

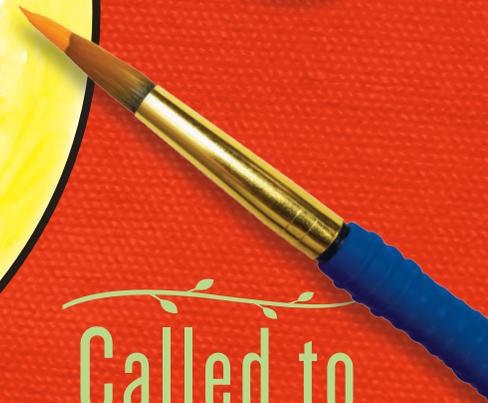
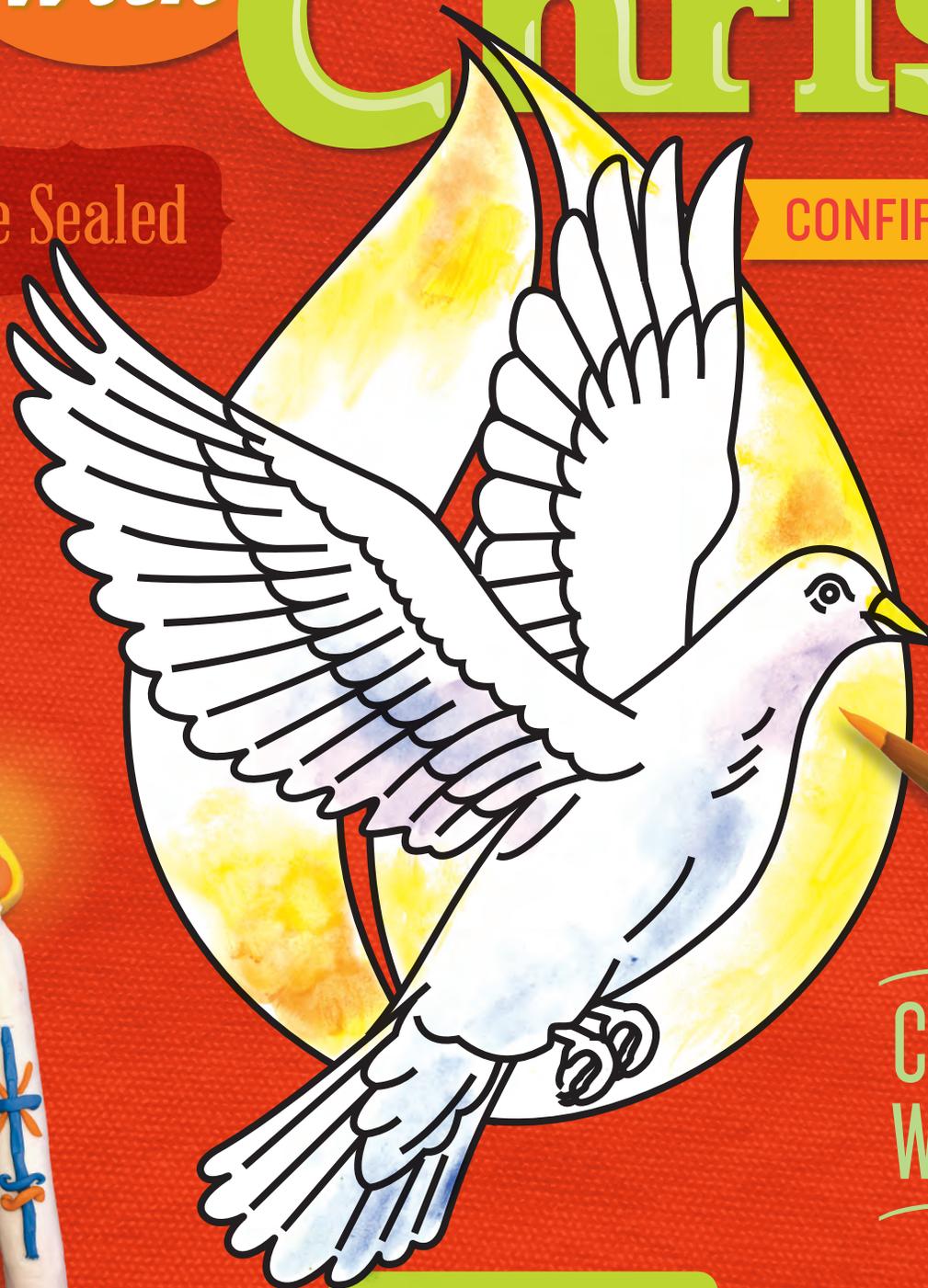
P A R E N T G U I D E

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR

Encounter *with* Christ

Be Sealed

CONFIRMATION



Called to
WITNESS

SESSION 4

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Spirit of Truth

Preparing for the Session



A prayer for you, as you begin:

“Holy Spirit, help me to recognize ways that I can give my child a strong desire to witness for the faith. Amen.”

