

<ul> <li>The Holy Spirit has always beei</li> <li>The Holy Spirit prepares the withe Messiah.</li> <li>Through the Holy Spirit the Kir God is proclaimed.</li> <li>The Spirit of Truth bears witnes</li> <li>Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 6:8, 11:2, 60:1–Matthew 17:2, 5; Mark 1:15; Luke 9:35, 17:21; John 15:26; Acts of th</li> </ul>	v for E Cloud and Light  Welcomed by the Spirit  T Spotlight on Scripture: Kingdom of Go  Catechism Connection: CCC 685 and 13  Littury Connection: Epiclesis  Saints and Holy People: Blessed Sára  Salkaházi & Saint Benedict of Nursia	
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- · At Pentecost the Spirit begins the age of the Church.
- · The Apostles impart the Holy Spirit.
- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit continues through Baptism and Confirmation.

Exodus 30:25: 1 Samuel 16:13: 1 Kings 18:38: Matthew 16:13-20: Luke 3:15-16, 4:18, 12:49: Acts of the Apostles 1:6, 8, 9, 2:2-38

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Chrism Mass

Spotlight on Scripture: The Ascension & Anointing

Catechism Connection: CCC 1289

Liturgy Connection: Feast of the Ascension

Saints and Holy People: Saint Peter & Saint Elizabeth of Portugal

#### CHAPTER 3 The Action of the Holy Spirit in the Church ...

- · The Holy Spirit is the source of the Church's life.
- ·Through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present in the Church.
- The Sacraments of Christian Initiation call us to holiness.
- The Holy Spirit inspires the mission of evangelization.

Genesis 8:11; Matthew 3:16; John 1:32, 14:26-27, 20:21; Ephesians 2:22



#### Symbol of the Holy Spirit: Dove

Forms of Prayer

Scripture and Tradition Artist as Evangelizer

Spotlight on Scripture: The Early Church

Catechism Connection: CCC 1392 Liturgy Connection: Easter Vigil

Saints and Holy People: Saint Teresa de

los Andes & Blessed Pere Tarres I Claret



CHAPTER

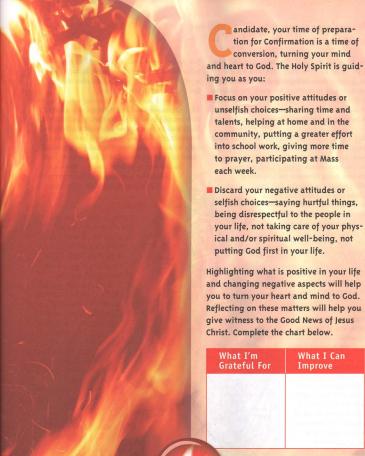


The Coming of the

# oly Spirit

You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses. \*\*

**Acts of the Apostles 1:8** 



Be confident that the Holy Spirit is guiding you as you strive to change and grow as a disciple of lesus Christ.

#### Christ's Ascension begins the time of the Spirit.

In the Bible, we read that after Jesus died and rose from the dead, he spent forty days with his disciples, helping them and giving them the courage to use their gifts to continue his work. He spoke to them about the power of the Holy Spirit. He taught them about the Kingdom of God. And he prepared them to carry on his mission.

Then, forty days after his Resurrection, Jesus again appeared to his disciples, ate with them, and talked to them. And at this last gathering with the risen Christ the Apostles asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts of the Apostles 1:6) Jesus told them that his Father had a plan for all things, and that this was not vet the time for the fulfillment of God's Kingdom. Jesus helped them to understand that "the present time is the time of the Spirit and of witness" (CCC, 672). He said to them, "But 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"

"When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight." (Acts of the Apostles 1:9) This glorious event, which took place near Jerusalem —on the mount called Olivet, is called the Ascension.

(Acts of the Apostles 1:8).

The Ascension of Jesus Christ signifies to his followers that, from that moment forward, Jesus is with the Father in Heaven, and also with us forever, through the Holy Spirit.

After Christ ascended to his Father, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem. There they joined Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and some of the other disciples. No doubt, they wished they could hold on to all their moments with Jesus forever! But they didn't need to worry because Christ had assured them

that he would be with them always—not physically, and not just in their memories of him, but through the Holy Spirit.

