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Matthew 3:11, 14, 17; 7:1–2; 9:35, 36; 10:2–4; 11:28; 13:32; 28:18–20; Mark 1:15; 8:2; Luke 4:16–22; 18:35–43

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Matthew 4:18–20; 9:9; Mark 6:7; Luke 6:13; 10:2;  
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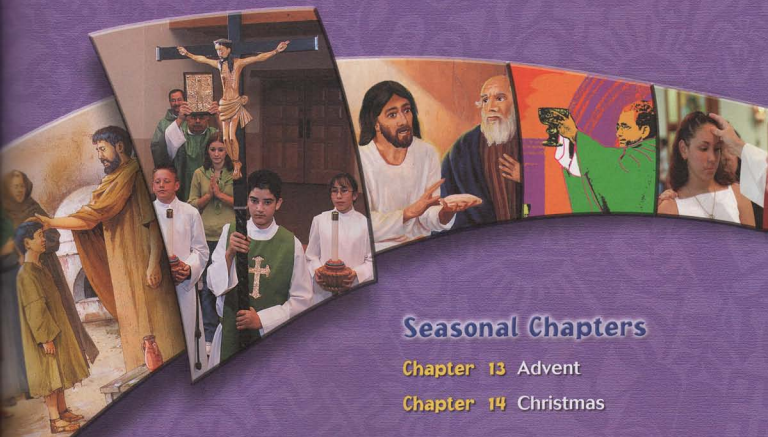
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# Confirmation and Eucharist Complete Our Initiation

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### Seasonal Chapters

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**Chapter 14** Christmas



### In Unit 2 your child will grow as a disciple of Jesus by:

- understanding the story of Pentecost and the sign of the laying on of hands as the origin of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- becoming aware of the rite, or celebration, of the Sacrament of Confirmation
- recognizing that in the Sacrament of the Eucharist Jesus is truly present under the appearances of bread and wine
- appreciating that through the celebration of the Eucharist, the Mass, we are strengthened to answer our call to discipleship
- exploring the importance of prayer.

### What's the Word?

In Chapter 10, the children hear the story of Jesus' appearance on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). Read the story on page 124. The disciples finally recognized this was the risen Jesus! We, too, recognize the risen Jesus in the breaking of the bread at Eucharist. Do you and your family recognize him as you walk through the events of your day?



At your next family meal, pray together:

*Jesus, never be a stranger,  
always be a friend,  
present with our family,  
now and forever.  
Amen.*

### Reality Check

"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."

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2205)

### Question Corner

Check the definition of prayer that means the most in your life today:

- Prayer is asking God for help.
- Prayer is offering my thoughts and feelings to God.
- Prayer is having a conversation with God.
- (other) \_\_\_\_\_

### Show That You Care

As a family celebrate the Eucharist together. Write one thing your family can do to live out the meaning of the Eucharist.

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### Take Home

#### Be ready for this unit's Take Home:

- Chapter 8:** Growing closer to Christ
- Chapter 9:** Filling your home with the fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Chapter 10:** Offering God thanks and praise
- Chapter 11:** Taking part in the Mass
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# The Coming of the Holy Spirit



## We Gather in Prayer

**Leader:** Let us pray as one family filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Reader:** A reading from the Book of Ezekiel

“I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.” (Ezekiel 37:14)

The word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## We Belong to God's Family

Refrain:

We belong to God's family.  
Brothers and sisters are we,  
singing together in unity about  
one Lord and one faith, one family.

We are one in the Spirit,  
the gift from God above.  
We are sent to proclaim God's word  
and live together in love. (Refrain)

