Learning Goals

- Confirmation gives a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit like that on Pentecost.
- Confirmation impresses on the soul an indelible mark.
- Confirmation perfects the graces of Baptism.
- Confirmation gives a special strength to witness to the Christian faith and to defend against sin and temptation.
- The matter of Confirmation is the anointing with sacred chrism and the laying on of hands.
- The form of Confirmation are the words “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Connection to the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- CCC 436
- CCC 438-439
- CCC 1285-1289
- CCC 1293-1296
- CCC 1299-1300
- CCC 1302-1305
- CCC 1312-1321

Vocabulary

- Confirmation
- Anointing
- Laying on of Hands
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Messiah

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

ISAIAH 11:2

But you are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises” of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 PETER 2:9
Lesson Plan

Materials

- The Sacrament of Confirmation
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The Armor of God

DAY ONE

Warm-Up

A. Show your students the short video from Toy Story 2 found at the following link: YouTube.com/watch?v=3Cr-mU6yBJM. In this clip, the real Buzz Lightyear confronts an imposter Buzz Lightyear.

B. After showing the video, ask your students the following questions:

- Why did the real Buzz Lightyear show his friends his foot? To show that he was marked as belonging to Andy.
- How do you mark things at home that belong to you or to your family? Answers will vary.
- Do you belong to anyone? Students may not automatically know how to answer this question, or they may say no. Some students might suggest their parents or their family. Accept reasoned answers, but help your students come to the conclusion that they belong to God.
- What did Andy do to “mark” Buzz? He wrote his name on Buzz’s foot.
- What does God do to mark you? Students may not be able to answer this question right away. The correct answer is with an indelible mark in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

C. Explain to your students that we mark things as belonging to us all the time. Farmers mark their livestock by branding them, pet owners mark their pets with collars and tags, and adults mark their property with labels, licenses, codes, and symbols. In the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, God marks each of us with a permanent spiritual mark on our souls. This mark points us toward Heaven. An animal or a piece of property is marked as special to a person for a specific purpose and for a limited time here on earth. Our relationship with God, as we are made adopted children by His grace and heirs to the kingdom with Christ, is eternal and more important than anything else.

Activity

A. Write the word messiah on the board. Ask your students where they have heard this word before. It is used to describe Jesus. Jesus is the Messiah.

B. Explain to your students that the word messiah means “anointed one.” In the Old Testament, Levitical priests and the kings descended from David were all anointed by holy oil as a sign of their status as a priest or king and of the task given to them according to their position. All those who were anointed were messiahs. That means that the kings descended from David in
the Jewish royal kingdom were messiahs because they were all anointed. This anointing gave
the person an outpouring of God's Spirit to empower him or her for the tasks given to him or
her by God. From the very beginning through the New Testament and even today, God desires
His people to be a “royal priesthood,” anointed and consecrated as His Chosen People who will
“announce the praises” of His saving work. The Sacrament of Confirmation completes the work
begun in us at our Baptism and sets us apart as this very royal priesthood proclaimed since the
Old Testament.

C. Project 1 Peter 2:9, and have a student stand and read it aloud:

But you are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that
you may announce the praises” of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful
light.

D. Ask your students the following questions:

- What does this passage tell us we have been chosen to be? A chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, and people of God's own.
- What have we been chosen to do? Announce the praises of God, who called us out of darkness
into His light.

E. Explain to your students that in the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are anointed, just like the
priests and kings of the Old Testament, to be a “royal priesthood.” The world royal refers to kings,
and the word priesthood refers to priests. Because of this anointing, we are given a similar mission
as the priests and kings of the Old Testament: to announce the praises of God to others. In
essence, we become “messiahs,” anointed ones.

F. Have your students turn to The Sacrament of Confirmation (page 279). Have your students,
with a partner, read the information and answer the focus questions.

Formative Assessment

When students have finished, review and discuss the correct answers to The Sacrament of
Confirmation.
DAY TWO

Warm-Up

A. Project Isaiah 11:2, and have a student stand and read it aloud:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

B. Ask your students the following questions:

- Think back to when we learned about the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles at Pentecost. What is Isaiah talking about in this passage? The gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and wonder, and awe (fear of the Lord).

