

FAITH AT HOME

A Parent Companion



Overview of *Saints Among Us* Book 3:

It has been found that when parents are involved in religious education it is much more effective and has a lasting impact on the lives of their children. This is why we have the “At Home” and “Living the Faith” component for each lesson. Parishes cooperate with parents, who are the primary educators of their children. This year we are focusing on your child’s preparation for the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. In particular, Book 3 focuses on Confirmation, how it completes Baptism, and how it invites the Holy Spirit to guide us through our lives. Each lesson will begin with a prayer meditation from the Bible. We will then have a fun activity to reinforce what we are learning. We are also learning prayers throughout the twelve weeks. We will send home copies of these prayers. We then present content related to Confirmation: what it is, the gifts and fruits, the ceremony, and how to live after receiving it.

BAPTISM & THE FATHER’S PLAN



Lesson Overview:

In these 12 lessons, we are preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Confirmation completes the grace (the gift of God’s life) that we received at Baptism. Therefore, we begin lesson one with a review of what happened to us at Baptism: original sin (and any other sins if you were baptized at a later age) was forgiven, God’s saving grace was given to us, a permanent seal or mark was placed upon our souls to help us worship God, and we were adopted as God’s children.

Baptism is an invitation from God to share in His eternal life and to be happy with Him forever. He created the world, and all of us living within, in order to be in a loving relationship with Him. He has a plan for the world as a whole, which we see in the Bible, and a plan for each one of us. We see God’s plan in the Bible, through Creation and the main characters of the Old Testament, reaching its fulfillment as the Son of God comes into the world. Jesus brings God’s plan of salvation into our lives by founding the Church and giving us the sacraments to enter into God’s life. Confirmation and First Communion are a call to share more deeply in God’s plan of salvation for us.

Review with Your Child:

1. What happened to you at Baptism? **Original sin was forgiven, I received God’s grace, and became a child of God.**
2. What does Reconciliation do? **It forgives sin.**
3. For what sacraments are you preparing this year? **Confirmation and Eucharist.**
4. How are you living as part of God’s plan? **At Baptism I became a part of God’s family. I am following Him and becoming close to Him by receiving the sacraments.**

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FAITH IN ACTION

One of the most important ways to prepare for Confirmation is through prayer. Confirmation is when the Holy Spirit comes into our life more fully to guide and lead us. Prayer allows the Spirit to work in us and to speak to us more clearly. Help your child to take a short time at least of quiet prayer every day.

AT HOME

1. Tell your child about his or her Baptism. You can find the date by looking at his or her baptismal certificate (you can call your parish to find out as well). Maybe you have some pictures of the event or even cards and gifts from family and friends. Help your child to remember the day and try to celebrate it every year with a special prayer and something fun. Our Baptism day is a second birthday, when we were born a second time by being adopted as a child of God.
2. Practice saying the Apostle's Creed with your child.

PRAYERS

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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WHAT IS CONFIRMATION



Lesson Overview:

Baptism begins God's life in the soul, but Confirmation strengthens this life and helps it grow. Confirmation is the work of God, giving us a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit and His gifts. Like Baptism, it makes a permanent mark or seal on the soul, which helps us to live, spread, and defend our faith.

Restored Order Confirmation emphasizes that Confirmation is a gift of God. God offers us a greater share in His life. He is the one who confirms and strengthens our faith. Confirmation is not becoming an adult in the Church, based on our own decision, but rather a maturity and completion of the spiritual gift that God gave us at Baptism.



"The Baptism of the Eunuch"
by Rembrandt

Review with your child:

1. What does the Sacrament of Confirmation complete and strengthen? **Baptism.**
2. How many times can you receive Confirmation and why? **One, because it leaves a permanent seal on your soul.**
3. What does the Holy Spirit give you at Baptism and increase in you at Confirmation? **Seven gifts.**

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FAITH IN ACTION

Confirmation provides a special strength to be able to spread and defend the faith. The *Catechism* is the best reference on what the Catholic Church teaches and how to understand and explain it. It can serve as a helpful reference and guide for your family. You can find it in an affordable paperback from Image Press or online at http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM.

AT HOME

1. We have asked your child to tell you about the poster he or she made. They should tell you about Confirmation: what it is and how it will change them.
2. Pray the “Come Holy Spirit” prayer with your child.

PRAYERS

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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THE HOLY TRINITY



Lesson Overview:

This week focuses on the central mystery of the Catholic faith: The Holy Trinity. There are three persons in the one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are a communion of love in the one true God and invite us to share in their loving union.