# SPRIT



## On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the first disciples.

### WE GATHER

✝ *Holy Spirit, come to live among us.*

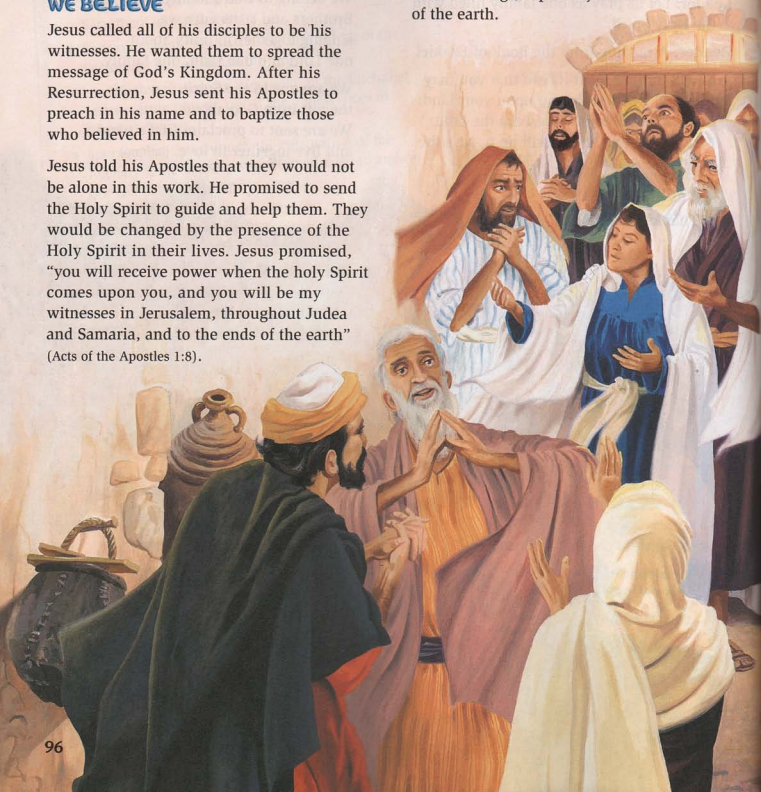
Has anyone ever helped you to change something about yourself, for example, the things you eat or the way you play sports? If so, who was it and how did you change?

### WE BELIEVE

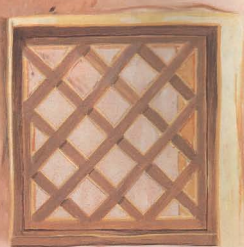
Jesus called all of his disciples to be his witnesses. He wanted them to spread the message of God's Kingdom. After his Resurrection, Jesus sent his Apostles to preach in his name and to baptize those who believed in him.

Jesus told his Apostles that they would not be alone in this work. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide and help them. They would be changed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Jesus promised, "you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts of the Apostles 1:8).

After Christ ascended to his Father, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem. Mary, the mother of Jesus, and some other disciples were there, too. While they were gathered in Jerusalem the Jewish feast of Pentecost was celebrated. The word *Pentecost* comes from a Greek word *pente*, meaning "the fiftieth day." This fiftieth day after Passover was a harvest festival for the Jews. On this day, the Jewish People thanked God for all their blessings, especially for the fruits of the earth.







It was during this time that the Holy Spirit came as Jesus had promised. This is the way the coming of the Holy Spirit is described in the Acts of the Apostles.



Acts of the Apostles 2:1-47

“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 one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.” (Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4)

The people outside heard all of this, but they did not know what was happening. The Apostles went out into the crowd. Peter told the people that God the Father had indeed raised Jesus. He said that what they had just seen and heard had been the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Each person heard this Good News of Christ in his or her own language. The people in the crowd were amazed. They asked Peter and the others what they should do. Peter told them to be sorry for their sins and to repent. He told them to be baptized and receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. About three thousand people believed and became disciples that day.

Each year on Pentecost we celebrate in a special way the coming of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is also a feast of gratitude for the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost, the Apostles began to go into the world as Jesus had asked.

Jesus calls all people to follow him and share his Good News with others. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we are all God’s workers in the world.

## WE RESPOND

How can the Holy Spirit help you to be a witness to Christ today?




In groups role-play the story of Pentecost as if it were happening today. Where would the disciples be? Who would be among the crowd? How would you give witness to Christ and help others to believe?



## Laying on of hands and anointing are signs of the Holy Spirit's presence.

### WE GATHER

 *Holy Spirit, we welcome you.*

In a classroom you often see students raising their hands. What might this action be a sign of? What are some other actions that we use as signs?