#### Novena

After Jesus' Ascension, Mary and the Apostles prayed together for nine days as they waited for the coming

of the Holy Spirit. These nine days of prayer are considered the first novena, a prayer practice of the Church, A novena, from the Latin word meaning "nine," consists of nine consecutive days of prayer for a particular intention or purpose. Novenas can be made as a group or individually. You can pray the same prayer each day, or different prayers throughout the novena. Novenas can help us prepare for a special event, for the celebration of a sacrament, or for a feast day.

# Calling Candidates

Working by yourself or with another Confirmation candidate, write a novena to the Holy Spirit that you can pray as you prepare for Confirmation. It can be one prayer to be prayed each day for nine days or nine different prayers.



Read the Scripture account of the Ascension and the disciples' return to Jerusalem in Acts of the Apostles 1:1–14.

Take a few moments to reflect on:

- what Jesus' disciples may have felt when they returned to Jerusalem
- how being together might have helped them.

When you experience times of loss how does being part of a community of faith help you? Share your answers with another Confirmation candidate or your sponsor.



Liturgy is the official public prayer of the Church. The Church's liturgy for the Solemnity of Jesus' Ascension is celebrated about forty days after Easter Sunday. On the Feast of the Ascension, we gather for Mass with our parish community to celebrate Jesus' return to the Father in Heaven. In many dioceses of the United States this feast is a holy day of obligation celebrated on Thursday during the Easter season. Other dioceses celebrate the Ascension on the following Sunday.



Confirmation Q & A
What did the Ascension of Jesus Christ signify?

## At Pentecost the Spirit begins the age of the Church.

When Jesus' Apostles, his Mother Mary, and some of the other disciples were gathered together in Jerusalem during the Jewish feast of Weeks, the Holy Spirit came to them as Jesus had promised. For, "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 2:2-4).

Through this outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon them, the Apostles and other disciples were "created anew." They were no longer frightened— alone without their Lord—but were empowered to build up the community of disciples and renew the earth in God's love. They began to proclaim the Good News of Christ to all the people gathered in Jerusalem. And though these people did not all speak the same language, they all understood the message, saying "we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God" (Acts of the Apostles 2:11). This day, known to us today as **Pentecost**, marks the "birth" of the Church—and its worldwide mission!

On this day of Pentecost the Apostle Peter gave a powerful speech to the crowds, explaining that Jesus Christ died, rose, returned to his Father in Heaven, and sent forth the Holy Spirit. And when the people who were listening to Peter asked what they should do next, Peter told them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit" (Acts of the Apostles 2:38). That very day about 3,000 people accepted the Good News of Jesus Christ and were baptized into the Church.

Write a statement describing the disciples' feelings and actions after Jesus' Ascension.

Write a statement describing the disciples' feelings and actions after the Pentecost event.

What changes do you hope to see in your life after you are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation?



#### The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Our lives of discipleship are nourished by the gifts of Holy Spirit, which were given to us in Baptism. These spiritual gifts help us to live as Jesus asked his followers to live. Like any gift, these gifts of the Holy Spirit have to be "opened" by us and used in our daily lives, and in our decisions and actions toward others. And, like gifts of athletic ability or musical talent, these gifts grow in us with practice and regular use. Here is a look at the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Consider how you have already used these gifts and how they can help you as you prepare for Confirmation.

- We use the gift of wisdom to help us see and follow God's will in our lives.
- We use the gift of understanding to open our hearts so that we can be more loving and compassionate towards others.
- We use the gift of counsel (right judgment) to make choices about ways to follow Christ each day.
- We use the gift of fortitude to stand up for what we believe, even when it is difficult or unpopular.
- We use the gift of knowledge to apply what we know about the teachings of Jesus to everyday life.
- We use the gift of piety to become more prayerful, and to respect all that God has made.
- We use the gift of the fear of the Lord (wonder and awe in God's presence) to deepen our reverence for God and appreciation for the wonders of God's creation.

Which gift do you use most frequently? In what way?



