

Purpose by Life Teen

Preparation for Confirmation

Year One – 9th Grade

Session 1: BEGINNINGS: Introduction to the Confirmation process (parent and teen session)

- Parents are the first and primary educators of their children; the Church supports them in this task.
- A sacrament imparts a grace — a free gift from God — that helps us respond to God’s call to holiness in our lives.
- Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation leads the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and a lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit in order to be more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of the Christian life.

Session 2: SEEKING: What is our desire?

- We are all created with inherent desires and spend our lives trying to discover and fulfill them.
- When we try to fill our deepest longings with things other than God, we often feel unfulfilled and disappointed.
- There is something greater in store for us. Our earthly desires point us in the direction of our heavenly yearning.
- Introduce “Going Deeper in Prayer” prayer card, diolc.org/prayer The Prayer for the year-long focus is Praying with Scripture (*lectio divina*), which includes a simple prayer worksheet.

Session 3: REASONS: Faith and reason

- Sacred Scripture is more like a library of several books from various genres than a single book. There are four different “senses” or methods of reading: literal, moral, allegorical, and anagogical.
- God created us to know Him. The gift of reason, or intellect, is geared toward that knowledge. As the author of all truth, God would not reveal Himself in a way that is contrary to the gift of right reason, for that would be contradictory to His plan.
- The Church has always encouraged reason and science and has sought to unify what we can know through science with what God has revealed to us.

Session 4: REVEAL: Is God real?

- God’s existence is philosophical, not scientific. Science can only tell us about the measurable, physical world. God, because He is infinite and pure spirit, cannot be measured by science.
- God, in His infinite goodness and wisdom, chose to reveal Himself to us in time so that we could know and love Him.
- God does not merely reveal Himself to us, He also nourishes us and sustains us so that we might experience the goodness of life. A Transformative Plan for Confirmation

Session 5: BREATH: Does a relationship with God matter?

- God created us through love. We are sustained by the love of God.
- God is a personal God, never ceasing to draw us closer to Him.
- The fullness of life is found in acknowledging God’s love and responding to it.

Session 6: BROKENHEARTED: Why is there evil and suffering in our world?

- When we live in a relationship with God, we come to know God's greatness and want to live our lives for Him.
- The problem of evil is a challenge to our faith and there is not a simple answer.
- There is no way to escape the reality of suffering. The difference between Christianity and all other world religions is that we worship a God who suffers with us and desires to bring good out of it.

Session 7: FAULT: Our goodness and the fall

- God created us for complete and total unity with Him. This is our original purpose.
- When man and woman chose knowledge over God's will, sin entered the world and took root. Sin has continued to poison, distort, and tempt human hearts over the centuries.
- We were created by God and, as a result, the desire for God is written on our hearts. God continually seeks to draw us closer to Him.

Session 8: PRODIGAL: Why believe in Jesus – the Incarnation

- The story of salvation is our story, just as our personal family history is our story, so we should make every effort to truly understand it.
 - God's heroes are ordinary people whose only claim to fame is that they trusted in and were faithful to Him.
- Jesus is the culmination of God's centuries-old plan and work. We have the opportunity to know, appreciate, and love this gift, or to forget and disregard the sacrifice of the one true God.

Session 9: MORE: Why believe in Jesus – the life of Christ

- Jesus' mission was to bring about the Kingdom of God. He did so by teaching, working miracles, and most importantly, forgiving sins.
- Jesus came for the meek: those questioning the existence of God, the sinners, the broken-hearted, the enslaved, the overlooked.
- Jesus asks us, "Who do you say that I am?" We must offer a response; our response determines our relationship with Him.

Session 10: NEW: Why believe in Jesus – Passion, Death, and Resurrection

- Jesus' death at Passover is a direct connection to the original Passover and Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Just as the Israelites were slaves, humanity was enslaved to sin and death.
- Jesus' death defeated the power of sin and death. By His blood on the cross, we are freed from slavery, just as the Passover lamb saved the Israelites from death.
- Christ's Resurrection proved that death had been defeated. Death no longer has power over us.

