

Seventh Grade: Sealed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit February 26

Goal: Getting ready for Confirmation is something to be excited about! This session will help you understand the importance and power of the Holy Spirit in your life.

We want you to understand that your Confirmation preparation is not all about obligation. Not all about having to go to classes, take a test, pick a saint and sponsor, and “jumping through hoops” so you can be confirmed and “graduate” from faith formation classes. We don’t want you to just go through the motions and complete the requirements we want you to learn about the sacrament!

Getting a Deeper Understanding of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom: The gift of wisdom allows someone to order all things in accordance with God’s will. This gift has an element of contemplation—or a deep thought process of the divine. Even “uneducated souls” like St. Therese of Lisieux can be wise in the ways of the Lord. St. Therese had no formal education but is a Doctor of the Church.

- The gift of wisdom includes practicality in human acts.
- Wisdom sees all things with a supernatural value—good, joyful, sorrowful, successful and even painful things.

Questions about Wisdom

- How does the world define wisdom?
- How can an “uneducated soul” be wise?
- How can contemplating God help someone grow in wisdom?
- Who are some people that have the gift of wisdom?
- What are some practical ways to use the gift of wisdom?

Understanding: The gift of understanding is a gift that gives deeper insight to a revealed truth. This gift allows someone to go beyond the surface of a revealed truth and penetrate into the heart of the truth. For example, many theologians have the gift of understanding and help give us the meaning to symbols and figures in Scripture.

- The gift of understanding can also help reveal the ways in which God is moving in someone’s life.
- St. Thomas Aquinas said, “In this very life, when the eye of the Spirit is purified by the gift of understanding, one can in a certain way see God.”

Questions about Understanding:

- What are some truths of the faith that you want to know better?
- Who are some people that you know that have the gift of understanding?
- What are some practical ways to use the gift of understanding

Counsel: The gift of counsel helps a person discern what acts are good and should be done and what acts are evil and should be avoided. The discernment of the actions leads a person to ask “will this lead me into holiness or away from holiness?” The gift of counsel helps preserve a good conscience and gives others counsel in matters of personal holiness.

Questions about Counsel:

- How do you make decisions?
- What criteria do you base your decisions on?
- Do you allow God to play a part in your decisions?
- What are some practical ways to use the gift of counsel?

Fortitude: The gift of fortitude allows a person to overcome difficulties and endure pain and suffering with the strength infused by God. In other words, the gift of fortitude helps someone grow stronger in hardship, stand against evil and persevere to everlasting life. It gives someone the ability to live heroically, suffer with patience and joy and overcome lukewarmness. A modern-day example of someone with the gift of fortitude is St. Maximilian Kolbe. He gave his life as an exchange for another, endured the suffering of the concentration camps and a horrible death with the strength infused by God.

Questions about Fortitude:

- Give an example of a time in your life where you overcame a difficult situation or temptation with God’s help.
- What is an area in your life that you are struggling? How can you allow God to bring you strength in that situation?
- Do you believe that God is with you no matter how hard the struggles in your life get?
- What are some practical ways to live out the gift of fortitude?

Knowledge: The gift of knowledge isn’t a gift that will make you smarter. The gift of knowledge allows our intellect make the right judgment on how earthly things are related to eternal life and Christian perfection. The gift of knowledge helps us use earthly goods in a holy way as instruments for union with God. Through the gift of knowledge, we detach our lives from material goods to seek God. Knowledge leads us to repent for the times we have misused material things and put them before God.

Questions about Knowledge:

- What is one of your most prized possessions?
- Would you be willing to give that up for God?
- How can earthly things help us in our journey for holiness and heaven?
- What are some practical ways to live out the gift of knowledge?

Piety: The gift of piety allows a person to give worship to God as Father. Through this gift of worship, a person is able to see and love people as God's children. This gift helps us fulfill the commandments: love God above all else and love your neighbor as yourself. To treat others with respect and dignity.

Questions about Piety:

- Do you always recognize the dignity of every person as children of God and treat them that way?
- Which do you have a harder time following: Loving God above all else or loving our neighbor as yourself?
- What are some practical ways to live out the gift or piety?

Fear of the Lord: The gift of Fear of the Lord is the foundation for all the other gifts of the Spirit. From this gift, all the other gifts arise. Fear of the Lord (also called wonder and awe) allows a person be detached from sin and material goods out of love and reverence for God. Fear of the Lord is not the type of fear where a person loves and serves God because he or she is afraid of punishment or judgment. This fear is motivated by love of God because we are his children. For example, a child should not obey his or her parents out of fear of their punishment but out of love and respect. This gift brings about a sense of adoration and honor for God!

Questions about Fear of the Lord:

- Do you fear God out of wrath and punishment or out of love and respect?
- Who in your life are you called to love with more honor?
- What are some practical ways to live out the gift of fear of the Lord?

Knowing about The Gifts of the Holy Spirit will help you in preparation for Confirmation!

The Holy Spirit gives us all the gifts and talents we will ever need to complete God's work. We, like the apostles at Pentecost, are sent out to preach and complete the work of God.