God the Father is source and origin of the Trinity and we refer to Him as the Creator of the world. God has revealed Himself as Father and has made the family as a sign of His love. We learn about God through the love of fathers and families. God sent His Son into the world to teach us about His life and to save us from our sins. We learned six points about Christ, contained in our activity cube:

1. Jesus is the second person of the Blessed Trinity, Lord over all.
2. Mary conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and He was born in a stable in Bethlehem.
3. Because He is the Redeemer of the World, Jesus was crucified and died on the cross to take away our sins.
4. Jesus was buried in a tomb.
5. Jesus rose from the dead on His own, as only God could do. Through His Resurrection, we can have eternal life in heaven.
6. Jesus ascended to Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father as our king.



“Bautismo de Cristo”
by Navarrete el Mudo

Review with your child:

1. Who is the Creator of all? **God the Father.**
2. Who is God the Son? **Jesus.**
3. Why is Jesus called the Redeemer of the world? **He died to take away our sins, redeeming us and giving us eternal life.**

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FAITH IN ACTION

Praying a decade of the rosary is a great way to pray together as a family each day. It only takes a few minutes and it helps us to meditate on the mysteries of the life of Christ. It draws the family together and fosters peace in our lives and the world. Pray for the intentions and needs of your family, friends, and the world.

AT HOME

1. Look at your child's cube and have him or her tell you about each of the boxes.
2. Pray a decade of the rosary as a family, focusing on one of the boxes on your cube:
 - a. Annunciation – first joyful mystery
 - b. Birth of Jesus – third joyful mystery
 - c. Crucifixion – fifth sorrowful mystery
 - d. Resurrection – first glorious mystery
 - e. Ascension – second glorious mystery

FORMAT OF A DECADE OF THE ROSARY

1. State which mystery you are praying and any prayer intentions.
2. Pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, a Glory Be to the Father, and the Fatima 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.

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fatima Prayer: O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.



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RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT



Lesson Overview:

The Holy Spirit can be overlooked or forgotten in our lives. We relate most naturally to Jesus, because in Him God became man. He is our mediator, uniting God and man in Himself. Jesus teaches us to relate to the Father by sharing His own relationship with the Father with us. This can be seen when Jesus teaches us the “Our Father” prayer, for example. Preparing for Confirmation is an important time to come to know the Holy Spirit more. The Holy Spirit is the gift of love of God the Father and God the Son and they send their own Spirit to live in us as well.



“Appearance on the Mountain,”
by Duccio di Buoninsegna

The Holy Spirit acts as Counselor, guiding His faithful towards all that is good and protecting them from evil. At Baptism, a person receives the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are then strengthened at Confirmation. These are given freely by the Holy Spirit, first to help a person know and love God, and then to help that person be a soldier of Christ, a Christian who professes and defends the faith. Through the gifts, the Holy Spirit helps the faithful to make moral decisions and to know and serve God.

Review with your child:

1. Who is the third person of the Blessed Trinity? **The Holy Spirit.**
2. What are some symbols of the Holy Spirit? **Water, anointing, fire, cloud and light, seal, hand, finger, dove.**

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FAITH IN ACTION

One of the most important signs of the Holy Trinity is the Sign of the Cross. This short prayer and blessing of ourselves with the Cross can easily become routine and we can forget about its significance and power. St. Bernadette was taught by Our Lady at the apparition of Lourdes to make the sign of the Cross carefully and slowly. We should think about the Holy Trinity and the Cross of Christ while making it. Making the Sign of the Cross in this way can make a big difference in our lives. Integrate the intentional practice of making the sign of the cross into your family's prayers.

AT HOME

1. Talk with your child about receiving the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. They should be able to tell you about how the laying on of hands and anointing with oil are symbols of the Spirit and how they will be a part of Confirmation.
2. Pray the Come Holy Spirit prayer as a family.

PRAYERS

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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PRAYER AND SIN



Lesson Overview:

This lesson looks at prayer as the way of preparing for Confirmation. Prayer is how we come close to God and speak with Him. God gave us the Holy Spirit to help us to be able to pray. When we receive Baptism and Confirmation we asked to turn toward God and away from what is contrary to Him. In our Baptismal promises we state our belief in God and reject evil and sin. Sin is the primary thing that turns us away from God. We have to stop bad habits to be able to receive Confirmation well.



Today we learned about St. Benedict

Review with your child:

Part of the Confirmation ceremony entails renewing the promises made at Baptism. Take a moment to help your child practice this part of the ceremony.

VERSICLE (Leader)	RESPONSE
Do you reject Satan?	I do.
And all his works?	I do.
And all his empty promises?	I do.
Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?	I do.
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?	I do.
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?	I do.

