

Confirmation

Candidate Guide

High School

Introduction

WE READ IN 1 PETER 2:9 that as anointed children of God in baptism, we become a “chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.” We die and live again with the risen Jesus in the waters of baptism. We are chosen with holy oil, we are called to spread God’s word, and we are sent as royal ambassadors of God’s holy nation.

What you thought was a simple pouring of water on your head turns out to be a pretty impressive and terrifying event. Let’s take it one step at a time.

OPENING PRAYER SERVICE



Your leader will call your name, make the Sign of the Cross with holy water on your

forehead, and ask you to remember what your baptism stands for. After everyone has been signed, say the opening prayer.

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

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Loving God, we thank you and praise you for all the good you do for us. We thank you for the gift of Jesus, your Son, who opened the gates of heaven for us through his suffering, death, and resurrection. We thank you for making us your children through the sacrament of baptism. We ask you to help us prepare for the sacrament of confirmation. Open our minds and our hearts to your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Priest, Prophet, & King

STEP ONE

Priest

You Were Baptized Into the Royal Priesthood of Jesus

BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT. SURPRISE! Like the priests and kings of the Old Testament, in baptism you were anointed with the oil of catechumens on your chest and with holy chrism on the crown of your head. And so, for all these years, your calling as a "priest" has been waiting to be activated. The Holy Spirit's coming in confirmation does just that.

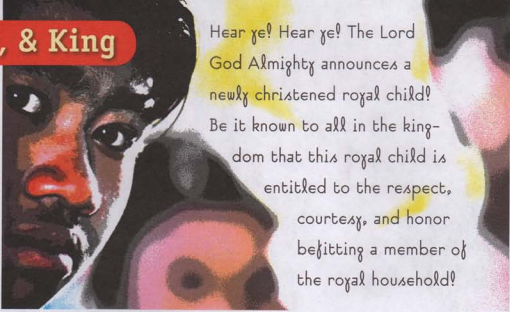
This does not make you a priest in the same way your pastor is a priest. Your pastor is ordained to serve as an instrument of the Holy Spirit in making the Church holy through the sacraments and his leadership. An ordained priest makes it possible for you, as baptized, to live *your* part of the call of Jesus' priesthood: to keep the Church holy through the way you live your life.

What does that really mean to *you*? Here are a few examples: visit the imprisoned, be a lector, visit the sick, lead prayer, lead and organize parish projects, feed the hungry, be a server or greeter, console the grieving, sing or play an instrument in the choir, or become a godparent.

Take a moment to think about two priestly activities you can do now, then write them down.

Describe one of them in more detail.

Discuss your priestly activities with a partner. Take notes on what your partner says.



Hear ye! Hear ye! The Lord God Almighty announces a newly christened royal child! Be it known to all in the kingdom that this royal child is entitled to the respect, courtesy, and honor befitting a member of the royal household!

Record the activities shared by the small group.

List the large group's activities.

STEP TWO

Prophet

You Were Chosen to Spread the Word


YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN ALMOST EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE. You're chosen for a team, to answer in class, to babysit, to do chores, to be a friend, to help grandparents or a neighbor. At your baptism, you were chosen to be God's prophet, to hear God's word, to live God's word, and to spread God's word. Hearing God's word is more than listening to the readings at Mass or reading the Bible. It's *understanding* what God is trying to tell you.

What's one of your favorite Bible stories? Look it up now. Jot down a few ideas to help you tell the story to your partner and tell why you like it.

Share with your partner. Take notes on your partner's story.

Record the stories shared by the small group.

List the large group's stories.

 If any of these stories has a special meaning for you, it could have a special meaning for someone else. You were chosen to spread the word of God. How do you tell others about God without being weird?

Share with your partner. Take notes on your partner's ideas.

Record the ideas shared by the small group.

List the large group's ideas.

Prophets often went against popular opinion. In fact, they weren't popular at all. Could your friends influence you to do something you felt was not right, like drink, smoke, have sex, take drugs, race cars, bully others, or watch Internet pornography? Explain.



STEP THREE

King

You Are Sent as Royal Ambassador

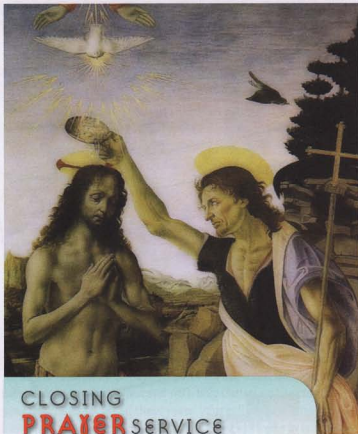
WHEN THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ANY NATION HAS A BABY, the birth is

proclaimed throughout the land. At your baptism, you began your royal life. Just as princesses and princes grow up learning their royal responsibilities, you've been growing up learning what it means to be God's daughter or son.

