



Evening of Prayer and Preparation
Prior to the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation

This evening is designed using a portion of the “*Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday*” from the R.C.I.A. (Liturgy Training Publications, 1988).

General Instructions about the celebration:

1. Timing of the event is critical. Please consult with the pastor, the Confirmation Team and the families in selecting an evening within two weeks before the Celebration of Confirmation so that 100% participation is possible.
2. The date should be set early in the Confirmation process, placed on the parish calendar and regularly communicated as the time draws near for the celebration of Confirmation.
3. This event is for the Confirmandi, the parents, the sponsors, and the Confirmation Team.
4. The opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance should be provided at this event. Depending upon the size of the group, other priests from the area may be needed to serve those present.
5. The Confirmandi are to be advised that to be prepared for the day of their Confirmation, they should spend some extra time in prayer.

Model for a Celebration of Preparation for Confirmation

1. **Song:** When the confirmandi have gathered, the celebration begins with a suitable song; preferably one of the songs the confirmandi selected when they planned the Confirmation liturgy.
2. **Greeting:** After the Entrance procession, the pastor leads all in making the Sign of the Cross, greets the Confirmandi, parents, sponsors, and team members and invites them into this opportunity to pray and prepare our minds and souls to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
3. **Reading of the Word of God and Holy Spirit Prayer:** The pastor or a Confirmation Team member reads from the Gospel of Luke 3:20-22 & 4:1-2 and prays the reflection. Together, the gathered community prays the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.
4. **Reminder of Baptism:** The pastor or a Confirmation Team member provides a brief reflection on the importance of Baptism prior to Confirmation.
5. **Practice of the Confirmation Liturgy:** The Confirmation Team, pastor, and liturgist practice for the Confirmation liturgy including the following elements:
 - a. Processional
 - b. Music for the liturgy
 - c. Elements within the Confirmation Rite
 - i. Laying on of hands
 - ii. Anointing with Chrism
 - d. Recessional
 - e. Q&A about the details of the liturgy
6. **Invitation into the Sacrament of Penance and an Examination of Conscience:** The pastor should invite the gathered community to participate in the Sacrament of Penance. As part of this invitation, he should explain the process for confession that day/evening, particularly if more than one priest is present to hear confessions. The Director of Religious Education, Youth Minister, or Confirmation Team member should lead the gathered community in an Examination of Conscience. The Confirmandi and family are dismissed once they have completed the Sacrament of Penance. The Confirmation Team will have a reminder packet for each family as they leave the Church. The reminder packet includes last-minute information on everything the family needs to do to prepare for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

PRAYER SERVICE FOR CONFIRMATION MEETING

A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke (3:21-22 ; 4:1-2)

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven,

“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry.

*Many times we read how Jesus was led by the Spirit...
Into the wilderness to spend time apart in prayer.
Jesus needed to prepare for all he had to do.
Over and over he was led by the Spirit
into the wilderness to be strengthened and renewed...
The Holy Spirit wants to lead us, too, into the wilderness...
The Spirit wants us to spend time apart in quiet...
...where we can listen with our hearts,
...where we can train to live a Christian life,
...where we can prepare to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
on Confirmation Day.*

May the Spirit lead us to pray more.

R. Holy Spirit lead us.

May the Spirit lead us to wonder more. **R.**

May the Spirit lead us to forgive more. **R.**

May the Spirit lead us to care more. **R.**

May the Spirit lead us to share more. **R.**

May the Spirit lead us to appreciate more. **R.**

May the Spirit lead us to understand more. **R.**

May the Spirit lead us to love more. **R.**

Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

All: Holy Spirit, I want to do what is right.

Holy Spirit, I want to live like Jesus.

Holy Spirit, I want to pray like Jesus.

Help me.

Guide me.

Teach me.

Amen.