

# OLV Confirmation Preparation

Fifth Session – April 15, 2012



Welcome  
Hand out name tags



## Reading from the Acts, ch. 2

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

For our reading tonight, we have taken parts from two readings:

1- from the Acts (Chapter 2)

2- from John (Chapter 20)

which you will hear again on Pentecost, in May.

What are readings from the Acts?

The Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of The Gospel according to Luke.

Its chief purpose is to tell how Jesus' early followers, led by the Holy Spirit, spread the Good News about him.

It is a story of the Christian movement as it began among the Jewish people and went on to become a faith for the whole world.

Who will do these readings tonight?



## Reading from John, ch. 20

It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."



## Feedback on Easter Triduum

- Did anyone attend the Holy Thursday celebration – washing of feet?
- How about Good Friday?
- Thoughts on the Easter Vigil –
  - Fire
  - Light
  - Long!

## 4 Areas of Parish Life

Faith Formation

Transformation Committee

Liturgy Committee

Fellowship Committee

- OLV Society – teas, receptions, etc.
- Parish bulletin announcements
- Sunday Coffee at OLV – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month
- Annual parish suppers
- Etc.

In the previous sessions, we covered the first three areas.

The Fellowship Committee really covers all the areas of parish life. Whenever we gather, there is fellowship.

Without fund-raisers, our parishes would not survive. The weekly collections barely cover the oil needed to heat the buildings.

The annual parish suppers are the most popular events when we can all sit down over a meal.

The spring supper this year will be held on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – a prime rib bbq

## Sacraments

Christ instituted the sacraments of the new law. The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life.



At our first session, we looked at Baptism, the basis of the whole Christian life – a gateway or door giving us access to the sacraments.

Tonight, we look at Confirmation

## What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a Christian celebration by which the confirmed receive the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

The disciples were afraid indeed to be recognized as Jesus' followers and be condemned also. In the Gospel readings that we read today, we can find

1. proof of resurrection
2. commission to go out as Jesus did
3. receiving the Holy Spirit
4. sacrament of penance

Remember the story at the last session about imagining that you are a disciple of Jesus and witness to many wonderful events. And then he dies on the cross like a common criminal.

## Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity, a mystery in itself, which we take on faith.

- The one whom the Father has sent into our hearts, the Spirit of his Son, is truly God.
- Consubstantial (the same in essence and nature) with the Father and the Son, the Spirit is inseparable from them, in both the inner life of the Trinity and his gift of love to the world.
- When the Father sends his Word, he always sends his Breath
- In their joint mission, the Son & the Holy Spirit are distinct but inseparable.
- It is Christ who is seen, the visible image of the invisible God, but it is the Spirit who reveals him.

## Examples of Holy Spirit

- In Genesis – creation. “In the beginning... while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters...” and Hebrew word “ruah” which translates to wind, breath or spirit
- In Genesis – “The Lord formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”
- In the Creed – “I believe ... and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.”
- In Jesus’ Baptism – As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God, coming down like a dove and lighting on him.

## Signs of Holy Spirit

A sign or symbol is something that we visually can see or sense, that represents something more important.

Signs of the presence of God in the celebration of Confirmation:

- The Christian community assembled
- The bishop
- The candidates
- The Word of God
- The prayer of the community for the gift of the Spirit
- The laying on of hands
- The anointing with chrism
- The Eucharist

Sign of the Holy Spirit in the Bible are: wind, fire, dove, water, laying on of hands, to be sealed



## Gifts of the Holy Spirit

During the confirmation ceremony, the bishop extends his hands over the candidates and prays:

“All-powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.”

Let's look at each of the seven gifts described by the prophet Isaiah and reflect upon what they mean in our present lives:

1. Wisdom – the opposite of narrow-mindedness. A wise person does not look at things from just one point of view, but sees the whole picture.
2. Courage (Fortitude) – the gift that enables a person to live up to the decision he or she has made, no matter what obstacles emerge. Courage is especially valuable to young people who must continually face the challenge of remaining true to their convictions, despite the tremendous influence of peers, the media, etc.
3. Reverence (Piety) – teaches a person to treasure and respect life and all that sustains it. The gift of reverence enables us to treat all creation with tenderness, care, and respect, just as loving parents would treat their precious children.

4. Understanding – means “heart-knowledge”. To understand means to be able to “walk in another’s shoes” and to see a situation through another’s eyes. Understanding requires great sensitivity toward others’ feelings and awareness of others’ life experiences.
5. Right Judgment (Counsel) – means making good decisions. In order to make good decisions, one needs to do the necessary background work, understand all alternatives, and have knowledge of the consequences. Good decision-making is often difficult, and right judgment usually involves both the intellect and the heart.

6. Knowledge – is the gift of thinking clearly, intelligently, and perceptively.
7. Wonder and Awe in God's Presence (Fear of the Lord) – is the gift that allows us to recognize, with a profound feeling of amazement, that we are always in God's presence. This gift enables a person to experience all of life as a great gift given by God and to recognize God's presence in every individual.



## Fruits of the Holy Spirit

In Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, we read:

"The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (5:22-23).

In other words, when we actively immerse ourselves in the building of God's kingdom on earth, we will reap the "fruits" of our hard work and personal growth.

Using Scripture as a reference, the Church has traditionally taught twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faith, modesty, self-control, and chastity.

When we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we begin a new journey of growth toward Christian maturity.

## Link to Baptism

- The sign of the Cross
- The renewal of Baptismal promises
- The laying on of hands
- The anointing with chrism



Here's what some teenagers would like to tell you about Confirmation



You will probably want to review everything before next Sunday.

You can see all the documents we have handed out from the beginning, including our notes, on our website.

This is the home page of our website – just click on the Confirmation link



This is what you can find in the Confirmation link

Be aware that the Bishop may ask you questions.

**Go Make a Difference** by Steve Angrisano

**Chorus:**

Go make a difference, we can make a difference  
Go make a difference in the world  
Go make a difference, we can make a difference  
Go make a difference in the world

**First Verse:**

We are the salt of the earth, called to let the people see  
The love of God in you and me  
We are the light of the world, not to be hidden, but be seen  
Go make a difference in the world

**Second Verse:**

We are the hands of Christ, reaching out to those in need  
The face of God for all to see  
We are the spirit of hope, we are the voice of peace  
So go make a difference in the world

**Third Verse:**

So let your love shine on, let it shine for all to see  
Go make a difference in the world  
And the Spirit of Christ will be with us as we go  
Go make a difference in the world.