C. Explain to your students that Isaiah was writing about the gifts of the Holy Spirit hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. In this passage, he was describing how the Messiah would possess the gifts of the Spirit. Jesus, as we know now, is the Messiah Isaiah was waiting for and writing about. Remember that in our last lesson we learned about the meaning of the word messiah (anointed one) and how we too are made “messiahs” in the Sacrament of Confirmation because we are anointed with holy oil. That anointing is a sign of being filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, just like Jesus the Messiah, and just as the Apostles received these gifts at Pentecost.

Activity

Have your students turn to Gifts of the Holy Spirit (page 282). Arrange your students in seven groups. Assign each group one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Have each group read the description of their assigned gift and complete the activity on Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Make markers and/or colored pencils available for students to draw a symbol of their assigned gift. Circulate around the room and assist as needed.

Formative Assessment

When students have finished, have each group give a mini-presentation to the class about their assigned gift of the Holy Spirit. Have students explain what their assigned gift is, describe their three examples of how their gift can help someone announce the Good News of Jesus to others, and show and explain their illustration of that gift.
DAY THREE

Warm-Up

A. Project Ephesians 6:11-17, and read it aloud to your students:

“Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God. ...[S]tand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

B. Ask your students the following questions:

› According to St. Paul in this passage, why do we need to “put on the armor of God”? To protect ourselves against the tactics of the devil and the evil of the world and to battle against evil spirits.

› What are the different parts of the armor of God that St. Paul is talking about in this passage, and what are they for? The armor of God helps us to be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil; girded loins with truth; a breastplate of righteousness; feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace; a shield of faith; a helmet of salvation; a sword of the Spirit.

C. Explain to your students that it is not easy to live a faithful Christian life, to live like Christ. The devil and his evil spirits want to tempt us to turn away from God and to sin. The world around us is filled with temptations to sin, and other people often make those temptations look very desirable. Without God’s assistance, it would be very easy for us to give in to temptation and to sin. But, God gives us His help to avoid sin, to resist temptation, and to fight against the devil and his evil spirits. God sends us the Holy Spirit to do this. We are filled with the Holy Spirit at our Baptism, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are strengthened within us at our Confirmation. It’s very much like putting on the armor of God.

Activity

A. Show the Sophia SketchPad video on Confirmation, found at SophiaSketchpad.org. Spend a few minutes discussing students’ reactions to the video. You might ask:

› What stood out to you about this video?

› What was the most memorable part?

› Were you surprised by anything?
LESSON PLAN

Assessment

A. On their own paper, have students write a paragraph that responds to the following prompt:
   - Why is it important for us to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation?

B. When students have finished, collect their paragraphs for your own review.
The Sacrament of Confirmation

**Directions:** Read the following information about the Sacrament of Confirmation, then answer the questions that follow.

Jesus made Confirmation a Sacrament. While Baptism is the “doorway” to Christian life, Confirmation helps give us the strength to live faithfully as Christians.

When we are baptized, we are reborn in the Holy Spirit. When we are confirmed, the grace we received at Baptism is made stronger within us. We are united more closely with Jesus and the Church. The gifts of the Holy Spirit grow greater in us, and we are given special strength to spread and protect our Faith.

When we are confirmed, the bishop lays his hands upon us and prays for God’s blessing. This is similar to the way, in Jewish history, leaders would lay their hands upon someone who was selected for a task. This was a sign of being chosen. It was also a sign of God’s blessing upon the person to help him carry out his task.

The Church continues this tradition in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In this Sacrament, the bishop also anoints us with holy oil. When he does so, he says, “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.” This anointing is a symbol of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Oil cleanses, soothes, strengthens, and beautifies us. This anointing is a seal and a consecration. In other words, we are marked as God’s possession! This makes us more like Jesus, who said, “For on [the Son of Man] the Father, God, has set his seal” (John 6:27).