### WE BELIEVE

After Pentecost the Apostles were strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit. They began to spread the message of God's Kingdom throughout the world. They gave witness to Jesus Christ by what they said and did. They baptized many believers.

The newly baptized received the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit when the Apostles placed their hands on them. These early Church members understood the importance of the laying on of hands. This ancient action is a powerful sign of God's blessing. By the laying on of hands, authority and grace were given in God's name. By the Apostles' laying on of hands, the Holy Spirit came upon those who believed in Jesus Christ.

From the very beginning of the Church there was a connection between Baptism and this laying on of hands by the Apostles. The laying on of hands was the beginning of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

As the Church grew and spread, eventually an anointing was joined to the laying on of hands. The word *anoint* means to apply oil to someone as a sign that God has chosen that person for a special mission. Like the laying on of hands, anointing is an ancient practice. Anointing was an important part of Jewish life during Jesus' time.

The early Church continued anointing with oil as a sign of God's presence in the life of the person anointed. The anointing that took place with the laying on of hands was a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence and of the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

In time the anointing became the essential sign of the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Sacred Chrism, oil blessed by a bishop, was used in this anointing. Today in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the anointing with oil is done as the celebrant anoints the forehead of the one being confirmed.

## As Catholics...

There are many symbols that remind us of the Holy Spirit. Two of them can be found in the Pentecost story: wind and fire. Each symbol helps us to understand the ways the Holy Spirit acts in our lives.

The word *spirit* comes from a Hebrew word that means "wind," "air," and "breath." The presence of the Holy Spirit is often symbolized as wind. Wind travels everywhere. It surrounds us. The Holy Spirit does the same.

The symbol of fire suggests warmth, energy, power, and change. Fire changes whatever it touches. So does the Holy Spirit. We are changed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Talk about other symbols or images of the Holy Spirit.

### WE RESPOND



With a partner talk about the different actions that are part of our worship. What do we do, or see others doing, to praise God? How are these actions signs that we believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Illustrate one of these actions.



**In Confirmation we become more like Christ and are strengthened to be his witnesses.**

### **WE GATHER**

**✝** *Holy Spirit, be at our side always.*

When you are in school, at camp, and are away from your family and friends, how can you still feel close to them?

### **WE BELIEVE**

God loves us and wants us to be close to him. He sent his own Son so that we could know and love him. He sent the Holy Spirit to help us to grow in our love for him. God the Holy Spirit is always close to us. We can turn to the Holy Spirit for comfort and guidance, for strength and peace. The Holy Spirit is always with the Church.

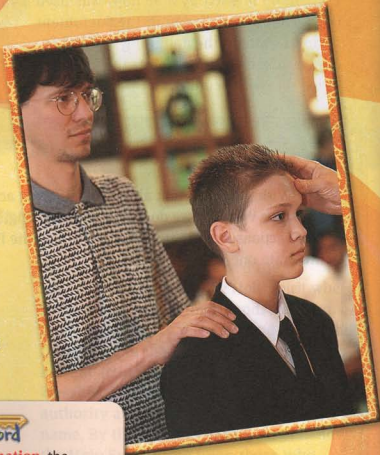
In the Sacrament of **Confirmation** we receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in a special way. We become more like Christ and are strengthened to be his witnesses.

Confirmation is a Sacrament of Christian Initiation. The first Sacrament of Christian Initiation is Baptism. Confirmation completes Baptism and along with the Eucharist fully initiates us into the Church.

### **The importance of the sacrament**

The Sacrament of Confirmation deepens the grace we first received at Baptism. In Confirmation:

- We are sealed with the Gift of God the Holy Spirit.
- We become more like Jesus the Son of God and are strengthened to be active witnesses of Jesus.
- Our friendship with God the Father is deepened.
- Our relationship with the Church is strengthened.
- We are sent forth to live our faith in the world.



**Confirmation** the sacrament in which we receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in a special way

All baptized members of the Church are called to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Those who have been baptized as infants usually celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation between the ages of seven and sixteen.

Confirmation most often takes place in the parish community. The bishop usually visits parishes or groups of parishes at various times during the year and confirms all those who have prepared to receive the sacrament.