Have you ever had such great news that you were bursting to tell it? It may have been the news of an award, a pregnancy, or a promotion. If so, then you know how the disciples must have felt after that first Pentecost.

Following the death of Jesus, the disciples gathered in the upper room. They had responded to his invitation to follow him. They had followed him through the hillsides of Galilee to the Cross. And now, they were without their “Master,” afraid to speak or act in his name. When the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, the joy they felt in the love of Christ could not be contained. They now understood the words of Jesus: “I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5). The Fruits of the Holy Spirit that they would share with others would become a *taste* of the Kingdom of God, a sign of the risen Jesus.

In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit strengthens our bond to Christ. As members of his Body, the Church, we are united more deeply to one another by the Holy Spirit and strengthened to participate in the mission of the Church. We are called and inspired to make known God’s Kingdom on earth. Confirmation gives the grace necessary for each believer to live in the service of the reign of God.

➔ **Reflect** What would be the first thing about your faith that you would share with someone who is not a Christian? If you could do one thing to deepen your relationship with Jesus, what would it be?

FOR MORE

Church Documents

- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1832
- *Order of Confirmation* 5



Games and downloads, multimedia glossary, Sunday readings and backgrounds, reflections, and more at sacraments.osv.com

In This Session

Informing the Mind

- Relate Jesus' image of the vine and branches to the Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- Explore the connection between being a disciple and a witness
- Learn that when celebrating Confirmation, the last part of Mass includes a special blessing
- Identify the dove as a symbol for the Holy Spirit

Forming the Heart

- Understand that witnesses for Christ first know him alive in their hearts
- Develop the desire to be a faithful witness of the faith
- Appreciate the role of the sponsor in Confirmation
- Recognize that Jesus' Resurrection makes him Lord over sin and death

Catholic Faith Words

- witness
- mission
- Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Catholic Signs & Symbols

Confirmation Sponsor

When you were preparing for your child's Baptism, you chose godparents who accepted the responsibility to help you support and guide your child in his journey of faith. For Confirmation, you and your child will prayerfully choose a *sponsor*.

A Confirmation sponsor is someone who is a joyful disciple of Christ, a confirmed member of the Catholic Church, and a powerful witness of a life devoted to loving God and neighbor. The role of the sponsor is to help your child learn, live, and love her Catholic faith.



Confirmation Sponsor

As Your Child Understands

Developmental psychologists point to the presence of mentors in the life of a child as one of the key factors in resilience and healthy development. Children are naturally drawn to adults who are supportive and caring. They look for people to emulate. A significant adult who is supportive of the faith of your family and serves as a positive influence can have a great formative impact. The sponsor serves as a moral and spiritual mentor and can help to guide your child as an additional support. This is especially true as the child gets older and the drive for independence and autonomy can compete with your values and influence.

What You Will Need

- pencils and pens
- crayons/markers
- paper
- Activity stickers (provided in the Child Book)

Optional: posterboard

Recommended for prayer area: Bible, candle, cloth, and cross or crucifix.

Part 1: Invite

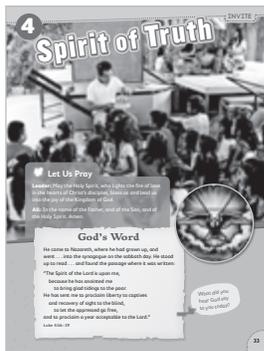


→ Turn to Page 33

15 MINUTES

Spirit of Truth

After you and your child have gathered your supplies, find a quiet place to be together. This is a sacred time for just the two of you—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. Lighting a candle is a great way to mark the start of your time together.



 **Begin with prayer:** Together make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the leader's part on page 33 and help your child with the response as needed.

