

Class 9

1 Baptism and Conformation

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Baptism

Today we're going to specifically focus on The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

Sacraments are practices that were invented by Christ so that we could have some sort of physical interaction with God, something we as humans need, something that is in addition to the spiritual interaction we humans have with God.

God in his wisdom, knowing we are human and physical, gave us something physical that humans could experience and thereby have some physical interaction with God that helps us greatly to know him better.

He not only wants us to respond to him spiritually in our prayers but he wants us to physically interact with him and we do this with and in the sacraments.

Let's first look at Baptism where we physically experience water.

What does all this mean?

It means through Baptism and the sprinkling of the water we enter a new life, a life in God.

We have a very good example of how someone entered a new life through water.

Her name was Helen Keller.

2, 3, 4 Relate story of Helen Keller who had new life from the water over her hand.

Baptism does this for us. It gives us a new life in God.

We become members of his family of followers and more importantly his children.

As such we will live in his home where he has prepared a place for each of his children for all eternity.

5 Baptism is also a new spiritual life inviting God into our beings

The Sacraments of Initiation

Baptism is received at birth for most Catholic families, the beginning of a new life in Christ.

6. Jesus thought it was important to be baptized so we must follow his lead.

Why baptism? Ask God when you see him! I'm not sure I know why?

It was important enough to be Baptized that Jesus said, which we touched on earlier in this class, that unless you are reborn of water and the spirit, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

7. This is my sister Elizabeth.

Relate how she only lived 4 hours and the nurses taking care of her were thank God, Catholics, and knowing she would die baptized her in the hospital.

However..... relate what Dr. Jeffress said about the gospel accounts of Jesus taking care of the children before that reached the age of reason;

The age at which you first recognize the difference between right and wrong.

You know it is wrong to make fun of someone and ridicule them.

You know it is wrong to lie.

You know that it is wrong to steal.

You know it is wrong to worship anything but god.

You know it is wrong to use the Lord's name in vain.

You know it is wrong to not stop what you are doing once a week and spend time in Church at God's supper and honoring and praising him and taking his body into your body.

You know it is wrong not to read your religious education homework assignments since that is the task God has given you all at this point in your young lives.

8 We receive Holy Communion, as children so that we can receive Jesus as soon as we are at an age of understanding,

9 this is why we do not give Holy Communion to babies. We don't want babies drooling Jesus out of their mouths

Do you think this baby is ready to receive holy communion and appreciate what is happening when you do?

Relate how probably there are many people just go up and get a wafer and their minds are on other things.

Expand on the goodness of Communion.

This baby would not understand any of this mystical interaction between themselves and god so no communion for you...at this point in your life.

10 Confirmation is received at 8th or 9th grade since you are becoming adults and you understand the reason for confirmation in that you are becoming more mature and more deeply rooted in your faith and belief in god.

The key here is we are becoming adults and able to think on our own and are taking a more serious approach to our knowledge of God.

We want to learn more about God and draw closer to him.

11 this is why we do not give confirmation to second graders.

They come to class and just don't appreciate the importance or life significance of what is being taught to them so they just revert to their childish nature, which they cannot let go of, and take a cozy little nap during class time.

Confirmation is for young maturing adults, who can handle the responsibility of having the spirit of the living god live within them. Little children cannot do so.

This is why little children like in this picture are not ready for confirmation.

12 Adults who join the Catholic Church receive baptism, Holy Communion and confirmation at the same time during the Easter vigil

Mention Shawn, and how you were his sponsor.

All three, baptism, Holy Communion, confirmation are closely related

13 All three sacraments connect us more closely with our church community

Having a common experience with someone else brings you closer to that person.

Mention Bruce Smith and April 8th; how all 4 years we didn't like each other and senior year from April 8th to the end of or senior year in may we were good friends.

14 in these 3 sacraments we receive the Holy Spirit and his gifts

Read slide 14 and mention how god asks us to try him on this promise.

Mention good gifts from a father and why I'm asking for all my pet dogs to be with me in Heaven.

But, each of these three sacraments has a special effect

15 Baptism, beginning of a new life in Christ.
Read slide 15

You may ask how a child can think this to be so.

Mention the role of the parents to take care of the child and teach the child what God as a loving parent will do for us.

So, that as the child grows they realize their creator will continue in this care for their lives and then further care for them to a far greater degree, to help them on their way to his kingdom.

Mention the role of the god parents.

16 Confirmation strengthens us to live our lives with Christ, not with Christ in the far receding background of our life, but by our sides every single day and night

Always guiding us

Always protecting us.

Always supporting us.

Always growing us in knowledge and love of him.

Read slide 16

Loving God and being one of his followers is so much more than simply believing God exists and that is all you believe or do.

God said of people like this, when they die, who are you, I do not know you, go away.

This will be said to people who have faith in God but do not actively live out that faith by receiving the sacraments and going to mass every Sunday.

God has given us a means by which we can live out our faith and that is found in the sacraments and the beatitudes.

17 Holy Communion, nourishes us in our journey, like food nourishes our bodies, communion nourishes our souls.

You must have food for your body when you go on a long trip.

Did you ever experience that low feeling from being hungry, you need food.

Same for your soul, you need Holy Communion.

How does your soul feel when it's low?

Not interested in god. You ignore him.

