

Parent's Session One: Confirmation and Holy Eucharist

Sacraments of Initiation

Prayer: "Who do You Say That I AM?" —

Introductions: An image that describes a key feature of your faith...

An image that describes a key feature of handing on your faith to your child(ren)...



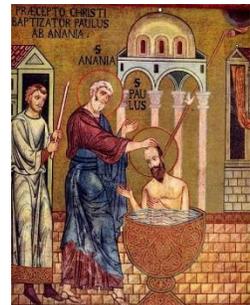
Is there another image that you would propose?



*"Jesus wishes to write in each of your lives a story of friendship.
Hold on to him, then, as the best of friends." (Pope Benedict XVI, 3/23/12)*

What is a Sacrament?

- "Visible sign of invisible grace"
- Instituted by Christ
- Confer grace (efficacious sign)
- Celebrations and mysteries
- Actions of the Holy Spirit
- Real Presence of Jesus
- Reveal the Father's love



What images or analogies might help you explain the term "Sacrament" to your child?

Why do you think Jesus gave us the Sacraments? What is their purpose?

Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church

Sacraments of Initiation

*Baptism
Confirmation
Eucharist*

Sacraments of Healing

*Penance (Reconciliation)
Anointing of the Sick*

Sacraments of Vocation

*Matrimony
Holy Orders*

Sacraments of Initiation:

- Lay the foundation
- Born anew in Baptism
- Strengthened by Confirmation
- Nourished by the Eucharist

How are people initiated?

- Journey of several stages
- Essential elements: proclamation, acceptance and conversion, profession of faith, Baptism, outpouring of the Holy Spirit, Eucharist

What is the order & meaning of the Sacraments of Initiation?

Baptism: *reborn as sons and daughters of God, brought into God's family the Church, made a Temple of the Holy Spirit and infused with supernatural grace (forgiving all sins).*

Confirmation: *a sealing and completion of Baptismal grace, offering us the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the authority to bring Jesus to the world*

Eucharist: *our sharing in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross as we eat the "Lamb of God" offered for us, renewing and strengthening our covenant with God through the blood of the lamb.*

Diocese of Spokane is a "restored order" diocese:

Sacrament of Baptism

- Basis of the whole Christian life
- Gateway to life in the Spirit
- Door which gives access to the other Sacraments
- Immersion or plunging (what Baptism literally means in Greek) into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-4)

Busted Halo: Sacraments 101 on Baptism (www.BustedHalo.com)

What are key lessons or messages about Baptism from the video?

If a friend asked if Catholics are "born again"—how would you respond?

***"Therefore if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."***

(2 Cor 5:17)

Meaning and Grace of the Sacrament

- Claimed by Christ—signed with the Cross
- Liberated from sin—exorcism with holy oil and washing in water
- Plunged/immersed in water (or poured over head)—die to sin, new life in Christ
- Consecrated for Christ—anoined with Chrism to be priest, prophet and king
- Destined for heaven—white garment a sign of our citizenship in heaven
- Neophyte—the candle we receive reminds us that we are a new life, a new light in Christ and for Christ

Why Infant Baptism?

3 primary reasons:

1. The truth about Grace—*Grace is unearned gift*
2. The truth about the Church—*The Church is God's family*
3. The truth about human nature—*Our human nature is fallen, we need supernatural help to be who we are meant to be*



Biblical/Historical evidence for the practice of infant baptism?

- Yes, Acts of the Apostles reports of both St. Peter and St. Paul baptizing entire households after the conversion of the parent (Acts 16:15, 33; 18:8; 1 Cor 1: 16)
- Yes, early writings of Apostolic Fathers describe the practice of infant baptism

The Christian Family: The Domestic Church

- “The family is a **community of faith, hope and charity**; it assumes **singular importance** in the Church and is the **original cell** of social life.”
- The Christian family is a **communion of persons**, a **sign and image** of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit.

CCC #2204-2206

The Role of the Parents

- “Parents must regard their children **as children of God** and respect them as human persons.”
- “Parents have the **first responsibility for the education of their children**—first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule.”
- “**Family catechesis** precedes, accompanies, and enriches others forms of instruction in the faith.”

CCC #2222-2226

“The life of the parents is the book which the children read.”

(St. Augustine +430)

Keys to Supporting Your Child’s Faith Growth:

- **Put God at the Center**—loving God does not compete or take away our love of others; it makes true love possible
- **Fill your own well first**—grow in your faith, practice your faith, find support for your faith
- **LIVE the faith**—if it was illegal to be a Catholic, would authorities find any incriminating evidence in your home? In your words, choices, behavior, attitude?
- **Reinforce and Integrate**—show interest, discuss and complete lessons, celebrate growth

When you look back at your own childhood, how did faith get passed on to you? What do you wish to continue as you parent your own child? What do you want to do differently?