Image is extremely important for members of a royal family. Their public image must be positive; their dress, hairstyle, makeup, and how they sit and stand must show they're always aware of the honor and dignity of their heritage. As a member of God's royal family, you're called upon to represent God to the world.



How does the way you dress at the homecoming dance or prom, the way you talk, and the way you behave show others that you're a member of a royal family? After your eighth-grade graduation, how did you change your image to impress your new high school friends?



CLOSING PRAYER SERVICE

Leader: Let us pray. We present the baptismal candle.

ALL: Jesus is the light of the world.

Candle bearer lights candle on or near the font

Leader: We pledge ourselves as God's children.

ALL: We do turn away from evil. We turn to God. We send the devil out of our lives.

Leader: What do you believe?

Candidate 1: We believe in one God. We believe in three divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: We do believe.

Candidate 2: We believe the Catholic Church possesses the fullness of truth.

ALL: We do believe.

Candidate 3: We believe the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and the faithful on earth form one family of God.

Share with your partner. Take notes on your partner's ideas.

Record the ideas shared by the small group.

List the large group's ideas.

ALL: We do believe.

Candidate 4: We believe God has given us the sacrament of reconciliation for the forgiveness of sin.

ALL: We do believe.

Candidate 5: We believe we will rise from the dead and have everlasting life through Jesus.

ALL: We do believe.

Leader: Come to the blessed water and sign yourself with the cross.

Each candidate steps forward to the holy water, dips in a finger, and makes the Sign of the Cross

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, we have stated our beliefs. We trust that, strengthened by your presence in us, we will try to live our beliefs each day so we can share more and more fully in you as priest, prophet, and king. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

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Priest

WHAT DOES IT MEAN
THAT YOU SHARE IN THE
PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS?

Are you the same as an ordained priest? No, that is another calling and anointing. Your mission of priest is to imitate Jesus in the way he served others. He washed their feet, he taught them lessons for life, he healed their bodies and souls, he fed the hungry, and he comforted the grieving. That's *your* mission of priest as well.

Word Search

Do the word-search puzzle. What do the answers tell us about priests past and present?

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

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Be with us, Holy Spirit! Fill us with your presence. With your gifts we will be able to do great things for Jesus! We can change the world into the kingdom of God. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

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Parish Community Groups

IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS, you and the other confirmation candidates in your parish will be organized into parish community groups (PCGs).



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER SERVICE

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OPENING PRAYER SERVICE

Leader: Behold! A voice in the wilderness!
Prepare the way of the Lord!

ALL: Who speaks to us of the Lord?

Prophet: I speak to you. The day is nearing! You have much to do to prepare for his coming!

Person: On whose authority do you come to us? Who are you?

Prophet: I am the voice in the wilderness sent by the Lord God, the God of your ancestors. It is on *his* authority that I speak. It is *his* message, not mine, that I bring.

Reader: Adapted from the prophet Sirach, chapter 2, verses 1 through 6. My children, when you begin to serve the Lord, be prepared to be tested. Be sincere and stick with it. Do not be upset if others do not hear his message. Cling to God! Do not go away from God! As gold must be tested in the fire, you will be tested. Trust God, and God will help you. The word of the Lord.

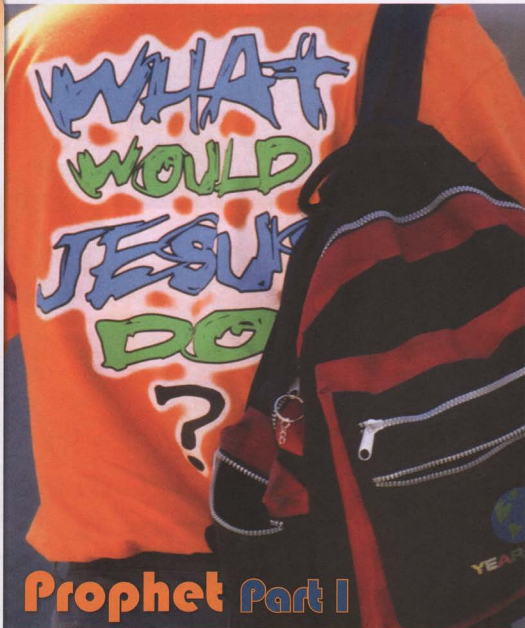
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Leader: What does God ask of you? What talents must you develop to be his prophet? What faults and sins must you reject to take on the mission of prophet? Pray silently.

