

# Sunday Connection Strategies

Every time a sacrament is celebrated by an individual or a group, it deepens and celebrates the faith of the whole community. The celebration of the sacraments by children is the activity of the whole parish, not just the family, the school, or the religious education program. The following strategies will help to involve more parishioners in these special events:

- Communicate with and seek out the help of the liturgy committee, the musicians, and the art and environment committees to assist with large group celebrations as well as the celebrations in the children's sessions.
- Explain to the Social Concerns or Justice committees the vision of the *Live and Faith at Home* activities, which involve apostolic action, and ask them to discern areas and avenues where they might provide support or ideas for children and families to implement these activities.
- Present all the children who are preparing for sacraments at the Sunday Eucharist.
- Arrange for pictures of the children to be displayed in the church.
- Invite parishioners or the hospitality committee to arrange a reception for the families after a Sunday Eucharist, either at the beginning of the process or at the conclusion.
- Involve sewing groups in making banners or some other pieces of artwork for the celebration or as remembrances of the celebration.
- Invite parishioners to become prayer partners for individual children or families. Provide them with the names of children or families, and ask them to pray for them on an ongoing basis. Suggest that they find a way through the written or spoken word to be in touch with the child or family occasionally.
- Use the Bulletin Inserts, General Intercessions, and Parish Blessings that are found on pp. 45, 82–83, and 156–157.



# Sunday Connection

## Bulletin Inserts, Prayer of the Faithful, and Parish Blessings

### Session 1 Journey with the Spirit

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation will be reflecting on the promise of their Baptism and the Sacraments of Initiation. Join them by reflecting on the effect belonging to the Church has on your daily life.

**Prayer** For young people preparing for Confirmation, that they may be encouraged by the living faith of this assembly.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you as your children. They belong to you. Send the Holy Spirit upon them as they begin this time of preparation so that they may come to know your presence in all they do. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

### Session 2 Believe with the Spirit

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation will be reflecting on faith as a gift and a journey. Join them by reflecting on your own journey of faith.

**Prayer** For young people preparing for Confirmation, that they may grow in faith and be enabled to see the world with the eyes of faith.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you knowing the great love you showed by sending your Son who gave his life that we might live as children of light. Send the Holy Spirit upon them to show them how to give their lives in love and service to others. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

### Session 3 Gifted with the Spirit

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation will be reflecting on the mystery of the Trinity and the gift of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Join them by reflecting on the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

**Prayer** For young people preparing for Confirmation, that they may believe more fully in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people gather with us, your people, to give you glory. Send the Holy Spirit upon them to help them live lives of strong faith and recognize you in all the ways you show yourself to them. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

### Session 4 Empowered by the Spirit

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation will be reflecting on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Join them by reflecting on how you are using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in your daily life.

**Prayer** For young people preparing for Confirmation, that they may be open to receiving the fullness of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you open to receiving the fullness of the Gifts of your Spirit. Send your gifts in abundance that they may be instrument in realizing the fullness of your Kingdom. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

## Session 5 Anointed by the Spirit

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation will be reflecting on the meaning of being anointed and set aside for God's service in today's world. Join them by reflecting on your own anointing in Baptism and Confirmation and examining your response to being set apart by that anointing.

**Prayer** For young people preparing for Confirmation, that they may be strengthened by the anointing of the Holy Spirit to go out and bring the Good News of Jesus to those they meet.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you ready to be anointed. Send the Holy Spirit upon them that they may be a sign and witness to all they meet of your presence in the world. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

## Session 6 Sanctified by the Spirit

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation will be reflecting on their call to holiness and the role of the Holy Spirit as Sanctifier. Join them by reflecting on your own call to holiness and the witness of holiness you see in others.

**Prayer** For young people preparing for Confirmation, that they may be strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit to witness to others by lives of holiness.

**Parish Blessing** God, source of all holiness, these young people come before you knowing their fragility and weakness, but hoping in the power of your goodness. Send the Holy Spirit upon them so they will grow more fully into the image of your Son Jesus. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

## Session 7 Guided by the Spirit

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation will be reflecting on the role of the Holy Spirit in the growth of their conscience and the call to be forgivers and reconcilers. Join them by reflecting on what it means for you to be guided by the Holy Spirit in the choices you make and in your own mission of forgiveness and reconciliation.

**Prayer** For young people preparing for Confirmation, that they will continue to remember God's constant forgiveness and his will for us to be missionaries of reconciliation.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you seeking the goodness of your mercy and forgiveness. Send the Holy Spirit upon them to help them know you as always kind and merciful. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

## Session 8 Challenged by the Spirit

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation will be reflecting on how the Eucharist changes us and the Holy Spirit helps us live out our mission. Join them by reflecting on your experience of living out the mission of your Baptism.

**Prayer** For young people preparing for Confirmation, that they may be strengthened to go forth and live as disciples.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you ready to do your will. Send the Holy Spirit upon them that they may be a sign and witness to all they meet of your presence in the world. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.