In some places adults and older children may participate in the catechumenate. Together the catechumens, those who are preparing to be initiated into the Church, pray, study, and grow in faith. They receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at one celebration, usually the Easter Vigil.



## WE RESPOND



### We Belong to God's Family

Refrain:

We belong to God's family.  
Brothers and sisters are we, singing  
together in unity about one Lord  
and one faith, one family.

We are one in the Spirit,  
the gift from God above.  
We are sent to proclaim God's  
word and live together in love.

(Refrain)

## Preparation is an important part of Confirmation.

### WE GATHER

✝ *Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, guide our way.*

Both at home and in our neighborhoods, we prepare for important events. Think of one. How and why do you prepare for it?

### WE BELIEVE

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is very important. Those preparing for this sacrament are called *candidates*. Candidates prepare for Confirmation by praying and reflecting on the life of Jesus Christ and on the mission of the Church. During this time candidates learn about the Gift of the Holy Spirit.



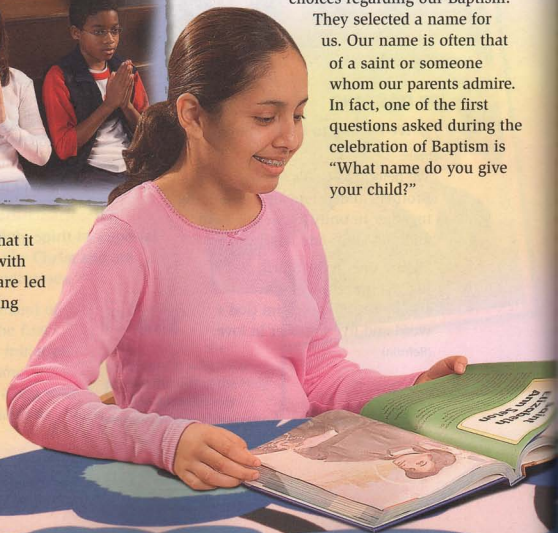
Candidates discover what it means to be anointed with Sacred Chrism. They are led to see how this anointing will change their lives.

During this preparation candidates grow closer to Christ. The relationship with Christ that began at their Baptism is strengthened. The candidates begin to see how they can better live out the promises made at Baptism. Through their preparation, candidates can feel a greater sense of belonging to the Church. They learn to share more completely in the mission of the Church. They learn to give witness to the Good News of Christ through their lives.

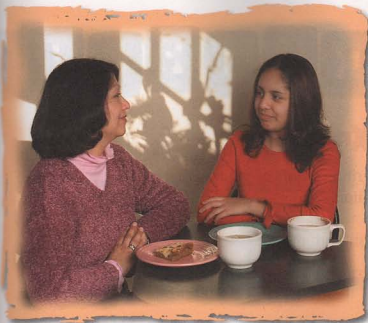
The whole parish can participate in this preparation. People in a parish:

- pray with and for the candidates
- meet with the candidates to talk about their faith
- help the candidates to find ways to serve together in the parish.

**Connections to Baptism** If we were baptized as infants, our parents made some choices regarding our Baptism. They selected a name for us. Our name is often that of a saint or someone whom our parents admire. In fact, one of the first questions asked during the celebration of Baptism is "What name do you give your child?"



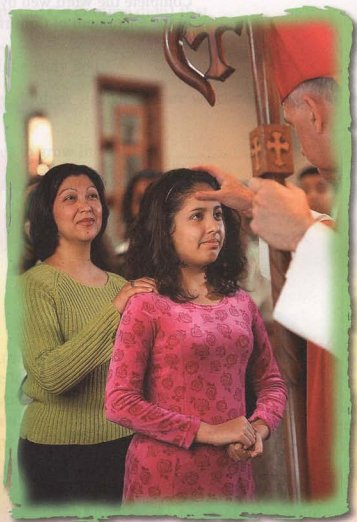




At Confirmation we choose a name, usually that of a saint whose example we can follow in becoming closer to Jesus. Although we can choose the name of any saint, we are encouraged to take the name given to us at Baptism. This highlights the link between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

If we were baptized as infants, our parents also chose godparents for us. Godmothers and godfathers are people who help us to grow in faith. When we are preparing for Confirmation, we also choose someone to help us grow in our faith. We choose a sponsor. A sponsor needs to be a Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and is a person we respect and trust. Our sponsor can be a family member other than a parent, a friend, or someone from our parish. Selecting one of our godparents to be our sponsor again shows the link between Baptism and Confirmation. But whomever we choose, our sponsor should be an example of Christian living so that he or she can continue to encourage us to follow Jesus.

