

## MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE : CONFIRMATION

### GIFTS LESSON

At Baptism the **Holy Spirit** gives us Gifts.

When do you all receive **gifts**? (Christmas, bday etc). You receive gifts because the person who gifts you wants to show you that they **love and care about you**. You might need something (clothes) that you might receive. Or you might also get something that will help you out (money). But the gift giver gives you a gift because he/she **LOVES** you.

God gives us gifts because **God loves us**. Period. God wants you to be happy. And God knows how hard this life can be! (JESUS) Like we talked about a couple weeks ago, Jesus, who is God, lived a life just like ours. He knows how hard it can be to make good choices that will lead to happiness.

The Holy Spirit, who is the gift giver, gives us **7 main gifts** when? (at Baptism). ***We receive these gifts to help us follow the Lord, fulfill God's plan for our life, make this world a better place and ultimately to be happy.*** These gifts often remain unopened or partially opened until Confirmation. At Confirmation, the Spirit stirs up, or opens the gifts already given to you so that you can better USE them. But like any gift, you can choose to not use it and let it sit there, collecting dust on the shelf. The more you use the gifts that God gives you, the more gifts you will receive. If you choose not to use them, you will lose them. (Kind of like playing a sport or instrument- the more you practice the better you get, if you stop playing, you lose it.)

**Let's look at what those 7 gifts are:**

### GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT—ISAIAH 11:2-3

#### 4 Know God's Will

**WISDOM**--Helps us to know what is **important**...**Divine guidance** that helps us to know and conform to **God's ways**...Helps us make **right decisions** and guides us from doing wrong...

**UNDERSTANDING**-- Deepens our insight into **Christian mysteries**, helping us understand the **REASON** for our beliefs...Helps us discover what the Bible has to teach us...gift of thinking and **reflecting** on experience...people with understanding ***think things through and act on their insights***

**KNOWLEDGE**--Enables us to know what is **true** in life...and reveals **God's will** for our lives as it helps us comprehend **what God asks of us** and how to respond ...gift of seeking out the facts and information necessary to make wise and fair decisions

**COUNSEL**--Gives us the ability to **make good choices** and seek advice from wise people... Helps us to lead others in knowing what is right and wrong and how to be courageous in doing what is right

#### 3 Do God's Will

**FORTITUDE**--Aids us in doing the right thing and obey the Lord even in difficult circumstances...Helps us to love God and others and to do what God wants us to do even when we are afraid.

**PIETY**--Helps us to pray... helps us see God in everything and sets our hearts aflame with devotion to God

**FEAR OF THE LORD**--Enables us to give honor to our God... gift of awe and wonder at God's presence in creation and in us...Enables us to acknowledge God's greatness, have sorrow at any offense against God, and avoid occasions of possible offense

These gifts are given to help us live out our Baptismal Promises which we renew at Confirmation. These gifts help us not only follow Christ but help others to follow Christ.

Now we are going to read a few scenarios and you are going to tell me which gift they need to use or which gift they use.

**Scenarios (answer each in the google form and include WHY you think this)**

- 1) You are at Edge and you are learning about Confirmation. You don't get why it's important and you don't get what is really happening. What gift should you ask for?
- 2) You go to adoration and don't see anything but a piece of bread. What gift can you ask that will help you?
- 3) It's a Friday night. Your friends are going to the football game and hanging out. You want to be there. It's your little sister's birthday and she wants to have cake and hang out with you. What gift will help you?
- 4) You walk outside at night and look up. You see millions of stars and feel very very small. You reflect on how small you are and how ginormous God is. What gift are you using?
- 5) Some of your friends are talking badly about someone in your class behind their back. You know you should tell them to knock it off. What gift could you use?
- 6) You have a sibling who has been hanging w/ the wrong crowd. You feel you should talk to him. What gift could you use?
- 7) You are trying to decide how to arrange your schedule next year. There is a lot to consider: classes, sports, church, theatre, family. What gift would help you?

**Look over the gifts. Choose the one you want most. Write it down. Pray for it.**

**Gift you most want:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**FRUITS LESSON**

**Read *Matthew 7:15-20***

Do you have the Gifts of the Spirit? Are you using them?

We all have the gifts of the Spirit, if we are baptized. Some of these gifts we might already use, some we might use a lot, others we might not have as much of the gift or we just might not use it. How do you know if you have a gift and are using it?

We know we have and are using the Gifts of the Spirit by the fruit that is produced. These fruits are called the Fruits of the Spirit. There are 9 basic fruits of the Spirit.

**Fruits of the Spirit**

- 1) **LOVE:** *love is WANTING WHAT'S BEST FOR THE OTHER, thus if we are bearing the fruit of love then we consider the **well-being of others** before our own,*

- 2) **JOY:** joy is not happiness, Joy is something that does not go away and is shown as gratitude, optimism, contentment and an overall sense of **freedom**.
- 3) **PEACE:** Peace is being **settled in your own skin**, decisions and spirit.
- 4) **PATIENCE:** Patience is **self-restraint** and careful thinking.
- 5) **KINDNESS:** Kindness is a genuine tender **concern** for others.
- 6) **GOODNESS:** it is doing things for others in order to **help** them and be a blessing to them.
- 7) **FAITHFULNESS:** steadfast allegiance; it is unwavering **loyalty** and believing that God is who He says He is and continuing in that belief despite doubts;
- 8) **GENTLENESS:** Gentleness involves humility and **thankfulness** toward God, and polite, restrained behavior toward others. The opposites of gentleness are anger, a desire for revenge, and self-aggrandizement.
- 9) **SELF-CONTROL:** the ability to **control** oneself; involving **moderation**, constraint and the ability to say NO to our desires- it builds discipline and frees us from addictions and lust.