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FAITH IN ACTION

Too much television and media can take us away from our study, prayer, and family. Carve out some time each evening without media so that there is more time for talking and interaction as a family. Board and card games are a great alternative to media.

AT HOME

1. In order to prepare for Confirmation better we are encouraging the students to learn how to pray in silence. Help your child to find a quiet place at home. He or she should read a short passage from the Bible and think about what God is saying in this passage. Listening to God in the Bible should lead to some time speaking back to God, sharing thoughts and feelings with Him.
2. Prayer helps us to get ready for Confirmation, but bad habits get in the way. Help your child to think about any bad habits that will stop him or her from preparing well for Confirmation.



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THE GIFTS OF WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, KNOWLEDGE



Lesson Overview:

This week we began the first of three lessons of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The gifts open us up to the help of the Holy Spirit, who acts in us to know God better and to serve others. The first three gifts—wisdom, understanding, and knowledge—focus on knowing God.

The Gift of Knowledge helps a person grow in his or her relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Just as a child grows in knowledge of his parents, so will a Christian, through the Gift of Knowledge, grow to know the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit more deeply and intimately.

The Gift of Understanding helps a Christian to comprehend the divine mysteries. This applies to doctrines, dogmas, and scriptural passages and events, but also those things that occur in a person's life.

The Gift of Wisdom is seeing the thoughts and ways of God. When a Christian sees God's ways, he or she can follow God's will, not his or her own. The best way to know the ways of God is to read Sacred Scripture, in particular the Gospels (in which Jesus Himself teaches us about the ways of God).



Today we learned about Saint Pope John Paul II

Review with your child:

1. Are the gifts of the Holy Spirit free, or must you earn them? **A free gift.**
2. What is the purpose of the gifts? **So that we can be open to the Holy Spirit helping us to know God more and to live rightly.**
3. What is the gift of Knowledge? **The Holy Spirit helps us to know God better.**
4. What is the gift of Understanding? **The Holy Spirit helps us to understand our faith.**
5. What is the gift of Wisdom? **The Holy Spirit helps us to follow the ways and thoughts of God.**

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FAITH IN ACTION

The Gift of Wisdom helps us to know and live by God's ways. God's ways are found in the Gospels. Start reading one of the Gospels together as a family. The Gospel of Mark is the easiest place to begin as it is the shortest. The Gospel of John is known as being the most beautiful and rich in its teaching.

AT HOME

1. Ask your child about three Gifts of the Holy Spirit learned about today.
2. Help your child take a few minutes of quiet prayer to ask the Holy Spirit to give him or her these three gifts.
3. Pray the Come, Holy Spirit prayer as a family.

PRAYERS

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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THE GIFTS OF COUNSEL AND FORTITUDE



Lesson Overview:

Last class we learned about three Gifts of the Holy Spirit that guide our minds. This class focuses on Gifts that guide our action, helping us to make the right choices. The Gift of Fortitude gives us strength to stand up for our faith and for what is good in the face of danger. It makes us willing even to suffer for the truth. The Gift of Counsel helps Christians know what they should or should not do in situations that demand a moral decision. Through the gift of Counsel, the Holy Spirit guides us in what is right and wrong. He helps us to live the commandments.



Jesus and the apostles. Detail of the ceiling. Room of the Fire in the Borgo. Vatican Museum.

Review with your child:

1. What is the Gift of Counsel? **The Holy Spirit helps us to make the right decisions, choosing good over evil.**
2. What is the Gift of Fortitude? **The Holy Spirit give us courage to live our faith out in the world.**
3. Why is it important to learn the commandments of God to use effectively the gift of Counsel? **The commandments of God show us what is right and wrong, allowing us to make good choices.**

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FAITH IN ACTION

Is there a good place to pray in your house? We have been asking your child to take some quiet time for prayer. Is there a place to sit in front of a crucifix or holy image? This is helpful not only for quiet prayer but also for praying as a family.

AT HOME

1. Ask your child to tell you about the two Gifts we learned about today.
2. Help your child to pray silently with the Holy Spirit, asking Him for the Gifts of Counsel and Fortitude.
3. Pray the Come, Holy Spirit prayer as a family.

PRAYERS

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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THE GIFTS OF PIETY & FEAR OF THE LORD



Lesson Overview:

Today we learned about the last two Gifts of the Holy Spirit. In these Gifts the Spirit moves us to relate to God in prayer and love. The Gift of Piety guides us to worship God through the Holy Spirit. It also rightly aligns our relationship with God as His sons and daughters. With Piety, we can worship God as He wants to be worshipped.