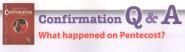
Paintings and statues of Saint Peter usually show him holding a pair of keys. In the Gospel of Matthew, right after Peter declares his faith in Jesus as the Messiah Jesus says, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will



build my church...I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 16:18, 19). Jesus recognizes in Peter his gifts of strength and his faithfulness, and makes him the visible foundation of the Church. The pope and all the bishops follow in the footsteps of this great saint, and the other Apostles, as they carry out their roles as leaders of the Church. To learn more about Saint Peter, visit Lives of the Saints featured on

www.inspiredbythespirit.com.







## The Apostles impart the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit remained with the Apostles and other disciples, strengthening and guiding them in continuing Jesus' work in the world. And many more followers came to believe in Jesus and were baptized! These newly baptized, too, received the Holy Spirit when the Apostles placed their hands on them. This ancient action was a powerful sign of God's blessing, and by it authority and grace were given in God's name.

As we can read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The apostles, in fulfillment of Christ's will, imparted to the newly baptized by the laying on of hands the gift of the Spirit that completes the grace of Baptism" (CCC, 1288). So from the very beginning of the Church, there was a connection between Baptism and the laying on of hands by the Apostles—which is recognized by the Church as the beginning of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Yet throughout the history of the Jewish People, anointing someone with oil was a sign of God's presence in the life of that person—a sign that God had chosen that person for a special mission. So, "very early, the better to signify the gift of the Holy Spirit, an anointing with perfumed oil (chrism) was added to the laying on of hands" (CCC, 1289).

This rite of anointing has continued since that time, and "confirms baptism and strengthens baptismal grace" (CCC, 1289). And in time this anointing became the essential sign of the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. As we can read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The essential rite of Confirmation is anointing the forehead of the baptized with sacred chrism...together with the laying on of the minister's hand and the words... "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" (CCC, 1320).

# Calling Candidates

It is often said that at your Baptism you were "christened." That's because when you were baptized you were first anointed with the oil called Sacred Chrism. This anointing marked you as belonging to Christ. What does it mean to be marked for Christ? How does that change the way a baptized person acts towards others?

Create a personal logo or icon that could be posted on a social networking page to identify you as a Christian "marked for Christ."



## Saints and Holy People Saint Elizabeth of Portugal

Elizabeth was born into a royal family in 1271. Later, she married Dinis, the king of Portugal. The couple worked together to provide for their country's people. Elizabeth super-

vised the establishment of hospitals, orphanages, and churches. Learn more about her by visiting www.inspiredbythespirit.com.

As part of preparation for Confirmation, candidates are invited to choose and follow the example of a holy person. How can you follow the example of Saint Elizabeth of Portugal?



The practice of anointing with oil is an ancient ritual. In the Old Testament, we read that Moses was instructed by God to combine the finest spices with olive oil in order to create a "sacred anointing oil" (Exodus 30:25). He was further instructed to use this oil to anoint his brother. Aaron, and his sons, as well as the sacred spaces and articles that were used as part of their worship. In other parts of the Bible, kings were anointed with sacred oil as a symbol of the power and authority they received from God. David, for example, was anointed and "from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon [him]" (1 Samuel 16:13). Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah, when he spoke of his own anointing (see Luke 4:18). This sacred practice is as vivid today as it was thousands of years ago. It is a powerful sign of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives as we seek to bring the Good News of Christ to the world around us.



### The outpouring of the Holy Spirit continues through Baptism and Confirmation.

In the early Church Baptism and Confirmation were usually celebrated together. Thus, the baptized person received a double anointing with the Sacred Chrism—perfumed oil consecrated, or blessed, by a bishop. The first anointing was given by the priest and the second anointing by the bishop. But as the Church grew, the territories and responsibilities of its leaders grew, and bishops were not always able to be present at every baptismal celebration.

So in many local areas the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism and that of Confirmation became separated. The Sacrament of Baptism continued to be celebrated by the priests and deacons in the local communities, with the priest or deacon giving the newly baptized the first anointing with Sacred Chrism. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, with the second anointing of the baptized person with Sacred Chrism, was reserved to the bishop himself.

