

# 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, General Intercessions, and Parish Blessings

Use these as a way to involve the parish assembly in the preparation for sacraments.

### Eucharist I **We Belong**

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. Join them by taking time to think about the effect that belonging to the Church has on your daily life.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Holy Communion, 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.

### Preparing for Confirmation

#### R01 **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation and Holy Communion will be reflecting on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Join them by taking time to think about how those Gifts are active in your life today.

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

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you seeking the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Open their hearts and minds to his presence and grant them knowledge of his power. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

#### R02 **We Are Holy**

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate Confirmation and Holy Communion will be reflecting on the call to holiness. Join them this week by reflecting on your own witness to the person and message of Jesus.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Confirmation and Holy Communion, that they may see in this community many witnesses to holiness.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you yearning to be like your Son, Jesus. Send them the Holy Spirit that their eyes may be opened and their hearts set on fire with love and knowledge of him. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

Go to pp. 82-83 for the Sunday Connection information for the remainder of the Eucharist sessions.



# Sunday Connection: Eucharist

## Bulletin Inserts, General Intercessions, and Parish Blessings

Use these as a way to involve the parish assembly in the sacramental preparation.

### Session 1 We Belong

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. Join them by taking time to think about the effect that belonging to the Church has on your daily life.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Holy Communion, 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 We Gather

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about how we, as the People of God and the Body of Christ, gather on Sundays to give praise and thanks. Join them by reflecting on the words of the *Gloria* and the reasons you have to praise and thank God.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Holy Communion, that they may be aware of God's glory and blessings.

**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 recognize you in all the ways you show yourself to them and to help them continually give you thanks and praise. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

### Session 3 We Are Forgiven

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about the Eucharist as a sacrament of unity and forgiveness. Join them by reflecting on the words of the *Confiteor* and how you have experienced God's mercy and forgiveness.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Holy Communion, that they may experience God's mercy and forgiveness.

**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 4 We Listen

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about listening to God's word and reverencing the Scriptures. Join them by reflecting on this week's Sunday readings and asking the question: "What are these readings calling me to do?"

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Holy Communion, that they may be open to the presence of God as they listen to the Scriptures.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you to listen and be fed by your word. Send the Holy Spirit upon them so that they may hear your word and be empowered to live by it. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

## Session 5 We Prepare

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about the gift of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and the Mass as a sacrifice. Join them by reflecting on what gifts of sacrifice and service you bring to the altar each Sunday.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Holy Communion, that they may come to know the Cross as a symbol of love, life, and giving.

**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 so that we might live as your children. Send the Holy Spirit upon them to show them how they can give their lives in love and service to others. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord..

## Session 6 We Remember and Give Thanks

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about the Eucharistic Prayer being one of remembering and giving thanks. Join them by reflecting on what it means for you to say "Amen" or "yes" to all God's actions and promises.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Holy Communion, that they will continue to remember God's constant love and give thanks for the greatest gift, Jesus, the Son of God.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you knowing that Jesus is always with us. Send the Holy Spirit upon them so they will come to know Jesus more fully and share his love with others. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

## Session 7 We Share a Meal

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about the Eucharist as a meal where we are nourished by the Body and Blood of Jesus. Join them by reflecting on your experience of the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Holy Communion, that as they come to the table to be nourished by the presence of Jesus, they will also find him in us as a community.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you ready to come to the table and share the meal of Jesus, the Bread of Life. Send the Holy Spirit upon them that they may be transformed as they partake in the Lord's Supper. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

## Session 8 We Go Forth

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to receive Holy Communion will be reflecting about 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.

**Intercession** For young people preparing for Holy Communion, 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.



## Reconciliation

# Sunday Connection

## Bulletin Inserts, General Intercessions, and Parish Blessings

Use these as a way to involve the parish assembly in the preparation for sacraments.

### Session 1 We Are Called

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will be reflecting on being called to live in friendship with God through participation in the sacraments. Join them by taking time to think about the ways participation in the sacraments has brought you into a closer relationship with God's love.

**Intercession** For young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, that they may be encouraged by the active participation and 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 that they may come to know your presence in all they do. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

### Session 2 We Are Welcomed

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will be reflecting on how Jesus welcomes sinners. Join them by reading and reflecting on the story of Zacchaeus (*Luke 19:1–10*).

**Intercession** For young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, that they may always be open to the forgiving and transforming love of Jesus.

**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 recognize you in all the ways you show yourself to them and to continually give you thanks and praise. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

### Session 3 We Reflect

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will be reflecting on the importance of the Scriptures as a guide for our lives. Join them by reading and reflecting on The Great Commandment (*Luke 10: 25–28*) and the Beatitudes (*Matthew 5:3–12*).

**Intercession** For young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, that they will continue to love God's word and be guided by it in their actions.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you to listen and be fed by your word. Send the Holy Spirit upon them that may hear your word and be empowered to live by it. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

### Session 4 We Are Sorry

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will be reflecting on sorrow for sin and confession. Join them by reflecting on the actions and patterns in your life that distance you from a deeper relationship with Jesus and the Church. Pray to the Holy Spirit to awaken sorrow and contrition in you.

**Intercession** For young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, that they may be blessed with the ability to say "I am sorry."

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you seeking to do your will, but knowing that sometimes they turn away from you. 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 5 We Are Forgiven

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will be reflecting on the gift of forgiveness. Join them by reflecting on how you have given and received the gift of forgiveness in your life.

**Intercession** For young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time, that they may come to know the gift of God's gracious forgiveness in the sacrament and in daily life.

**Parish Blessing** God, our loving Father, these young people come before you knowing you are a forgiving God. Send the Holy Spirit upon them that they will be both enlightened and strengthened to ask for and be strengthened by your forgiving love. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

## Session 6 We Go Forth

**Bulletin Insert** During the week, our young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time will be reflecting with their families and catechists about how the sacrament empowers us to live out our mission of being forgivers and reconcilers. Join them by reflecting on your experience of being a forgiver and reconciler.

**Intercession** For young people who are preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time that they may be strengthened to go forth and live as forgiving and reconciling 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 witnesses of peace and reconciliation as they live their lives as your disciples. We ask this blessing through Christ our Lord.