The Gift of Fear of the Lord gives us the capacity for awe. As the Lord expresses Himself through Truth, Beauty, and Goodness, this gift allows us to be profoundly moved by the Lord's presence and mystery. This gift also helps us to stay close to God as we fear both His just punishment for sin and offending His love.



Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican.

Review with your child:

1. What is the gift of Piety? **Worshipping God as His child and staying focused on Him.**
2. What is the gift of Fear of the Lord? **Having awe and wonder of God and in His mercy and beauty.**
3. Should you desire and pray for the gifts to work effectively in you? **Yes, we should pray to let the Holy Spirit live and act in us more.**

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FAITH IN ACTION

“The Heavens proclaim the glory of God” (Psalm 19:1). We discussed how God teaches us about Himself through beauty this week. An important way to foster awe before God is to appreciate the beauty and wonder of His creation. Sunday is an excellent time to appreciate nature as a family—to go for a short walk, have a picnic, and relax outdoors.

AT HOME

1. Ask your child to show you the puzzle from today’s activity.
2. Help your child spend a short quiet time in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to give the Gifts of Piety and Fear of the Lord.
3. Pray the Come, Holy Spirit prayer as a family.

PRAYERS

Come Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Lesson Overview:

This week focuses on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit dwells in us and acts in us with His Gifts, our lives begin to change as we become more like God. God's presence bears fruit in our lives, giving us signs that He is with us.

There are twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. They are: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control, and Chastity.



Today we learned about Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Review with your child:

1. How many fruits of the Holy Spirit are there? **12.**
2. Whose presence in our lives grows these fruits? **The Holy Spirit.**
3. Can you write the names of 3 fruits? **Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity, Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control, and Chastity.**

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FAITH IN ACTION

In Book 1 of *Saints Among Us*, we mentioned the Jesse Tree, a collection of empty branches used to hang ornaments of the story of Salvation History. A Jesse Tree helps us to prepare for Christmas. The Christmas tree, unlike the Jesse Tree, is full of life, keeping its vibrant green color in the winter. The green Christmas tree celebrates the new life Christ brought us. We traditionally decorate the tree with images to remind us of how Jesus came to save us: an angel and star on top of the tree, lights and bells to proclaim the message, apples as a sign of the first sin that Jesus overcame, red ornaments and bows as a sign of Christ's blood, and crosses. Point out these symbols on the tree this year and add some of them if you do not have them already.

AT HOME

1. Ask your child to show you the tree activity with the Gifts and the Fruits.
2. Pray the Third Glorious Mystery of the Rosary, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, as a family.

FORMAT OF A DECADE OF THE ROSARY

1. State which mystery you are praying and any prayer intentions.
2. Pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, a Glory Be to the Father, and the O My Jesus 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.

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are in most need of Thy mercy.



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THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION



Lesson Overview:

The sacrament of Confirmation is given by the Bishop or a priest designated by him during a ceremony called the Rite of Confirmation. The Rite has the following parts:

Presentation of those being Confirmed: The Confirmandi are presented to the Bishop (or his delegate) so that he may accept them for the reception of the sacrament.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises: Since Confirmation is the completion of baptismal graces and promises, The Confirmandi (and all present) renew their baptismal promises so that they are reminded of what Confirmation does for them.

Laying on of Hands: The Bishop extends his hands over the Confirmandi, praying for the Holy Spirit to come to them and increase His gifts received at Baptism.

Anointing with Chrism: The Bishop anoints the Confirmand's forehead with Chrism (holy oil), saying, "Be sealed with the Holy Spirit." The newly confirmed person now has the permanent mark of the Holy Spirit.



"Pentecost" by Louis Galloche

Review with your child:

1. What do we call a religious ceremony that a community uses to worship God or receive sacraments?
Rite, the Rite of Confirmation.
2. Who gives the sacraments of Confirmation? **The Bishop or a priest he appoints to take his place.**
3. Why do we renew our baptismal promises? **To show that Confirmation completes Baptism.**

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FAITH IN ACTION

Another important aspect of the Rite of Confirmation is the role of the sponsor. It is encouraged for the sponsor to be one of the godparents, but it can be any Catholic who is Confirmed, who is in good standing with the Church, and who practices the faith. Help your child to choose a good role model in the faith who can help encourage and guide your child in the Christian life.

AT HOME

1. Talk to your child about the parts of the Rite of Confirmation.
2. Practice renewing your baptismal promises as a family.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

VERSICLE (Leader)	RESPONSE
Do you reject Satan?	I do.
And all his works?	I do.
And all his empty promises?	I do.
Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?	I do.
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?	I do.
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?	I do.