Say: *Let's make space in our hearts to hear God speak to us in his Word that today tells an important story in the life of Jesus.*

God's Word

Invite your child to close his eyes, be still, and prepare to hear God's invitation in this passage.

Read aloud the Scripture.

Pause for several moments of silence.

Share what you have heard God say to you today and invite your child to share with you.

Say: *Today we are going to learn about your special place in God's Church. Some people may think you can't do very much just because you are a child. I wonder what God thinks?*

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Showing and Teaching



Ask: *Think of a time when you were asked to teach someone else how to do something. Tell me about what you taught. tie a shoe, use the video control, ride a bike, make a sandwich*

Say: *Let's listen to the first paragraph. As I read, circle the sentence that tells us what the people know now. Underline the sentence that tells you what you will need to teach them. Review the sentences. circle the second sentence starting with "People there ..." and underline the sentence beginning with "Your job ..."*



On-page Activity: Lead your child in completing the Showing and Teaching activity.

Direct your child to think about what the people will need to learn and what she will need to teach them. Then have her write or draw all the necessary supplies in the space provided. While your child completes the activity, reflect on the following. ○ ○ ○

PARENTS, CONSIDER THIS: We know an important truth from our closest relationships: most people fall in love, but staying in love takes a lot of work. Beyond that, we are challenged to live each day aware of how that love affects our every decision. Do you know Jesus' profound love for you? How would you describe your love for him? How hard do you work at staying in love? During this time of sacramental preparation for your child, be aware of the urging of the Holy Spirit for you to hear the call of discipleship.

Invite your child to share his suggestions after giving him time to complete the assignment.

Ask: *What examples of crops will they grow so that they can touch, taste, and smell them? Why do you think these things might be important? Possible response: It might motivate the people to want to learn how to farm.*

Part 2: Discover

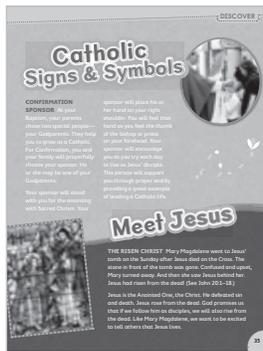


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40 MINUTES

Catholic Signs & Symbols

Direct your child to look at the picture near the top of the page. Previous signs and symbols have been objects or words. The focus on the sign in Session 4 is the Confirmation Sponsor. The sign is a person.



Ask: *What do you think is happening in the picture? A Confirmation candidate is being anointed and the sponsor has her hand on the candidate's shoulder.*

Say: *The person behind the child being confirmed is very important. Let's read about who this person is. As I read, listen for the two special words that we use to name people who have been chosen to help you to grow as a disciple.*

Read aloud the first paragraph and ask for the word that is used to name the people you choose to help you keep the promises you made at your child's Baptism. *godparents*

Share the reasons that you choose your child's godparents. You might want to name one way that either godparent's love has been visible in the life of your child.

Ask: *What word is used to name the person who will stand behind you at Confirmation? sponsor*

Summarize the second paragraph and turn to page 44 in the Child Book. Review the Order of Confirmation. You will take the role of bishop, your child is the candidate being confirmed and enlist another member of the family to stand behind to act as the sponsor. Another option would be to watch a video clip of anointing and then turn to page 44.

Meet Jesus

Have your child look at the crucifix on your table and explain what happened to Jesus. *Jesus died on the Cross*

Ask: *After his death, what happened to Jesus' body? He was placed in a tomb.*

Read the first paragraph.

Write the words *Anointed One* and *Risen Christ* on a blank piece of paper. Discuss what each term means.

Read the last two sentences together.

→ Turn to Page 36

How Will the World Know?

Summarize the first paragraph on page 36 of the Child Book. Then ask what command Jesus gave the Apostles as he ascended into heaven. *to be his witness throughout the world*



Say: *Let's read the passage from God's Word.*

God's Word

Proclaim the Word, and then ask your child to circle the word that Jesus uses to describe what his disciples would be. *witnesses*

Read the last paragraph. Go back and underline what the Apostles had seen and heard.

Looking for More? If your child is able and some movement will help to engage your child, say the following. Let's spell the word witness one letter at a time. I will say "W" while I stand up and sit back down. You will say "I" while you stand up and sit back down. We will keep going until we have spelled the word. When the word is completed, both of us will say, "I am a witness for Jesus." Ready! W I T N E S S

Repeat the activity several times, each time going more quickly.

