

# The Family Rosary Way of Grace

## Parent Preparation Guide to Confirmation

***“Become who God meant you to be, and you will set the world ablaze!” St. Catherine of Siena***

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Thank you for taking an active role to help prepare your child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation. This is a special time for your family to pause and reflect on where your family is on the path God called you to walk when your child(ren) was baptized. This is also a great time for your family to pray about any changes you may need to make to remain on the path.

Below you will find links to Holy Scripture, information about the Sacrament being studied, and helpful items to gather that will help during the home sessions.

May your whole family find peace and joy in this Family Rosary Way of Grace!

### **Sacrament of Confirmation:**

- The Sacrament of Confirmation is one of three Sacraments of Initiation.
  - The Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist are the other two Sacraments of Initiation.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation more perfectly binds the baptized to the Church and enriches each person with the special strength of the Holy Spirit so that the individual can be a true witness to Christ. (Is 11:2; Jn 16:7-12; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 8:14-17) (LG, 11; CCC, 1285; CIC, c. 879)
- The ordinary minister: In the Latin, or Roman, Catholic Church: the bishop. In Eastern Catholic Churches: the priest. (CCC, 1312-1313; CIC, c. 882) (*In Eastern Catholic Churches, Chrismation is conferred immediately after Baptism. Some also offer reception of the Holy Eucharist (CCC, 1233).*)
- In the Roman Catholic Church, those preparing for Confirmation who have the use of reason must be able to renew baptismal promises, be in a state of grace, have the intention to receive the sacrament, and be prepared to assume the role of a disciple (CCC, 1306-1310; CIC, c. 889, p. 2)).
- Confirmation/Chrismation:
  - Increases and deepens one's baptismal grace (CCC, 1303)
  - Marks one with an indelible character on the soul (CCC, 1304-1305)
  - Strengthens the baptismal conferral of the Holy Spirit (CCC, 1303)
  - Increases in the confirmed the gifts of the Holy Spirit (CCC, 1302-1303)
  - Strengthens one's bond with the Church to enable the confirmed/chrismated to serve the Church's *ad gentes* mission (evangelization) and become Christian stewards. (CCC, 1303)
- During this time, your child will be learning about the words, gestures, signs, and symbols of the rite, including an emphasis on the anointing of Sacred Chrism/Holy Myron, the imposition of hands, and the words, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."
- **Sponsor:** each candidate for Confirmation needs to choose a sponsor to support his or her journey. The sponsor represents the larger community and stands with the candidate as he or she is confirmed. In the Diocese of Baker, only one sponsor is permitted to stand with the candidate. Due to the intimate connection between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, special consideration should be given to the baptismal sponsors (godparents) of each candidate to serve as a sponsor for Confirmation. **Sponsor requirements:** sponsors must be fully initiated Catholic Christians (have received Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist,) regularly participate in the Sacraments of Eucharist and Penance & Reconciliation, be able to receive Eucharist at the Mass of Confirmation, be a minimum of 16 yrs of age, may be asked to provide a copy of Baptismal Certificate and/or birth certificate, and, if not a member of the candidate's parish, may be asked to provide a letter of good standing from the sponsor's pastor. Parents of candidates may not serve as a sponsor for their own child. (CIC, c. 872-874; 892-893)
- **Service:** because the Sacrament of Confirmation "strengthens one's bond with the Church to enable the confirmed/chrismated to serve the Church's *ad gentes* mission and become Christian stewards" (CCC, 1303), candidates preparing to be confirmed are asked to engage in service

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experiences in their family/neighborhood, parish, and/or larger community. Suggestions for service experiences, as well as suggested reflection questions, can be found in: [A Guide to Service & Spiritual Experiences](#).

- **Spiritual Experience/Retreat:** prior to receiving the Sacraments Confirmation, Matrimony, and/or Holy Orders, candidates for these sacraments are advised to set time away with God through a retreat or other intentional spiritual experience. Suggestions for spiritual experiences, as well as suggested reflection questions, can be found in: [A Guide to Service & Spiritual Experiences](#).

### **Symbols of the Sacrament of Confirmation:**

- **Imposition/Laying on of Hands** - The bishop/priest prays over the person or persons to be confirmed/christened to invite the Holy Spirit.
- **Chrism/Holy Myron** - being anointed and strengthened for service and mission as a disciple of Christ.
- **“Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”**- the words of the rite as the Bishop confirms. (*In Eastern Catholic Churches, the priest says, “The seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit,” as the more significant parts of the body (forehead, eyes, ears, nose, lips, chest, back, hands, feet) are anointed with Holy Myron.*)
- **Candle** - a reminder of the light of Christ and a connection of Confirmation to Baptism.
- **Symbols of the Holy Spirit**
  - Water - a reminder of Baptism and newness of life.
  - Wind - the movement of the Holy Spirit in the world.
  - Fire - the blaze of faith in the heart and soul.
  - Tongues of Fire - evokes images of the first Pentecost and the descent of the Holy Spirit.
  - Anointing - being prepared and appointed to a mission (discipleship).
  - The Color Red - the liturgical color of Pentecost and the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

### **Resource Links From the Parish & Home Sessions:**

- [Sophia SketchPad: Confirmation](#)
- [Catholic Answers: The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit](#)
- [USCCB Examination of Conscience. How to Celebrate the Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation.](#)

### **Optional Items to Gather to Help with Home Sessions:**

- Bible to look up scripture.
- Computer or cellphone to look up suggested resources.

### **Scripture References:**

Here are the scriptural links to the full story for each mystery in these home sessions. Please consider reading and sitting with the bigger story prior to each home session.

Home Session 1: Glorious Mystery - The Descent of the Holy Spirit ([Acts 2:1-41](#))

Home Session 2: Glorious Mystery - Assumption of Mary into Heaven ([Revelation 11:19a](#))

Home Session 3: Glorious Mystery - Crowning of Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth ([Revelations 12:1](#))

### **Other Helpful Resources to Help Prepare Children for the Sacrament of Confirmation:**

- Resources on FORMED.org:
  - <https://watch.formed.org/the-holy-spirit-third-person-of-the-trinity-by-fr-shannon-collins>
  - <https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-holy-spirit-and-the-life-of-grace>
- Resources on FORMED.org about The Rosary:
  - <https://watch.formed.org/kids-1/videos/walking-with-jesus-the-rosary-prayers-in-song> (The Prayers of the Rosary in Song for Children & Families)
  - <https://watch.formed.org/brother-francis-1/season:1/videos/the-rosary-a-special-way-to-pray> (A Brother Francis Cartoon: “The Rosary: A Special Way to Pray”)