Session 11: FOUNDATION: Why be a part of the Catholic Church?

- Jesus intentionally established the Church and gave Peter special authority to govern, which he passed down to successors in order to guide and govern the Church with the aid of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church has been sent to all nations with the mission of making disciples. The Church exists to evangelize.
- The Church is the universal sacrament of salvation. Its purpose is to lead people to heaven.

Session 12: TOB Chapter 1: Created for Love

- Theology of the Body: YOU: Life, Love and the Theology of the Body

Begin class with 5 minutes of quiet prayer: begin with a prompt

2023-2024 Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

- A Parent Letter informing them about the implementation of Theology of the Body and Parent Summaries of each session are available here: diolc.org/tob

Session 13: TOB Chapter 2: Naked without Shame

Begin class with 5 minutes of quiet prayer: begin with a prompt

Session 14: TOB Chapter 3: Love Defined

Session 15: TOB Chapter 4: Hope and Redemption in Christ

- Begin with 10 min. of prayer: “Praying with Scripture” prayer worksheet: John 19:23-30
diolc.org/catechesis/catechist-training-resources-for-teaching/praying-with-scripture

Session 16: TOB Chapter 5: Truth and Freedom

Session 17: TOB Chapter 6: Free, Total, Faithful, Fruitful

Session 18: TOB Chapter 7: Language of the Body

- Begin class with 10 minutes of quiet prayer: begin with a prompt

Suggested Sessions to Include:

Advent

Session: Making a good Advent - “Praying with Scripture” prayer worksheet: Luke 1:26-38

Session: Penance Service

- Preparing for Christmas - “Praying with Scripture” prayer worksheet Luke 2:1-19
Download worksheet: diolc.org/catechesis/catechist-training-resources-for-teaching/praying-with-scripture

Ash Wednesday – February 14, 2024

Session: Stations of the Cross

Session: Penance Service

Easter: March 31, 2024

Session: Time of Adoration of the Risen Lord, “Praying with Scripture” John 20: 11-18

Purpose – Preparation for Confirmation

Year Two – 10th Grade

Session 1: TRANSFORMATION: The Gospel message and the Acts of the Apostles

- The Good News is not just a piece of interesting information; it is a message that the world changed through Jesus' death and Resurrection.
- This new reality was proclaimed boldly by the early Church thanks to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles at Pentecost and on every community who converted.
- The death and resurrection of Christ the final word for those who accepted the Good News. Nothing else mattered: not status, wealth, family, friends, suffering, or even death. The followers of Christ believed there was more to life in Christ.

Session 2: BURN: The Holy Spirit in the Catholic Church

- The personhood of the Holy Spirit is difficult to understand, but is revealed to us in Scripture, tradition, and through the prophets.
- The titles of the Holy Spirit give insight into His role in our lives and in the life of the Church.
- Looking at the Sacraments of Initiation, we learn that the Church cannot be separated from the workings of the Holy Spirit.

Session 3: TOB Chapter 1: Created for Love

- Theology of the Body: YOU: Life, Love and the Theology of the Body
Begin class with 5 minutes of quiet prayer: begin with a prompt
- A Parent Letter informing them about the implementation of Theology of the Body and Parent Summaries of each session are available here: diolc.org/tob

If YOU: Life, Love and the Theology of the Body was already taught in 9th Grade, for these next 7 sessions, teach the Gifts of the Holy Spirit available from the Diocesan Confirmation Program. Feel free to adjust the schedule to teach the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit closer to the time of reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The Supernatural Gift of **Knowledge** \ 9 min. Video clip – St. Patrick, living as a slave in harsh circumstances, receives the gift of knowledge. The Gift of Knowledge allows you to know that there is a space reserved within you solely for the Holy Spirit. No thing or person can fill this space. God created you for Himself alone. The supernatural Gift of Knowledge also gives you the capacity to see more deeply into human situations and understand what is happening.