Like in our scripture, you know someone is legit **by what comes from their actions**. The fruit they bear. The outcome. Do your actions produce LIFE, joy, goodness, happiness? Does your life?

For example- friends. You hang out with your friends but are always negative, they talk about others, they make bad decision. You can see yourself acting the same way at times. What kind of fruit is this? Negativity etc is not good fruit. What should you do? Probably get out of this friend group and find one that produces good fruit.

When the fruit bore is joy, peace, etc, you know you are making good choices and leading a life that is bringing you closer God and following God's plan this will ultimately lead to happiness.

Look at the sheet of the various fruits and read their definitions.

**Scenarios:** after reading each scenario, determine if the fruit that is bore was good fruit or bad fruit and why you think that.

- 1) You are in line at the Meijer checkout. You are in a hurry because you have to get to practice. You have 1 item and are in the <20 checkout lane and the person in front of you has a cart full. You are annoyed, roll your eyes and stand there fuming as you angrily text your mom and post angry pictures of yourself on Instagram. What's the fruit? \_\_\_\_\_. What would have been a good fruit that you could have bore? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) You are taking a test. You studied but just couldn't get it. Your grade relies on this test. You start to take it but immediately know that you are not doing well. Your friend sits right by you and if you want, you can look at his test. You feel overwhelming temptation to do this. It's your GRADE! You struggle with the decision but finally block your view from his test and avoid looking at his answers. In the end you feel frustrated because you know you did poorly on the test but peaceful that you did not cheat. What's the fruit? \_\_\_\_\_ What was the good fruit that you practiced? \_\_\_\_\_

3) You are in a relationship. You and your bf/gf feel very strongly about each other and think you love each other. You tend to get a little jealous when he/she talks to other guys/girls or hangs w/ friends. You don't hang out with your friends very much anymore because you always want to be w/ him/her. You fight w/ your parents about this and have even quit the school play which you loved doing last year. What is the fruit? \_\_\_\_\_

What would be signs of a healthy fruit bearing relationship?

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4) You have been busy all weekend. Between sports, school, family and friends you are exhausted. It's Sunday morning and all you want to do is sleep in. You set your alarm and debate about getting up. Finally you get up and ready for Mass. You put a smile on and know that this is the most important thing you will do w/ your week. What is the fruit \_\_\_\_\_

What's the fruit?

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Looking at the various fruits, which do you see produced in your life? Which do you want? Write it down. Pray for it.

Fruit you want most \_\_\_\_\_

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## CONFIRMATION LESSON:

### History of Confirmation

#### Initiation into the Christian community.

- In the early days, confirmation was PART of the Sacrament of Baptism
- 1<sup>st</sup> Century: Christians were **baptized w/ water and the laying** on of hands by the bishop (what we now know as Confirmation)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Century: **anointing with oil** was added to the laying on of hands in the rite of baptism.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Century: early church; by 300AD w/ the growth of infant baptism, bishops were no longer able to preside at each baptism. 412 AD Pope Innocent I insists on bishop anointing separate from Baptism. This is the first time we hear the term Confirmation.

### 2 Anointings

Anointing w/ oil has all these meanings in sacramental life: at baptism, anointing w/ oil signifies **cleansing and strengthening**; The anointing w/ **sacred chrism in confirmation is sign of CONSECRATION**. Because of Confirmation Christians, those who are anointed, share more completely in the **mission of Jesus** and the **FULLNESS of the Holy Spirit** w/ which he is filled so that their lives may give off the "aroma of Christ"

### WHAT does this mean?

Confirmation developed w/in our history as Roman Catholics.

**It is directly connected to baptism and eucharist as a sacrament of initiation and is necessary to COMPLETE THE BAPTISMAL GRACE**

## What IS IT?

- Confirmation is the 2<sup>nd</sup> sacrament of initiation where the bishop lays hands on you and anoints you or consecrates you. In the sacrament of Confirmation, we are more PERFECTLY BOUND TO THE CHURCH AND ENRICHED W/ A SPECIAL STRENGTH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AS A RESULT we are obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and action.
- It imprints a character, enriches by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and binds you more perfectly w/ the church and strengthens your ability to witness
- Leads the Christian towards an intimacy w/ Christ & familiarity w/ the Holy Spirit
- Awakens a sense of belonging to the church

## What it's NOT

- Choice to ratify baptism (or take back your baptism)
- Becoming an adult in the church, sacrament of maturity or rite of passage

## What is REQUIRED?

- One must be in a state of grace
- Receive the **sacrament of penance** prior
- Have a more intense prayer life
- Have a sponsor
- Be baptized
- suitably instructed (can renew baptismal promises, catechized, able to participate in the rite)
- Properly disposed (open, relationship w/ the trinity, relationship w the church)