→ Turn to Page 37

A Witness for Christ

Point out that the first witness to Jesus' Resurrection was Mary Magdalene.

Proclaim the Scripture in the box on page 37, then ask what others might have thought when Mary Magdalene announced the Good News. *Possible response: They thought she was hysterical or seeing things.*

Read the two paragraphs to the left of the Scripture and ask why Mary Magdalene so important? *She is the first to see the risen Jesus.*

On-page Activity: Read the activity instructions. Tell your child to think about different ways she can share the Good News about Jesus. Then have her choose the stickers that show this and place them on the page in her book. While your child is working on the activity, reflect on the following.

PARENTS, CONSIDER THIS: Saints are an important part of our Catholic Tradition for many reasons. For example, Saints help us to imagine what it is like to be a faithful disciple of Jesus. They teach us what it is like to be holy. Educating your child about the lives of the Saints through developmentally appropriate books will teach her what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It will increase your child's religious imagination so that she can come to believe that living the teachings of Jesus is not only possible in this world, but will make a difference in the world.



Looking for More? You may want to create a megaphone with a piece of poster board for your child. Use the megaphone to shout out the Good News you would share about Jesus.

Entering the Mystery

Have your child look at the picture of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.

Ask: *Do you see anything in the picture that tells us that the Holy Spirit was there? the dove*

Summarize the two paragraphs and read the last three sentences of the second paragraph with emphasis.

Strengthened for Mission

Point out that Jesus has called each of us to be his witness. We can count on the Holy Spirit for help.

Summarize the first paragraph, then read aloud the second paragraph.

Ask: *When you hear me call your name, what do you think? When I hear them call your name at school to receive an award, how do you think I feel? What nicknames have you heard someone use in our family? What do nicknames tell about the two people who use them for each other? It is a sign of closeness and their special relationship.*

Discuss how important the use of a person's name is. Emphasize that God calls us by name to be his witness.

Say: *As I read the next paragraph listen for the three ways during Mass that God gives us strength to share his Good News—to be “witnesses” of Jesus. Write the numbers 1, 2, or 3 above the phrases.*

Then read aloud the third paragraph.

Ask: *What are the three ways God gives us strength? God's Word, Jesus' Body and Blood, and being with other disciples*

Summarize the last paragraph and emphasize how we are sent at the conclusion of Mass to share the Good News with others.



W e have many prayers to the Holy Spirit. One of these prayers calls the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts. We ask God to make us brave witnesses of the faith. We pray, "If not me, then who...? If not now, then when...?"

The prayer reminds us that the world needs our witness right now. In Confirmation, the bishop or priest will call you by name when you are baptized. Jesus is personally calling you to be his witness. You can ask the same your parents give you at Baptism. Or, in some dioceses, you may choose the name of a Saint.

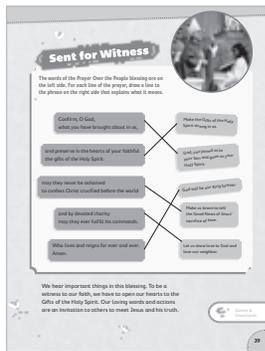
Our Roman Catholic Church helps us to be a witness for Christ. Sometimes we may need a little more confidence. That's one reason why participating in Sunday Mass is so important for Catholic disciples. At Mass, we are strengthened by God's Word

and by receiving Jesus' Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Being with other disciples in our worship at Mass supports us in our witness.

At the end of Mass, the priest gives us a special blessing and then dismisses us. The priest doesn't just say, "Peace to every- one!" Instead, we are sent on our mission to share the Good News and give honor to God by the way we live. At the end of the Confirmation Mass, the bishop or priest may say a special blessing for the newly confirmed. The bishop may say the Prayer Over the People. Let's look at the next page to see this prayer.

The sacrament of Confirmation during Mass shows the unity between Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—the Sacraments of Initiation (see Catechism of the Catholic Church 1282).

Sent For Witness



Say: At the end of Mass, we are sent on our mission. During Confirmation, there is a special final blessing at the end of Mass for those who have been confirmed. It is a prayer that speaks about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and being a witness to God's Kingdom.

On-page Activity: Tell your child to place his finger on the picture of the pencil. Point out that when you look at the phrases on the left side, you can see the blessing. Ask your child to follow along with a finger as you read.