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LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANNOINTING



Lesson Overview:

Sacraments are outward signs of invisible realities that make those realities present to us. They are signs instituted by Jesus to give us His grace, a share in His life. The Sacrament of Confirmation was instituted by Jesus when He gave the Holy Spirit to the Apostles after the Resurrection. The Apostles received the Holy Spirit as flames of fire at Pentecost and then shared this gift by baptizing and laying their hands over the early Christian community.



“Sacrament of Confirmation” by Poussin

The Bishop is the successor of the Apostles and he passes on the gift of Confirmation through the laying on of hands and anointing. When he raises his hands over those to be confirmed, he prays that the Holy Spirit will come upon them and that He will give them His seven gifts. Then each child is anointed with sacred chrism (a sacred, perfumed oil consecrated by the Bishop). We are anointed to be like Christ (a name which means the anointed one) by sharing in the life of the Holy Spirit.

Review with your child:

1. Who consecrates the Holy Chrism? **The bishop during Holy Week.**
2. What is the purpose of Chrism oil? **For anointing.**
3. When you are anointed during Confirmation, what is happening to you? **You are sealed with the mark of the Holy Spirit.**
4. During the Rite of Confirmation, why does the bishop extend his hands (Laying on of Hands) over the confirmandi? **To ask God to send the Holy Spirit upon the confirmandi, completing what was started in Baptism.**
5. What is increased in the confirmandi through the Laying on of Hands? **The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.**

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FAITH IN ACTION

Music historians tell us that all of Western music developed from the ancient music of the Catholic Church, called Gregorian chant. In recent decades Gregorian chant has become popular once again with one CD, simply titled Chant (1994), selling 6 million copies worldwide. Gregorian chant has become a popular way of relaxing, praying, and enjoying beautiful music. It is easy to find affordable CDs online and free samplings on the internet. Rediscover this treasure of the Church!

AT HOME

1. During class we practiced what will happen during the Rite of Confirmation. We asked your child to practice at home with you as well. Here are the words spoken by the Bishop. Make sure your child answers clearly. The name is the Confirmation name your child will take when confirmed. You can use baby oil, olive oil, or lotion for the practice (or just make the sign of the cross).

Bishop (celebrant): Dips his right thumb in the Chrism and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed, as he says: “(Name), be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Confirmand: Amen.

Bishop (celebrant): “Peace be with you.”

Confirmand: And with your spirit.

2. Pray the First Luminous Mystery of the Rosary, “Jesus’ Baptism in the Jordan River,” as a family.



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LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Lesson Overview:

Confirmation is not an end, but a beginning. Pentecost was the birth of the Church and the sending forth of the Apostles into the world. Confirmation completes one's birth into the life of God and the Church and sends one forth as a disciple of Jesus. A disciple is someone who follows Jesus: who lives like Him, follows His teaching, and shares the good news of Jesus with others.

The name of our curriculum is *Saints Among Us* and is a reminder that God calls all of us to be saints. God wants us to be holy, to be like Him, and to share His happiness forever.

God gives us the saints as our models of what it means to be a

disciple of Jesus. We pray to the saints and especially our patron saints (such as the saint's name we take for Confirmation) to help us and we try to follow their example.



Today we learned about St. Paul.

Review with your child:

1. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? **It means to be a student and follower of Jesus and to live like Him.**
2. What are the two parts of being Catholic? **To have the fullness of grace and God's revelation and to have a mission to all the nations.**
3. Why is it good for us to have a patron saint? **We need an example of holiness and someone in Heaven to pray for us and to help us.**

SAINTS AMONG US

Confirmation



FAITH AT HOME

A Parent Companion



FAITH IN ACTION

There are some great movies about saints. *The Reluctant Saint* (1962) about St. Joseph Cupertino, *The Song of Bernadette* (1943), *The Flowers of St. Francis* (1950), *The 13th Day* about the children saint of Fatima, and many others. There are many saint movies available through Ignatius Press (www.ignatius.com), as well as through the library.

AT HOME

1. Who are the patron saints of your child? Patron saints are saints we are named after with our first name, middle name, or Confirmation name. There are also patrons for groups of people. St. Nicholas (on whom Santa Claus is based) is the patron of children. There are also patrons for different professions and nationalities, such as St. Patrick for Ireland and Our Lady of Guadalupe for Mexico.
2. Tell your child about why you chose his or her first and middle names.
3. Help your child to learn more about his or her patron saint. You can probably find a book about him or her in the library or especially at a Catholic book store (or online). Remind your child to say a prayer every day to his or her patron saint.



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