

For Parents

Listen The Holy Spirit inspired the writer of Psalm 139 to ask, “Where can I go from your spirit? From your presence where can I flee?” (Psalms 139:7). The short answer is nowhere.

Know God made each of us and is always present, reaching out in love and mercy to invite each person to grow closer to him and to claim the holiness for which we are made.

One choice you have each day is how you will respond to Jesus’ call into friendship. This call comes through Sacred Scripture, Church teaching, prayer and reflection, significant people, opportunities, talents, and experiences.

The Holy Spirit makes us better able to understand and obey God’s guidance in our lives. In God, we are never alone in life’s joys and difficulties.

A reliable source for knowing more about the Holy Spirit is the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, Chapter 9: Receive the Holy Spirit. Ask a trusted catechist or priest about additional recommendations for learning about the Holy Spirit.

Wonder

- How would you describe your faith?
- When have you been aware of God’s presence with you?
- What are your hopes for the candidate who is preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

Choose When you chose to baptize your child, you asked that he or she might receive faith. By accompanying this candidate in preparing to receive Confirmation you are giving witness to a willingness to grow in love and skill in sharing the gift of faith. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be an authentic example of what you hope for the candidate.

For Families

Pause We show love and care for someone by spending time together. Prepare to gather in one place. Have a candle and a copy of the Candidate Book.

Pray Parent lights the candle.

Parent: Let us pray as we make the Sign of the Cross.

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

Parent: Jesus promised to be with us always. In the Gospel of John, we hear him say, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit" (John 20:21-22). Jesus says this to us, too. We are grateful for these gifts, so we say:

All: Thanks be to God.

Practice We learn habits, both good and bad, as we live together as a family. Ask your candidate:

- What is one thing you have learned from me as your parent? What is one thing you have learned from a sibling? How do these help you show care and love for each other?
- Our lives change as we grow closer to God and follow Jesus through our spiritual family in the Church. The Holy Spirit helps us do this every day. What will we do this week to live as followers of Jesus?

Ask the candidate to find the "Follow Christ" chart on page 15 in the Candidate Book to share ideas if needed. Two especially important recommendations on this chart are praying and reading of Sacred Scripture. How might your family incorporate these two practices on a daily basis?