Read straight down the column. When completed, say that there are some very big words and thoughts in that prayer.

Say: By looking at the right column, let's see if we can find a simpler way to say the same thing. Now let's look at the first phrase. I'll read it again.

Read aloud the first phrase.

Ask: What phrase on the right side of the page means the same thing?

Direct your child to draw a line that connects the phrases. Repeat this exercise for each phrase.

Read aloud the final paragraph.

Gifts That Bear Fruit



Say: We have learned about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. But, did you know there are also Fruits of the Holy Spirit?

Read the first two paragraphs.

On-page Activity: Tell your child that there are twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Then say: "We need to unscramble the word before we learn what it means. Some of the words have already been unscrambled for you. You will need to unscramble the rest and write them in the spaces provided." While your child completes this activity, reflect on the following.

PARENTS, CONSIDER THIS: There is nothing sweeter than getting a ripe piece of fruit directly from the tree, bush, or vine. Jesus calls himself *the* vine and cautions us that if we disconnect from him, our branches will bear little fruit. Discipleship (following Christ) and evangelization (sharing your love for Christ) are intimately connected. If your relationship with Christ is the center of your life, your action and words show it. Others come to know him through you.

When we are *sent* from Mass at the final blessing, we are being asked to share Christ's life with the world. Your child, filled with the Holy Spirit in Confirmation and strengthened by the Eucharist, will need your help to discover and live a life of discipleship—the only life that will bring happiness in this world and the next. Hand-in-hand you will discover the joy of the Gospel.

Read the definition after each word is unscrambled. Ask your child to say the definition in her own words. Read all twelve, thinking of people you know who share that Fruit of the Holy Spirit with others.

Part 3: Live

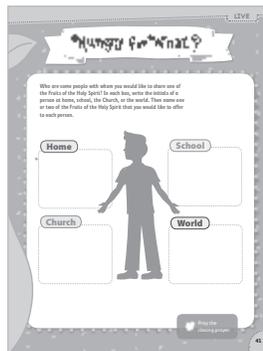
➔ Turn to Page 41



15 MINUTES

Hungry for What?

Say: Now that we have thought about the fruits others have shared with us, let's think about what fruits we can offer the world.



Summarize the first paragraph.

Then give an example from your life of how you give Fruits of the Holy Spirit to others. Some examples might include the following: being patient in a grocery store line, showing generosity as a coach or organization leader by sharing your time; or acting with self-control when someone cuts you off on the highway.

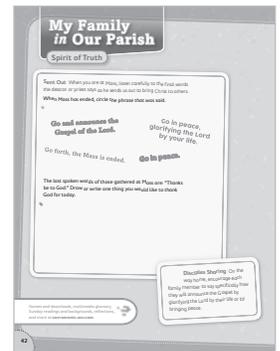
 **On-page Activity:** Direct your child to follow the instructions in the book to complete the activity. Tell your child that our world is really hungry for these fruits.

➔ Turn to Page 42

My Family in Our Parish

Review this page before Mass this Sunday. Before Mass begins remind your child to listen for the words at the closing blessing. As you cross the threshold of the Church door, you may want to repeat, "We are sent for mission," in a chant until you get to your car.

 **Disciples Sharing:** Share some thoughts about ways that you can be a witness this week. *watch for people who need help and offer it. Say a prayer for people in the news you saw who were suffering because of weather events or war.*



Family Prayer



Holy Spirit, Fill Our Hearts

On the table should be an open Bible, a cross or crucifix, a cloth, and a candle.

Parent: *The Holy Spirit fills us with the strength to be a witness of the Gospel.*

Child: *Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with the power of your love.*

Parent: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon you.*

Child: *Help me to speak your truth in love.*

Parent: *As a sign of our Catholic Church helping you to live your faith, close your eyes and imagine people in your parish, some of the Saints, and people in your family placing their hands on your shoulder. Feel that whole group of people who want you to know Jesus and love as his disciple.*

(Parent place hand on child's shoulder.)

Parent: *Be a living member of this Church, and, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, serve all people like Christ, who came not to be served but to serve.*

Child: *As a member of Jesus' Body, the Church, I will serve as your disciple, Jesus. Amen.*

Together: *Let us offer each other a Sign of God's Peace.*

Adapted from the Order of Confirmation.



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