Just as the Son of God was sealed by the Father, we are sealed by the Father in Confirmation.

Jesus often called his Father – and our Father – “Abba.” This shows the close, familiar love of a child for his or her own parent. Confirmation, through God’s grace, brings us into this love too.
 Confirmation strengthens not only our relationship with the Father but also our relationship with His Church. By the Sacrament of Confirmation we are more perfectly bound to the Church. We are filled with the Holy Spirit, just as the Apostles were at Pentecost.

The Apostles then went out and proclaimed the gospel to the world. At our Confirmation the Holy Spirit fills us and strengthens us, like the Apostles, to be able to go out and announce the Good News of salvation to the world.

1. How is Confirmation different from Baptism?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. What are the effects of Confirmation?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. Why does the bishop lay hands upon us in Confirmation?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. What is anointing with oil a sign of?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

Answer Key

1. Baptism is the doorway to the Christian life, while Confirmation gives us the strength to live faithfully as Christians.

2. The grace we received at Baptism is made stronger in us, we are united more closely with Jesus and the Church, the gifts of the Holy Spirit grow greater in us, and we are given a special strength to spread and protect our Faith.

3. As a sign of being chosen and as a sign of God’s blessing to help the person carry out his God-given task.

Answer Key

5. It means that we are marked as God's possession, and it makes us more like Jesus.

6. The close familiar love of a child for a parent.

7. We are filled with the Holy Spirit, like the Apostles at Pentecost, to be able to go out and announce the Good News of salvation to the world.

5. What does it mean that anointing with holy oil is a seal and a consecration?

6. What does calling God “Abba” show?

7. How does Confirmation make us like the Apostles?
**Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

**Directions:** Read about your assigned gift of the Holy Spirit and answer the questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gift</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wisdom</strong></td>
<td>Wisdom helps us to know God’s plan for us and value it above all else. Wisdom also helps us to know truth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Understanding</strong></td>
<td>Understanding helps us to know and understand the truths of the Catholic Faith that are beyond our ability to know by ourselves. Understanding helps us to know and follow God’s will for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Counsel</strong></td>
<td>Counsel, or right judgment, helps us to know right from wrong and to avoid sin. Counsel gives us the ability to live a moral life and get to Heaven someday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fortitude</strong></td>
<td>Fortitude, or courage, helps us to stand up for and defend the Catholic Faith, even to the point of physical harm or death. This gift strengthens us to do God’s will, and helps us overcome fear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge</strong></td>
<td>Knowledge helps us to know of God’s plan in our own lives and to act upon it. Knowledge helps us to know our weaknesses, sins, and failures. Knowledge helps us to overcome them with the grace of God.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Piety</strong></td>
<td>Piety, or reverence, helps us have the right attitude toward God and to worship Him because we love Him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fear of the Lord</strong></td>
<td>The gift of fear of the Lord, or having wonder and awe for the Lord, allows us to recognize that God is God and we are not. By this gift, we know our relationship to God and His glory and greatness. We fear displeasing God by our sin and want to be close to Him.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is your assigned gift of the Holy Spirit?
________________________________________________________

Rewrite the definition of your assigned gift of the Holy Spirit in your own words.

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

Give three specific examples of how your assigned gift of the Holy Spirit can help you announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to others. (For example, how can the gift of Knowledge help you tell others about Jesus, salvation, and the Church?)

1. ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

On the next page, draw a symbol that represents your assigned gift of the Holy Spirit.
My Gift of the Holy Spirit:
The Armor of God

**Directions:** Watch the Sophia Sketchpad video on Confirmation and answer the questions that follow.

**Ephesians 6:11-17**

Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God. ...[S]tand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

As you watch the Sophia Sketchpad video on Confirmation, find three things in the video that show how the grace we receive from the Sacrament of Confirmation is like putting on the “armor of God.” In other words, how does the grace from the Sacrament of Confirmation help us to resist sin, to avoid temptation, and to fight against the devil and his evil spirits?

1. ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

3. ___________________________________________________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

   ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

*Accept reasoned answers*
Draw a picture of what your armor of God would look like: