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit calls Paul and Barnabas: Acts 13:2-3

What were the people doing when the Holy Spirit spoke to them?

What did the leaders do to Paul and Barnabas?

Paul speaks of the Holy Spirit in Ephesus: Acts 19:1-6

How is the baptism of John different than the baptism in the name of Jesus?

What did Paul do right before they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

Visit a dam and review its connection with Baptism and Confirmation:

Visit a nearby dam and identify the dam and the turbines. Point out how the turbines generate power from the water. Look at how the dam fills up and releases water but doesn't run dry. Connect with the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.