In the Church today, through the Sacrament of Baptism we, too, receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit and through the Sacrament of Confirmation we, too, are anointed and sealed with the Spirit. The same Holy Spirit who empowered the Apostles and other disciples to continue Jesus' work in the world empowers us too! Thus, Jesus' words to his first disciples are also his words to us, "you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth" (Acts of the Apostles 1:8).

#### Chrism Mass

Each year right before the Easter Triduum, the bishop and priests of the diocese gather to celebrate the Chrism Mass. During this Mass the bishop blesses three oils, which will be used in the sacramental rites throughout the year. These holy oils are: oil of catechumens (Baptism), oil of the sick (The Anointing of the Sick), and Sacred Chrism (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders). The sharing of these blessed oils with the parishes is a sign of the unity of the bishops, priests, and the faithful in the diocese.

The parish priests place these blessed oils in a place of honor in their churches. This place is called the *ambry*. In many churches, the ambry is in the sanctuary. In others, it is near the baptismal font.

Visit the ambry in your parish church. Pray for those who will be anointed with these oils this year.





Look back to the image on page 19. Do you remember any passages from Scripture about fire? One is in Acts of the Apostles. It is about Pentecost, when tongues of fire appeared to Jesus' disciples and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. There are many more places throughout the Bible in which the presence of the Holy Spirit is depicted as fire. In response to the prophet Elijah's prayer, "The LORD's fire came down and consumed the holocaust, wood, stones, and dust, and it lapped up the water in the trench" (1 Kings 18:38). John the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus "will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16). Jesus said in regards to the Holy Spirit, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing" (Luke 12:49).

As you continue your journey as a candidate for Confirmation, let the image of fire remind you of the transformative and energizing power of the Holy Spirit. Just as fire touches everything in its path, the Holy Spirit reaches each one of us and changes us.



"Very early, the better to signify the gift of the Holy Spirit, an anointing with perfumed oil (chrism) was added to the laying on of hands. This anointing highlights the name 'Christian,' which means 'anointed' and derives from that of Christ himself whom God 'anointed with the Holy Spirit." (CCC, 1289)

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the same Holy Spirit who empowered the Apostles and other disciples to continue Jesus' work in the world empowers you, too! Reflect on this, and discuss with your sponsor the ways you hope to share in Jesus' work.

## Calling Candidates

Today, technology makes it possible to witness to Christ to our friends and family as well as to people all over the world.

Working by yourself or with another Confirmation candidate, make a plan that uses technology to effectively "reach the ends of the earth" in your witnessing to Jesus Christ.





## Let Us Pray

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

Leader: Father of light, from whom every good gift comes, send your Spirit into our lives with the power of a mighty wind, and with the flame of your wisdom open the horizons of our minds.

(Liturgy of the Hours, Pentecost)

All: May we be open to the Holy Spirit.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke

"Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John [the Baptist] might be the Messiah. John answered them all saying, 'I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'" (Luke 3:15–16)

The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Group 1: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,

Group 2: and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Group I: Send forth your Spirit and they

shall be created.

Group 2: And you will renew the face of the earth.

All: Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with love. Amen.

## Go Forth

C O M M U N I I Y

At Pentecost, the disciples were inspired by the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to many other people. When you participate in Mass this week, pay particular attention to the ways your parish shares the Good News with people of different ages and backgrounds. Be prepared to discuss one of your observations with the other candidates at the next session. Offer a prayer for the people in your parish.

F Saints intercede for us with God. We ask them to pray to God for us. They are examples of faithful discipleship to Jesus. Think about the saint's name you want to choose at Confirmation. The Church encourages you to choose the saint's name that you were given at Baptism. However, you may also choose the name of another saint.

Y

Discuss with family members the saints' names they chose for Confirmation. Write some of their names here. Beside each name write a few of the qualities, characteristics, or gifts of the Holy Spirit that the person exemplifies.

S P O N S O R Have a conversation with your sponsor about "fear of the Lord," one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Discuss ways to use this gift to deepen your appreciation for the wonders of God's creation. You may want to take a virtual walk through nature with your sponsor. Talk about what you experienced. Then share a few ways that you can show appreciation for God's creation.

