

For Parents

Listen Jesus said, “I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Trying to live like Christ is how we grow in holiness each day of our whole lives.

Know Signs of nature and human symbols used in liturgy show how God touches the depths of our lives, even giving glimpses of eternal life. They also express our actions in worshipping God. The things we can see and hear in a Sacrament – the “visible signs” – both point to and make present God’s actions. For example, through full initiation in Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist we are drawn closer to God and deeper into the life and mission of the Church.

The Order of Confirmation expresses that Confirmation perfects the grace of Baptism, sealed with the Holy Spirit that makes a permanent imprint on the soul. The increased gifts of the Spirit and continued guidance strengthens confirmed people to become more intimate with Jesus Christ and to share the Catholic faith with others through who they are, what they say, and how they live.

One source for knowing more about all three Sacraments of Initiation is the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* #251-294. Ask a trusted catechist or priest about additional recommended resources for learning more about the Sacraments of Initiation.

Wonder The Christian moral life is bound up with faith and the Sacraments. Recall a recent experience of participating in a Sacrament. What did the objects, actions, and words communicate about God’s truth, beauty, and goodness?

The grace of the Eucharist is efficacious. We truly are united to Christ, strengthened in charity, and moved to serve those in need. How have you responded to these actions of God?

Choose Since we cannot see the Holy Spirit, we use symbols to communicate his action. Common symbols include the dove and fire. Confirmation also includes sacred gestures like the Sign of the Cross and anointing with Sacred Chrism (oil). Look for these signs when you go to Mass. Choose one as a focus while you pray that you and the candidate will bear witness to Christ.

For Families

Pause Write one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on each of seven slips of paper: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, reverence (piety), and wonder and awe (fear of the Lord). Put the slips in a container.

Pray

Leader: Let us mark ourselves with the sign of our faith.

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

Leader: God, help us see and appreciate the spiritual gifts you want to give each of us. Let us always use our gifts for the good of others. Amen.

Practice The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are seven powerful graces that God gives us in Baptism and Confirmation to live as disciples of Christ. Say: "Each day this week we will draw one of the gifts from this container. We will use that gift to show that our family loves Jesus and wants to live like him."