

Dear Parents,

Hopefully you and your child are keeping up alright with the instructions for Family Catechesis. By now, your family should be through Session 5 in the Jr. High Golden Thread Journal. Although the core content of History's Golden Thread has many of the things included that we would normally want the kids to know before Confirmation, there are a few things that we feel needs added. The things that really focus on what is about to happen at Confirmation as well as what has been happening in their short lives post-baptism.

The focus of this lesson:

1. Who is the Holy Spirit in the Trinity
2. What are the Gifts of the Spirit
3. What are the Fruits of the Spirit
4. How the Gifts affect the Fruits
5. How to see these working and growing in us

Please begin this lesson with the Come Holy Spirit prayer located on the last page in Session 5 of your child's journal. Pray the 1st half 3 times before continuing on to the 2nd half. One for your mouth, with those two out of the way, the last one is for your heart. This prayer is a special prayer that we use for every session of Edge and Confirmation. We do this so that we are making an invitation for God to inspire and guide us through the lessons and activities in order to draw us closer to Him who loves us most.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Some fun content if you want is to look up "Camper Moving" Aderdale on YouTube. The family needed to move their camper during a camping trip just across the street. This is kind of a human representation of what the Holy Trinity is on our level. I mean that in regards to how the family moves. They obviously all have things that they do in this process and they all share the same goal (to move the camper). Even though each of them moves independently of the others, they are operating as one body, the family.

Theology of the Body Connection- God is a family and He made us humans in their image. One part of us that resembles God is that we are part of a family also. Part of our human family and, of course, part of God's family. Each member of our family brings something different to the table by our nature and by our personality. This is a good time to discuss this with your young man or lady. How do the different personalities and natures in your family affect your household in a positive way? Gen 1:27

Gifts and Fruits

It is important to stress that the Gifts are free, but just like the plant, you don't just open a seed packet and expect to get a plant. The plant does its part, but we have to do ours, too. God never said He would do all things *for us*, He wishes to do them *with us*. This was the plan from the very beginning as we read in Genesis (Gen 1:28-29 and 2:15). God wished to walk with us then and that has not changed, but it is up to us to open that door.

Conclude the lesson with the prayer to the Holy Spirit again and this time add a petition or a thanksgiving and invite your youth to do the same. When you are finished, invite your youth to journal on the back page about the lesson or whatever topic you feel might be good for him/her to reflect on.

Do notice the Dates to remember at the top of that list. It is not the whole Confirmation list, but they are the next big things. Not included, but prob should have, is that if you have not filled out your Confirmation Information sheet on the Confirmation Prep page on our website, please do that today. I will be needing these things in order to move forward on the technical record keeping end here at the parish. If you haven't because you don't have a copy of the baptism certificate from a different parish, contact the parish where you had him/her baptized and ask them to mail you a copy. I do not need a certified copy. A scan or regular copy will be just fine. You will want to keep the certified ones.