Ways we can show our children that faith is a treasure, that God comes first in our hearts so that everything else will be impacted/blessed by our relationship with Jesus Christ:

Mary’s Mediation and Instruction for Parents:

- Mary—**perfect model of the disciple** of Jesus Christ, “Let it be done to me...”
- Mary—**intercedes** as Queen Mother and **instructs** us to “do whatever He tells you” (John 2:5)
- Mary—**merciful and courageous Mother** at the foot of the cross



Prayer to Our Mother of Divine Providence

O Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, you sit as Queen at the right hand of your Son. You aid the Church in her needs and, with maternal care, provide for the personal needs of us, her children, who were entrusted to you at the foot of the Cross, by Jesus, our Lord. I implore you to remove from us whatever is harmful, evil, or destructive, and bestow on us only that which is helpful, holy, and loving. I ask you this through Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Parent Guidance for Children’s Confirmation Preparation

Chapter 1: We Belong to God’s Family

Your child’s chapters for Confirmation Preparation will follow a consistent structure:

- **Pg 2 & 3: An opening activity and prayer**—*assist your child in completing the activity, then pray the prayer together*
- **Pg 3: An opening part of a story** involving two young friends, Margaret and Dominic, who are preparing for Confirmation. The opening part of the story gets the children thinking about a particular topic. This chapter brings up the idea of belonging to a group—and the signs that tell us we belong.
- **Pg 4: “Table Talk”**—giving your child a chance to share their ideas about a topic. This week, the kids will devise some signs to show belonging to a group at their school (special handshake, motto, food, etc.) *Parents: you can share about belonging to a group, and the signs that show you belong to it*
- **Pg 4: Dominic and Margaret’s story continues** with a connection to faith—in this section, the kids connect belonging to a group at school with the Sacraments (particularly Baptism) as a sign of belonging to God and the Church
- **Pg 5: “Going Deeper”**—teaches vocabulary and ideas about our Catholic faith. In Chapter 1, they are shown some of the signs and symbols used the Church to show we belong to God—*parents: help your child think of other things that tell us we belong to God*
- **Pg 6-7: The story with Margaret and Dominic picks up** with the main content for the meeting: the signs of Baptism and their meaning. In this chapter, Margaret tells about her little sister’s Baptism. Pg 7 concludes with a sidebar reviewing some of the main terms and ideas. *Parents: review the sidebar definitions with your child; tell your child about their baptism or another person’s baptism that your child might have been at; after making the craft (more about that later), your child can re-enact the signs of the Sacrament using the person and items they constructed*
- **Pg 8-9: “Your Turn”**—this is the section for your child to work with and respond to the material being presented. These pages reinforce terms and ideas that are critical to understand. *You are asked to help your child look up some Bible verses that reinforce the content we’ve covered. If you do not have a New American Bible Revised Edition Translation, please ask to borrow one*

from the parish. Be sure to review the bottom of page 9 with your child: each chapter will cover an actual part of the Rite of Confirmation and invite your child to reflect on what is happening at that point of the Sacrament.

- **Pg 10: “Wrap Up”**—in this section, Margaret and Dominic wrestle with an issue or confusion about our Catholic faith. In chapter one, they wonder why they need Confirmation if they have been Baptized. This section provides a helpful analogy that children can relate to in order to provide an answer to their question. *Parents: review the “to sum up” section at the bottom of page 10.*
- **Pg 11: Closing Prayer**—*Use this prayer as a family devotion at home*
- **Pg 12: Taking it Home**—this page gives families some activities to continue and deepen the learning from this lesson. *Your child will be asked to interview you about their Baptism. If possible, locate pictures, candle, white garment, certificate and other mementos of the big day to show your child. Arrange these items on your family table and use them when you pray the Renewal of Baptismal Promises together (from page 11); The bottom of page 12 invites you to think more about signs of belonging to God that you might find in your home or at Mass. Challenge your child to locate 7.*

Craft: Steps in a Baptism

Print out the 2 sheets on cardstock if it is available to you—a person to color and cut out, and then items used in a Baptism as well on a second page. Help/guide her in coloring all the items and then assist with cutting them out (you can go more or less precise about cutting out the person’s fingers, totally up to you! Tape the bases together into circles so the person, the water pitcher and the oils stand up. Cut out the towel, shell, white garment and candle. Cut out the table, fold on the lines and tape together so it stands up. Put the towel, shell, water pitcher and oils on the table. Put some tape on the candle so your child can tape it to the person’s hand. Fold the tabs on the white garment so the person can wear it. Then help your child re-enact a Baptism—using the items in their proper order (refer to the story on pages 6-7 for help). Have your child practice, then put on a play for your family, or record her and send it to her godparents or grandparents. Talk to you child about the meaning of the Sacramental signs—review page 3 of the parent handout.

For more instruction on Baptism:

There’s a great “Brother Francis” episode on baptism that is available to you on Formed.