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Matthew 4:18–20; 9:9; Mark 6:7; Luke 6:13; 22:27;
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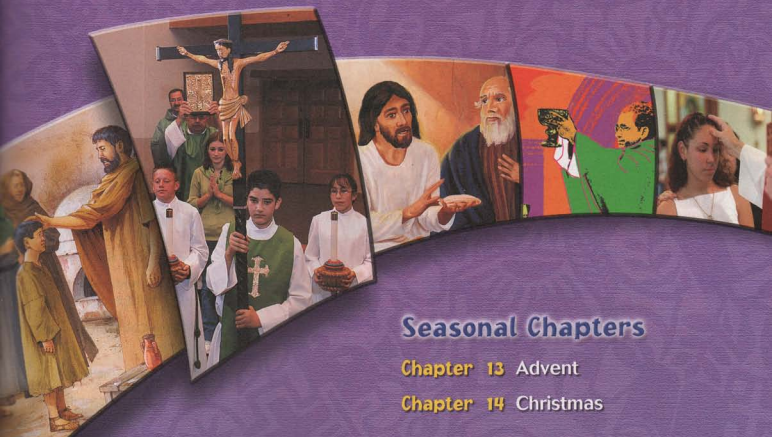
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In Unit 2 your child will grow as a disciple of Jesus by:

- 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 94. 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.

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

Chapter 12: Taking a "sacramental journey"

The Coming of the Holy Spirit



WE GATHER

+ **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)

 Think of a time someone helped you to change something about yourself. Who helped you and how did you change?

SPIRIT



WE BELIEVE

On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the first disciples.

After his Resurrection, Jesus sent his Apostles to preach in his name and to baptize those who believed in him. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide and help them.

The Holy Spirit would change 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. It was during this time that the Holy Spirit came as Jesus had promised.



Acts of the Apostles 2:1–47

“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 Apostles went outside. Peter told the people that God the Father had indeed raised Jesus. He said that what they had just heard had been the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Each person heard this Good News in his or her own language, and they were amazed. 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. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we are all God’s workers in the world.



In groups role-play the story of Pentecost as if it were happening today.

As Catholics...

We can find two symbols of the Holy Spirit in the Pentecost story: wind and fire. The word *spirit* comes from a Hebrew word that means "wind," "air," and "breath." 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.

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

After Pentecost the Holy Spirit strengthened and guided the Apostles. They gave witness to Christ and baptized many believers. The newly baptized received the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit when the Apostles placed their hands on them. The laying on of hands was a sign of God's blessing. By this action, authority and grace were given in God's name.

The laying on of hands by the Apostles was the beginning of the Sacrament of Confirmation. As the Church grew, 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 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 Sacred Chrism is done as the celebrant anoints the forehead of the one being confirmed.



With a partner talk about the actions that are part of our worship. Illustrate one.

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

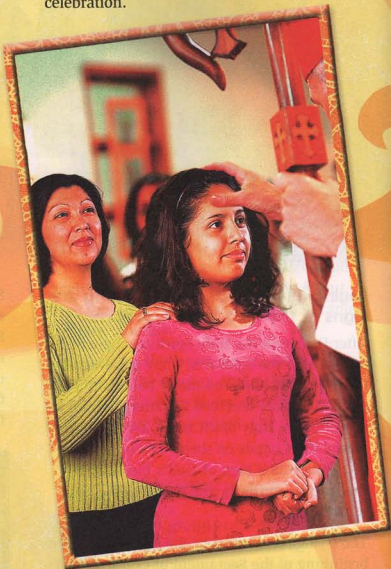
God the Holy Spirit is always with the Church. We can turn to the Holy Spirit for comfort, guidance, and strength. In the Sacrament of **Confirmation** we receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in a special way. We become more like Christ and are strengthened to be his witnesses.


Confirmation is a Sacrament of Christian Initiation. The first Sacrament of Christian Initiation is Baptism. All baptized members of the Church are called to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation completes Baptism and along with the Eucharist fully initiates us into the Church.

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 takes place in the parish community. The bishop usually visits parishes throughout the year and confirms all those who have prepared to receive the sacrament. Adults and older children who are catechumens receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at one celebration.



 Discuss the way your parish celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation.



Confirmation (p. 267)

Preparation is an important part of Confirmation.

Those preparing for Confirmation are called *candidates*. With the help of their parish communities, they pray and reflect on the life of Jesus Christ and on the mission of the Church. Candidates discover what it means to be anointed with Sacred Chrism and how this anointing will change their lives.

During this preparation candidates grow closer to Christ. They begin to feel a greater sense of belonging to the Church. They learn to share more completely in the mission of the Church. The whole parish can participate by praying with and for the candidates, talking with them about their faith, and helping them find ways to serve the parish.

If we were baptized as infants, our parents selected a name for us. Our name is often that of a saint or someone whom our parents admire. At Confirmation we choose a name, usually that of a saint whose example we can follow. We are encouraged to take our baptismal name to show the connection between Baptism and Confirmation.

If we were baptized as infants, our parents also chose godparents for us. When we are preparing for Confirmation, we choose a sponsor to help us grow in our faith. A sponsor needs to be a Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and is someone we respect and trust. Our sponsor should be an example of Christian living so that he or she can encourage us to follow Jesus. Our sponsor can be one of our godparents, a family member, a friend, or someone from our parish.

Sponsors can help us prepare for Confirmation by sharing their experiences and answering our questions. At the celebration of Confirmation, sponsors present us to the bishop for anointing.

WE RESPOND



Think of people who are examples of Christian living. In what ways do they encourage others to follow Jesus?

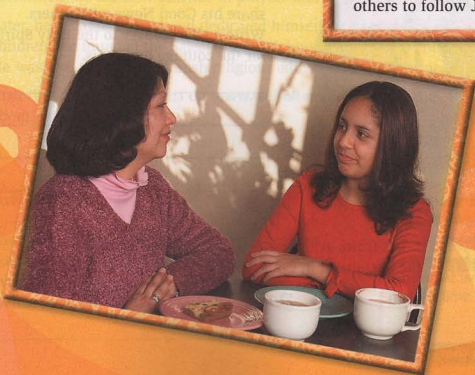
In Italy, he learned

oved to share

we saw her

At just on puppet

Discuss how the ways you live encourage others to follow Jesus.



Pray
Learn
Celebrate
Share
Choose
Live

PROJECT

Show What *you* Know

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

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.

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

Celebrate!

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 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?

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 _____.
 a. Mass b. Baptism c. Eucharist
- To _____ is to apply oil to someone as a sign that God has chosen that person for a special mission.
 a. anoint b. bless c. pray
- A sponsor is a Catholic who helps prepare a _____ for Confirmation.
 a. godparent b. celebrant c. candidate
- There are _____ Sacraments of Christian Initiation.
 a. twelve b. three c. 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?
- _____
- _____