Pause for silent prayer

Leader: Lord God, Creator, we praise you and adore you! We bow in adoration before you. You have revealed your word to us in every generation. We ask you to be with us as we prepare to be your prophets—to bring your Good News to the entire world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.



Prophet Part I

YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO THE RISEN JESUS, AND YOU SHARE IN HIS ROLE OF PROPHET. On whose authority will you speak? What message will you bring? To whom will you speak? The next activity will help you answer those questions.

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OPENING PRAYER SERVICE

Leader: Lord God Almighty, we praise you and adore you. Because of your great love, you have made us in your own image and likeness. Through the waters of baptism, you have called and anointed us to share in the priesthood of Jesus. You have chosen us to spread the Good News by being prophets with Jesus. We ask you to be with us as we learn more about our role as prophet.

Candidate 1 brings in the cloth for the table, holds it up, and reverently places it over the table

Leader: What does God ask of you? Who will light your way as you go about your mission of prophet?

Candidate 2 brings in a lit or electric candle and places it on one side of the table

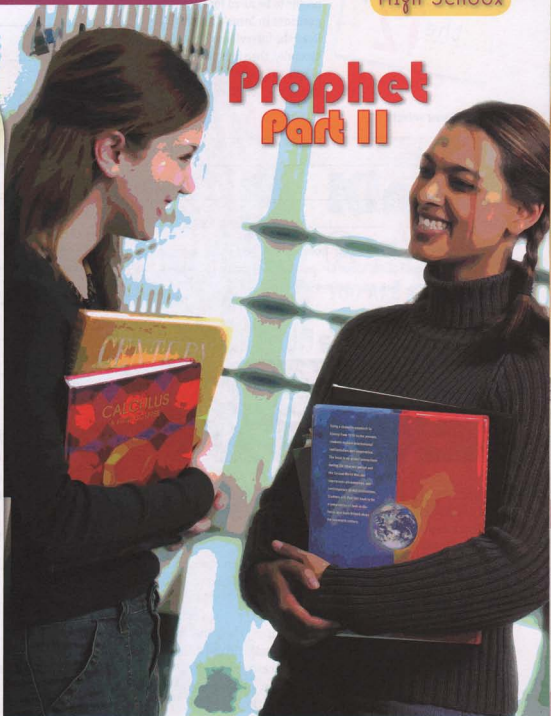
Leader: We honor your word given to us in revelation and passed from generation to generation. It is in this revealed word that we will find the way.

Candidate 3 brings up the Lectionary or Bible and places it on the table

Leader: God, we ask you to be with us as we prepare to be your prophets—to bring your Good News to the entire world. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Prophet Part II



WHAT MAKES A PERSON A PROPHET? Is it what you say? Is it what you do? It can be both of those and more—there are as many ways to be a prophet as there are people. Your job is to find *your* best way to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

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OPENING PRAYER SERVICE

Candidate 1: Lord Jesus Christ, King of Heaven and Earth, we welcome you into our midst.

One by one, candidates bring in a crucifix, a Lectionary or Bible, a crown, and the Confirmation Enrollment Book

Candidate 2: Let us adore Jesus, our King!

All kneel

ALL: As members of your royal family, we pledge our loyalty to you. We write our names in your Enrollment Book to show this loyalty.

Confirmation Enrollment Book is passed around for each candidate to sign; the last signer places the book on the altar

Leader: We have pledged our loyalty to our King and are ready to hear his truth. Let us pray.

All sit and pray silently

Leader: Let us ask the King for what we need.

Candidates may offer petitions

ALL: Lord God, we ask you to give us what we need to serve you with dignity and honor all the days of our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your son and our brother. Amen.



King Part I

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF GOD. You have been called and chosen for all eternity to represent the King to all the peoples of the world.



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King Part II

A YOUNG PRINCE OR PRINCESS IS GUIDED THROUGH ROYAL CEREMONIES BY A MENTOR OR GUIDE. You'll be guided throughout your Catholic life by two mentors: on earth, your confirmation sponsor, and in heaven, the saint whose name you'll take as your confirmation name.

OPENING PRAYERSERVICE

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

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Come, Lord God, Creator, be with us as we journey together as a faith community. Let us know the people you send to help us achieve our royal status and dignity.

ALL: Come, Creator, Lord, and be with us.

Leader: Come, Jesus, Savior, Redeemer, the Anointed One, King of Heaven and Earth. Come be with us as we pick up the burden of our royal duties as your followers. Help us be aware of the people who will help us carry the cross.