Sponsors can be involved in our preparation for Confirmation. They can share their own experiences with us and answer any questions we may have about our faith. Sponsors also play an important role in the celebration of Confirmation. They present us to the bishop for anointing.



## WE RESPOND

Think of people in your neighborhood, parish, or school who are examples of Christian living. In what ways do they encourage others to follow Jesus? How can the way you live encourage others to follow Jesus?

Pray  
Learn  
Celebrate  
Share  
Choose  
Live

## Show What you Know

Complete the word web by writing words or phrases that relate to the Sacrament of Confirmation.



### Fast Facts

Red, as the color of fire, symbolizes the Holy Spirit and is the liturgical color used on Pentecost and for the Sacrament of Confirmation.



### Pray Today

Jesus had asked the first disciples to share his Good News with others. Write a short prayer to the Holy Spirit for the courage to do this.

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### Question Corner

What is the average age of the candidates in the Sacrament of Confirmation in your parish?

- 10     12     14     other \_\_\_\_\_

# DISCIPLE

Pray  
Learn  
Celebrate  
Share  
Choose  
Live



Write the letter of the sacrament (B = Baptism; C = Confirmation) that corresponds to each statement.

1. \_\_\_\_ We are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.
2. \_\_\_\_ We are freed from sin, become children of God, and are welcomed into the Church.
3. \_\_\_\_ We choose a sponsor to help us to grow in faith.
4. \_\_\_\_ We choose a name usually that of a saint whose example we can follow in becoming closer to Jesus.
5. \_\_\_\_ Laying on of hands and anointing are signs of the Holy Spirit's presence.

## Saint Stories

John Bosco was born into a poor family near Turin, Italy. He learned about Jesus and the Gospel from his mother. He loved to share these teachings with other children. Even as a young boy, he witnessed to Christ. He learned ventriloquism and put on puppet shows. He learned to juggle and walk a tightrope. Before he performed, he led his audience in prayers and hymns.

Later, he became a priest and dedicated himself to helping poor children. He founded the Salesians, a religious order to help children. He was also the first to publish religious education materials for children.

Visit the *Lives of the Saints* on [www.webelieveweb.com](http://www.webelieveweb.com) to find out more about Saint John Bosco.



## Make it Happen

You learned about the way candidates prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The whole parish can participate in this preparation. What are some things that you can do?

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## Take Home

With your family, discuss actions you will all take to encourage each other to grow closer to Christ. Write your ideas on slips of paper and place them in a bowl. At family meals or gatherings, make time to share each other's ideas.



## CHAPTER TEST

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- Confirmation deepens the gift of grace we first received at \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Mass
  - Baptism
  - Eucharist
- To \_\_\_\_\_ is to apply oil to someone as a sign that God has chosen that person for a special mission.
  - anoint
  - bless
  - pray
- A sponsor is a Catholic who helps prepare a \_\_\_\_\_ for Confirmation.
  - godparent
  - celebrant
  - candidate
- There are \_\_\_\_\_ Sacraments of Christian Initiation.
  - twelve
  - three
  - seven

Write True or False for the following sentences.

Then change the false sentences to make them true.

- \_\_\_\_\_ The Holy Spirit came upon the first disciples at Pentecost.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ In Confirmation we become more like Christ and are strengthened to be his witnesses.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Laying on of hands and anointing are signs of our sponsor's presence.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ During preparation for Confirmation, candidates learn about the Gift of the Holy Spirit.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Write a sentence to answer each question.

- 9–10. Why is the Sacrament of Confirmation important? How can the whole parish participate?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_