Session 4: TOB Chapter 2: Naked without Shame

Begin class with 5 minutes of quiet prayer: begin with a prompt

The supernatural Gift of **Piety** \ short Video clip on St. Maria Goretti; she places her love for God ahead of everything. The Supernatural Gift of Piety is knowing and loving God, our Heavenly Father as a son or daughter truly would. As members of the Family of God, we are brothers and sisters in Christ and therefore we must treat each other with deep respect.

Session 5: TOB Chapter 3: Love Defined

The supernatural Gift of **Fortitude** – Courage \ 10 min. Video clip of St. Paul. Fortitude gives me the strength to be faithful to Christ even when it is difficult to do so. Fortitude is the gift

that gives me the courage to overcome the obstacles that would harm my relationship with Jesus.

Session 6: TOB Chapter 4: Hope and Redemption in Christ

- Begin with 10 min. of prayer: “Praying with Scripture” prayer worksheet: John 19:23-30
diolc.org/catechesis/catechist-training-resources-for-teaching/praying-with-scripture

The supernatural Gift of **Understanding** / 6 min. Video clip of the Scarlet and the Black. One of the functions of the supernatural Gift of Understanding is that it helps me to realize that sin separates me from this relationship with Jesus. For instance, when I break one of the Ten Commandments and my friendship is broken with Jesus, my heart is led to repentance and I seek to be reunited with Jesus in receiving the Sacrament of Confession.

Session 7: TOB Chapter 5: Truth and Freedom

The supernatural Gift of **Wisdom** 8 min. Video clip of Romero. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Gift of Wisdom inspires me to worship God and to love Him as my Heavenly Father. His love leads me to want to know and do what is right and good.

Session 8: TOB Chapter 6: Free, Total, Faithful, Fruitful

The supernatural Gift of **Fear of the Lord** / 10 min Video clip of Joan of Arc. The supernatural Gift of Fear of the Lord is a holy fear that fills us with a loving reverence towards God and helps us avoid anything that may displease Him.

Session 9: TOB Chapter 7: Language of the Body

- Begin class with 10 minutes of quiet prayer: begin with a prompt
The Supernatural Gift of **Right Counsel** / 8 min. Video clip of Mother Teresa. The Supernatural Gift of Right Counsel guides me to make correct decisions about God’s will for my life.

Session 10: SOURCE: The Mass and the Eucharist

- The Mass is often underappreciated but is the most perfect and beautiful celebration of our Catholic faith.
- The Last Supper was the first fruits of the Mass; it has been handed down over the centuries and has roots in Scripture.
- In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Christ literally becomes one with us by offering His body for us to consume.

Session 11: ENTER: The Sacrament of Baptism

- The water of Baptism literally washes away all of our sin, especially our original sin — that mark left on our souls, inherited from our first parents when they decided to turn their hearts away from God’s will.
- Baptism leaves an “indelible mark” on the soul. This means that through Baptism, a permanent change of the very essence of the individual takes place. Forever, in this life and in the next, the baptized soul is sealed with the mark of belonging to Christ.
- It is through Christ that we have life, and through our baptism that we are brought to new life by His death and Resurrection.

Session 12: SIGNATURE: The Sacrament of Confirmation

- Confirmation is the perfection of baptismal grace. We receive the Holy Spirit in a unique way, deepening the graces we received at baptism and calling us to participate in the apostolic mission of the Church.

2023-2024 Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

- The gift of the Holy Spirit received in the Sacrament of Confirmation is crucial to our lives because it is a relationship with the Holy Spirit that helps us to live out our Christian calling. Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit so we would continue to have access to Him
- In Confirmation, we are “sealed” with the Holy Spirit, giving us both an authority and responsibility within the Church.

Session 13: CALLED: Foundations of discipleship

- If we look at the example of the disciples, we see that we must first get to know Jesus by spending time with Him. It is through time spent with Him that the disciples learned His teachings and built an intimate friendship with Him, which allowed them to love and worship Him.
- The Church has given us the tools we need to live out our call to discipleship. We find our strength and courage in the Sacraments of Confirmation, Reconciliation, and the Eucharist.
- Jesus is calling each of us to be a disciple. By spending time in prayer, frequenting the sacraments, and using our gifts to glorify God, we can become the disciples we are called to be.

