

About This Section

PART THREE • For the Parish Assembly

The whole community is responsible for initiation (see RCIA 9). This section was designed to assist the parish assembly with its essential role in sacrament preparation. Many members of the community have not had the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of sacraments in their lives as adults. Resources in this section can help facilitate a deeper awareness and experience of the sacraments.

This section includes:

● Parish Blessings

Each week during the preparation period, young people are called forward or are asked to stand at their place before the final blessing at the eucharistic liturgy. The presider and the entire community join in blessing them and sending them forth.

● A Parish Flyer: Sacramental People

- Reproduce the entire flyer and include it in your parish newsletter or bulletin each week of the preparation period.
- Consider making these flyers contemporary or local by adding suggestions which reinforce the message of the lead article for your particular parish community.

—Reproduce elements of the flyers directly into your newsletter or bulletin each week.

—Use the flyers as handouts for parents and adults at meetings.

—Mail the flyers to families each week of the preparation period along with any reminders you are mailing.

● Bulletin Announcements

These announcements can be placed in the bulletin each week as an update. You can add meeting times, scheduling information, and other details to make these fit your program.

● Parish Involvement

This piece provides a variety of suggestions to connect the parish community with those preparing for sacraments.

● General Intercessions

These prayers can be used at the Sunday liturgies, weekday liturgies, school liturgies, and other parish prayer experiences.

Sacramental People

AS MEMBERS OF THIS PARISH COMMUNITY PREPARE FOR SACRAMENTS,
WE THE FAITHFUL JOURNEY WITH THEM.

We Listen to the Holy Spirit Discernment

If you want to repair your car, you better know something about cars and how they run, so that you can figure out what to do. If you want to bake a cake, you better know something about the ingredients and their preparation, so that you can figure out what to do. Much of life, especially its problems and challenges, requires us to apply our minds to a task and figure out what to do.

There is a whole other range of life, however, that we cannot just figure out. It has to do with sin and forgiveness and hope and the basic direction of our lives. These are

responsibilities that we do not simply figure out but rather discover. We learn to watch and wait. We ask for the help of God's Holy Spirit to enlighten us and enable us to make the right discovery of these deep truths. Spiritually, this type

of discovery is what we call discernment, a process of sifting through our lives with God's help to discover the right direction or truth of our lives.

The help of the Holy Spirit is decisive. Saint Paul knew this and wrote about it to his beloved community in Corinth: "For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. . . . We have received



not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God" (1 Corinthians 2:10b, 12).

Faith Focus

The Holy Spirit helps us make good decisions and put them into action.

The Church Says . . .

The word of God is the light for our path as we form our conscience. In faith and prayer we must listen to the word of God, assimilate it, and put it into practice. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the teaching of the Church, and the witness and advice of others assist us in this important task. (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1785)

Prayer

God of goodness and mercy,
Thank you for sending us
the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We know that the Spirit is always with us.

Help us live as lights in the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

For Reflection

What do I hear when I listen to the Holy Spirit?

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