

Taking it Home

Below are suggested topics of conversation to have with your child on the Sacrament of Confirmation. You know your child best so feel free to restate these teachings in your own words and over a period of time leading up to and after Confirmation.

(If available, view photos/video of your child's Baptism.)

Your Baptism was a very special day. It was your birthday in the Church! At your Baptism, I (also name other parent) said yes to God for you to become a member of the Catholic Church. We did this because God loves us and we wanted you to experience God's love from the time you were very young. Baptism makes you part of God's family forever.

Now you are getting ready to be confirmed (and receive first Holy Communion.) This means that Jesus is giving you a special grace to help make your faith stronger, to help you make good choices, and to help others know and love Jesus the way we do! We'll remember the promises we made for you in Baptism and you will be sealed (marked) with the Holy Spirit.

Let's read a story from the bible that tells about Jesus' Baptism. (Select from Matthew 3: 13-17; Luke 3: 21-22; Mark 1: 9-11.) (note: You may wish to read the passage more than once. Ask your child questions such as: What took place in the story? What might Jesus/John the Baptist/the people around them been thinking/feeling?)

CONFIRMATION NAME

The name you were given at Baptism is _____. To be baptized by a name shows that God knows us individually and loves us. He says "yes" to each and every one of us and wants us as part of His family forever. You will be confirmed using the name you were given at Baptism.

Or: You will be confirmed in the name of a Saint. Together we'll read stories about some Saints and ask them to pray for you as you make a decision on a name. When you are confirmed with a Saint name you are promising to be like that Saint, loving and serving Jesus in a very special way.

SPONSOR

God knows that we need other people to help us grow in faith. When you were baptized your godparent(s) _____ promised to help you know, love, and serve Jesus and the Catholic Church. (S)he has helped you to grow in the Catholic faith by (provide examples, especially referencing the Catholic creed recited at Baptism). Would you like to ask her/him to be your sponsor? I will help you!

Or: God knows that we need other people to help us grow in faith. When you were baptized your godparent(s) promised to help you know, love, and serve Jesus and the Catholic Church.

Let's think about a grown-up (sponsor is one who is age 16 or older and has completed the initiation sacraments) who has helped you to grow in the Catholic faith. (name of person and examples especially referencing the Catholic creed recited at Baptism). Would you like to ask him/her to be your sponsor? I will help you!

CONFIRMATION DURING MASS

Your Confirmation (and first Holy Communion) will take place during a special Mass with the bishop. Bishop Larry Silva is a very special priest and the leader of our Catholic Church here in Hawaii. He (or a priest whom he will send to our parish) represents Jesus when you receive the sacraments. After the homily at Mass you will stand in front of the bishop. He will place his hands upon your head and ask the Holy Spirit to give you a special blessing to help you be more like Jesus. After that, you will be anointed and sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. The bishop will make the sign of the cross on your forehead with a holy oil called chrism. To be sealed by the Holy Spirit means that you will wear God's sacred imprint (or mark) during your entire life. Jesus gives you a special strength to be more like Him, to love and serve others and His Church.

Being confirmed means that you are given special gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord. Let's read what God tells us about them in the Bible. (Read Isaiah 11:2 – 3)

Wisdom helps us recognize the importance of others and the importance of keeping God central in our lives.

Understanding is the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message.

Knowledge is the ability to think about and explore God's revelation, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith that we cannot fully comprehend.

Counsel is the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan and make the right choices.

Fortitude is the ability to have courage and remain strong, even when our faith is challenged.

Piety (reverence) helps us to be humble before God and be devoted to Him.

Fear of the Lord (awe) is the ability to be amazed by God, to realize He loves us unconditionally and to never want to break our bonds with Him.

GROWING IN FAITH

Confirmation (and first Holy Communion) prepare us to grow in faith during our entire lives. Each Sunday when we go to Mass, we will be fed with the real Body and Blood of Jesus which will keep us strong as Christians. As a family we will share Jesus' love for us by praying, helping others, and asking for forgiveness when sin. Our lives will be joyful now and when God calls us to heaven.

Let's talk about some ways our family can grow closer to Jesus:

- Establish a regular routine of prayer.
- Celebrate the Baptism day of each child/family member.
- Set up a sacred space in the home with a Bible, crucifix and other symbols of the Catholic faith.
- Make a formal commitment to regularly attend Mass on Sunday (or even daily) as a family.
- Get to know and develop a relationships with other Catholic parents and their children.
- Your own ideas:

RESOURCES

The videos on Original Order and the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation are available in DVD format or online at <http://catholichawaii.org/catholic-essentials/sacrament-videos/>

Family life resources are available at www.catholichawaii.org