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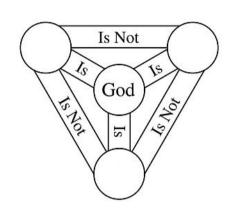
This content is not designed to be self-guided in any way. It is to be done by the Candidate (that's you) with the guidance of both a trusted adult and the Holy Spirit.

If parents are not able to help, please consider your Confirmation Sponsor, Godparent, or Grandparent.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Hoy Spirit is of course one person of the Trinity. We have been taught this for years, and we say it every time we pray, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." But what do we really know about the Holy Spirit and who He really is in our lives?

The truth is that this is one of the mysteries of our faith, how this works as 3 Persons, one God, is not exactly clear through scripture and it is something that can neither be proved or disproved through scripture.





But that does not mean that we cannot grasp any part of this mystery. Through the gifts of the Spirit, we can learn a thing or two. Sometimes it is helpful to look at the Trinity as a family. The members of the family are the Father, the Creator. Jesus as the Son, or Redeemer. And the Holy Spirit, the Love between the Father and the Son and our Advocate.

Think about families on earth. A good family operates in this way as well. When a husband and wife, who are individuals, are joined as one, they are a family. The children they bring into

the world through that love are also part of the family. And the family works together as one. They each have their roles in the family yet remain individual in every way.

Read John 14:15-17





Read the text box in your Bible under either the "Live It!" section on page 1508, or the "Searching for God" section on page 1424, depending on the edition you are using. Think about the question that text asks you and write your answer below. You might want to ask an adult the same question as well. It is okay if your answers are different.

Horvath's Violin

When the aging farmer discovered an unexpected gift under the roof space of his family's ancient farmhouse, he had no idea that his life was about to change. Sixty-eight year old Imre Horvath had spent his entire life scratching out an existence by selling poultry and eggs as a chicken Farmer on the farm his father had built. When young Imre was young, his father, Zoltan, was called off to war. His father never returned, and the priceless gift he had hidden in the attic of the family farm lay undiscovered for decades. When at last Imre uncovered his father's violin, he knw it was a beautiful instrument. But when he took it to the city to have the violin appraised, Imre received astounding news: The violin was a Stradivarius!

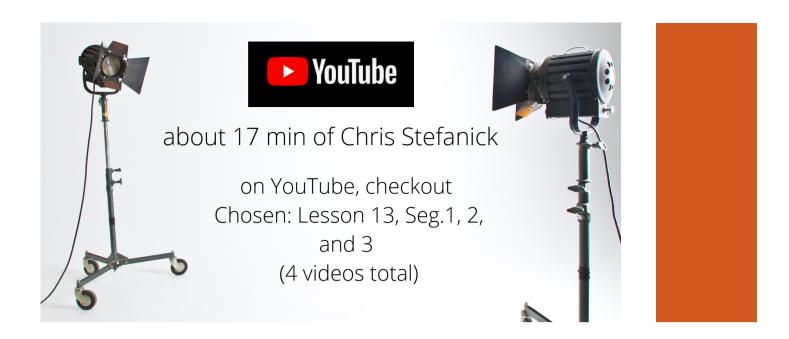
Stradivarius violins are among the most highly valued in the world. Antonio Stradivari (1644-1737) is believed to have crafted about 1,100 instruments; only about 650 survive. A Stradivarius can sell at auction for up to \$16 million. All those years, Imre had and AMAZING gift that could have changed his life... but he never "cashed in" on it or used it. He simply didn't know it was there.

That is us with the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit is called "the gift of God" because he lavishly pours out his gifts on us! The gifts you've been given in baptism probably won't make you a millionaire, but they are valuable currency in the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit comes to give us everything we need to become the people he made us to be and to fulfill the mission he has called us to accomplish in this world.

Are you cooperating with those gifts? Are you asking for them? Are you cashing in?





Wisdom is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

Understanding is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

Counsel, is the gift of prudence. The gift of right judgment helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.

Fortitude, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of courage helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.

Knowledge is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God. It encourages you to avoid obstacles that will keep you from him.

Piety, is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.

Fear of the Lord is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages you to be in awe of God. The gift of wonder and awe moves you to so love God that you do not want to offend him by your words or actions.



When you are Confirmed, even if you haven't memorized the gifts of the Spirit. They will still be strengthened and sealed in you, but if you can name them. it will be easier to recognize god at work in your life. You will be glad you took the time.



"Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who brought these your servants to new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, freeing them from sin;send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete; give them the spirit of wisdom, and understanding, the spirit of council and fortitude, the spirit of Knowledge and piety; fill them with the spirit of the fear fo the Lord. Through Christ our Lord." (Order of Confirmation, number 25)

Just like seeds, the gifts of the Spirit don't just automatically take over. When you buy a packet of tomato seeds from the store, for example, you have to first open the packet and take out the seeds, then place the seeds in fertile ground and make sure that you pay attention that weeds don't grow and kill your plant. Keep it watered and make sure it gets the correct amount of light. If you do well and use the materials you have to grow your plant, you will get tomatoes.

The Gifts of the Spirit are very much like that, you have to open the gift. When you turn to the Holy Spirit often in your life and nurture that relationship, you will see the fruits of the Spirit grow in you almost effortlessly. Just like you cannot make the seed turn into a tomato, you cannot make yourself the person God created you to be without His working in you.

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Look up Galatians 5:22-23

Write	e the Fruits of	the Spirit here.	Make it a poin	t to memorize k	ooth the Fruits a	and the Gi



MEET

Elizabeth Ann Seton

Elizabeth Ann Seton was a wife, mother of 5, and also had 6 children that her and her husband took in from a family member. Widowed after only 10 years of marriage, she had her share of hardships but her concerns for the spiritual welfare of her family and friends as well as the strong desire for the Bread of Life is what led her to the Catholic Church. In order to help care for her many children, she was encouraged to start a school in Baltimore, MD and later that school became the first free Catholic School in the USA. This later blossomed into 2 orphanges and another school after she took her vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.



Lord God, you blessed Elizabeth Seton with gifts of grace as wife and mother, educator, and foundress, so that she might spend her life in service to your people. Through her example and prayers, may we learn to express our love for you in love for our fellow men and women. We ask this through Christ our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Elizabeth An Seton was a pioneer in our country for free education in a time when education was only for the wealthy. She is the first canonized saint in the USA.

Facts & Stats

Feastday: January 4

Patron: of in-law problems, against the death of children, widows, death of parents, and opposition

of Church authorities **Birth**: August 28, 1774 **Death**: January 4, 1821

Beatified: by Pope John XXIII on March 17, 1963 **Canonized**: by Pope Paul VI on September 14,

1975

*Dates to remember

Saint Report is due December 11 - Please takes some time to consider a saint based on things that draw you to that saint, like similar interests or things in that saints life that inspire you. Pray with that saint and learn about them. The report can be emailed to me, uploaded to the Confirmation Prep page on our website, or handed in the old fashioned way. If you need help, I will be glad to help you.

Sponsor information Form- This needs to be filled out as soon as possible. The form is also on the Confirmation Prep page on our website. This form is not to be filled out by you, but by your sponsor.

Works of Mercy- If you have not started these, time to get cracking. The holidays are the best time to "see a need, fill a need". Please remember that these are not designed as a hoop to jump through or a box to check, they are to help you see your value in God's world and your connection with Christ as you move as His hands and feet. When you do these works, remember to be intentional in love for His children as He loves you.