ALL: Come, Jesus, Redeemer, and be with us. Give us strength to stand firm in our beliefs.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, Giver and Author of Life, be with us as we rise to new heights in our awareness of ourselves as temples of God. Help us practice the virtues that identify us as members of your royal family. Most of all, help us show respect for life.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, Life-Giver, and be with us. Help us live the kind of life Jesus wants for us.

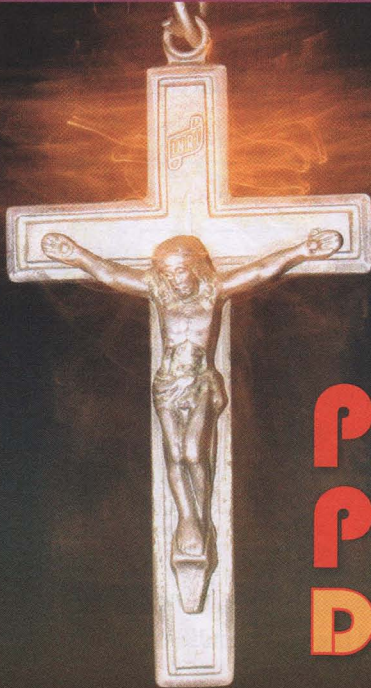
Leader: As we make the Sign of the Cross, let us ask the Trinity to be with us.

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

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Prayer and Practice Day

BEFORE ANY MAJOR STEP IN YOUR LIFE,

YOU SHOULD PRAY. Confirmation is a major step on the path to Catholic Christian adulthood, so the first thing we'll do today is ask the Holy Spirit to help you prepare for your confirmation day. We'll also go over what happens during confirmation Mass, practice participating in the rite of confirmation, and discuss your final preparations. And then we'll pray some more.

OPENING PRAYER SERVICE

Leader: Bow your heads and silently ask God to be with us today.

Pause for silent prayer

Leader: Holy Spirit, bring us wisdom and courage that we may know the right thing to do and then do it.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Holy Spirit, the author of all life, fill us with great joy that we have life.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Holy Spirit, give us knowledge of ourselves so we may become more like Jesus, our Redeemer.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Holy Spirit, fill our souls with the desire for confirmation and the determination to be true Catholic Christians.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: In the silence of your heart, ask the Holy Spirit for the gifts you need.

Pause for silent prayer

Leader: We pray.

ALL: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Be with us, Holy Spirit, as we practice for our reception of the sacrament of confirmation. Help us experience your coming with calmness and joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

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Retreat Day

OPENING PRAYER SERVICE

Leader: As we make the Sign of the Cross, let us ask the Trinity to be with us on our confirmation retreat.

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

WELCOME!

Retreats come in all sizes: some last a day, some last a week, and some last a month. Some retreats are silent, and some are silent only part of the time.

Today's retreat will last one day. Some parts will be quiet listening, thinking, praying, and writing, and some parts will be not-so-quiet discussions and activities. During all parts, everyone needs to **respect** each other. **Respect** will let you be considerate of everyone's needs—including your own.

Respect will make this day a success.

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A New Beginning

CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING ONE OF THE NEWEST FULLY INITIATED MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH! You have much to celebrate, because you've deepened your faith and begun putting it into action in your everyday life. Confirmation is a new beginning: step one of your lifelong mission to live with Christ as **priest**, serving others; as **prophet**, bringing the Good News to others; and as **king**, being a living memory of God. By living your life this way, you'll have full union with Jesus in heaven. You will be **priest**, **prophet**, and **king** with Jesus forever.

OPENING PRAYER SERVICE

Leader: We begin by exchanging the sign of peace.

Everyone exchanges a sign of peace

Leader: Lord Jesus, we have given and received the sign of peace to show we are united in you. Be with us as we pray.

Newly Confirmed 1: We pray for those who are being confirmed this year, that they may receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Leader: Pause quietly and pray for those being confirmed.
(pause)

Leader: Let us continue our prayer.

Newly Confirmed 2: We pray for those who helped us prepare to receive this sacrament: parents, sponsors, teachers, pastoral staff, and parishioners. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Leader: Pause quietly to remember those who helped you.
(pause)

Leader: Let us continue our prayer.

Newly Confirmed 3: We pray for our Church and its leaders; our Holy Father, Pope _____; the bishops, especially Bishop _____, who confirmed us; and for priests, deacons, religious, and laypeople, that together we may stand firm in our faith. We pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Leader: Pause quietly to pray for our Church.
(pause)

Leader: Please offer your own prayer petitions and thanksgiving prayers now.

Volunteers offer prayer requests

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, hear us and give us what we need. Read our hearts and minds and make us more like you. We ask this in your holy name.

ALL: Amen.