Session 14: POWER: The Holy Spirit in a life of discipleship

- By our baptism, we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Our relationship with the Holy Spirit grows through prayer, silence, the sacraments, and Scripture.
- The gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit are evidence of His work in our lives and are needed in our daily lives.

Session 15: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Presentation by Msgr. Joseph Hirsch on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on DVD (70 minutes) available from the Office of Cat. & Evangelization at diolc.org/catechesis/sacramental-prep/confirmation. Show 35 minutes followed by discussion
- Teaching on each gift available from the Office for Catechesis and Evangelization

Session 16: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit (continued)

- Presentation by Msgr. Joseph Hirsch on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on DVD (70 minutes) available from the Office of Cat. & Evangelization at diolc.org/catechesis/sacramental-prep/confirmation. Show 35 minutes followed by discussion
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Session 17: MEANING: Our vocation

- Catholics use the word “vocation” a lot, but many teens do not know what it actually means; it includes both universal and particular vocations.
- Each person has the same universal vocation: the call to holiness. We must respond to this vocation during every moment of our lives.
- Our particular vocation is a specific and individual vocation from God, a calling to live out His will for our lives. This includes the Sacrament of Marriage, the Sacrament of Holy Orders, and consecrated life.
- Teens should begin discerning their particular vocation by asking God what He wants for their lives and learning more about the different vocations within the Catholic Church.

Session 18: SPEAK: Witnesses of faith

- Confirmation calls us to be witnesses of faith and provides us with the graces to do so.
- Being a witness means being a martyr; martyrdom does not necessarily mean dying for the faith, but requires a willingness to sacrifice and suffer for truth.
- When learning how to become better witnesses, we should look to the examples of other members of the Church — particularly Mary and the saints.

Session 19: PATHWAY: Morality

- Morality is objective and defined by God alone. Since God created us, God knows the best path to our happiness. Jesus is the definitive revelation of God's moral teaching.
- The Church guards the teachings of Christ, including His moral teaching. The Church cannot change these teachings but is required to interpret them for our modern situation. The Church has the authority, given by Christ, to define morality.
- We live a moral life by growing in virtue and avoiding vice. When we become deficient or lack a particular virtue, we tend to engage in vice and fall into sin.

Session 20: UNITED: Social Justice

- Christ calls us to live out justice, a virtue that puts us in right relationship with God and one another.
- True justice starts by diving into sacramental graces and the power of prayer but does not end there.
- As we seek to bring justice to the world, we should follow the guidance of the Church not only in her teachings, but in her actions, too.

Session 21: NATIONS: Evangelization

- Evangelization is about spreading the good news that Jesus Christ has come into our world, has given each of us the chance to be reunited to God the Father, and has saved from our sins.
- The Church exists to evangelize; each of us, in our identity as Christians and members of the Church, share in this mission of evangelization given to us by Jesus Christ in the Great Commission.
- Our personal testimony, the way that God has worked in real and concrete ways in our lives, is the most powerful way that we can share the Gospel with the world and those we encounter.

Session 22: MY PURPOSE: Ongoing Relationship with the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, promised to be our advocate sent from the Father after Jesus ascended into heaven.
- The fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us as aids as we live fully alive in Christ and share Him with those we encounter.
- In the Spirit, we come to know our true identity as sons and daughters of the Father, called into new life in Christ.

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Session: Time of Adoration of the Risen Lord, "Praying with Scripture" John 20: 11-18

Session: The Fruits of the Holy Spirit by Bishop Robert Barron based on Galatians 5:22.

- Bishop Barron explains that seeing the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives is how we know we are on the right track. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1INutOGi09Q> (12 minutes) See also Luke 6:43-45. You can know what kind of person someone is by who they are and what they have done - the fruit of their life