Don't go to mass on Sunday. Don't do your homework.

Your life is a long spiritual trip and therefore you need food for your soul for a long spiritual trip.

After you have communion you feel spiritually strengthen.

Ever do something nice for someone? How did that make you feel?

Yes, you feel great. Mention extraordinary ministering.

A Short History of Baptism

Let's look now a little closer at Baptism by this short history of Baptism and baptism being associated with water.

18 The idea of Baptism begins in the Old Testament where god separates the waters from the land

Read slide 18. Talk about tectonic plates;

The geometry of Africa and North and South America.

19 But man was horrible, so horrible that God decided to destroy all the earth and all the men and women because they ignored him.

But Noah and his family did not ignore God and according to the story were probably the only people on the earth that paid attention to him.

This magnifies how small a number of people on the earth pay attention to god.

Look at the pews at mass on Sunday. We have enough "Catholics" in the Parrish to fill the pews at mass on Sunday but check out how crowded mass is next time you go.

Then compare how many people show up at Christmas and Easter. Where are these other people the rest of the year every Sunday.

God saves Noah and his family in the flood, this represents a new life for Noah and it is through the water he receives this new life.

20 Moses parts the red sea, entering a new life out of Egypt

The Jews were delivered from a life of slavery to a life of freedom through the water of the red sea.

21 Joshua crosses the Jordan River with the Jewish nation entering into a new life in the Promised Land

Only Joshua and Caleb were allowed to enter the promised land because they believe God would help them defeat the giants in the promised land.

The lesson here is if you see an opportunity given to you by God you better pray about it, realize it is from God and then act upon it, whatever God tells you to do.

All these events represent a new life, a saving of lives, all marked by water.

Water represents life, we cannot live without water and God emphasizes that we cannot live eternally without the water of Baptism.

Why, because God said so, that's why.

22 Nicodemus asked Jesus what must I do to be saved and Jesus said you cannot enter heaven unless you are baptized of water and the spirit

23 Jesus said to his apostles go and baptize all in my name and make them disciples.

Baptism is all over the gospels with apostles baptizing new believers, with no preparation for Baptism.

I hope you can see Baptism is extremely important to God.

Why, because it is and we have no need of any further explanation!

24 But later preparation is required, for adults and second graders who have reached the age of reason.

People going through this preparation are called catechumens.

25 This preparation requires Study, prayer, fasting and service to others, before being baptized

26 this preparation is done under the care of a sponsor. A sponsor must be a catholic who has been baptize, received Holy Communion and confirmation.

- ❖ For the adult catechumen this is done at the Easter vigil where this individual expresses a commitment to Christ, where Christ is asked to lead and guide and protect his or her life.
- ❖ An adult receives baptism, Holy Communion and confirmation for the first time at the Easter vigil.

27 Around the time of Emperor Constantine almost everyone became Christians and were taught about original sin so parents wanted babies baptized soon after birth.

Explain Constantine

The Effects of Baptism

Let's look at some of the effects of Baptism...Which are actuals effects, not just ideas floating around

28 When you are baptized you are welcomed into the Christian Community

Baptism is sort of an initiation but it is offered by Christ

29 Baptism is like being welcomed into a new school, baptism is a warm friendly (and wet) welcome by Christ into his church

30 We are welcomed into the church, not a social club, we are called and accepted into the church but with responsibilities:

- Prayer
- Obey our leaders
- Serve others
- We are to be living signs of Christ's kingdom

31 Baptism brings forgiveness of Sins

- ❖ Forgiveness of all sins, including original sin
- ❖ Baptism provides grace for resisting future sins and breaking out of sinful and harmful practices

32 with baptism we are born into a new life

- ❖ We just mentioned how Jesus told Nicodemus you cannot enter heaven unless you are reborn of water and the spirit!
- ❖ We leave the life stained by original sin and enter a new life not stained by original sin.
- ❖ Original sin, we cannot escape it except through baptism, we cannot live a life with Christ unless original sin, our propensity to sin, is removed.

33 Baptism is like a belly button, it cannot be removed and we cannot have a second belly button nor can you be baptized twice.

This is called a sacramental character and it marks in the spiritual world that you belong to Christ!

34 In Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit

- ❖ The spirit that inwardly teaches us the ways of god and importance of god's commandments
- ❖ This is why people steal, kill and rape because they do not have this inner spirit guiding them.

- ❖ It is at Confirmation that we again receive the Holy Spirit but in a more profound way, with a deeper relationship, to enable us to cope with the serious issues in life and where the spirit gives us new strength that we will need to combat these sins.

Necessary for Salvation

35 Baptism is the antidote for original sin allowing us to have the Holy Spirit and follow Christ.

I believe I am correct in saying this but the Holy Spirit cannot enter a person who has not been Baptized since they have not had original sin removed and have not been initiated into the family of god.

This is why you hear so many people saying so many ridiculous thing about life.

They do not have the guidance of the Holy Spirit and they say stupid things like it should be OK to kill a child in their mother's womb and it is OK for a man to marry a man and a woman to marry a woman.

Obviously this aspect of Baptism, removing original sin, is needed for salvation which allows us into heaven.

36 Baptism of blood or baptism of desire is received by anyone who has no possibility of being baptized

37 This also applies to Infants, who do not need baptism because they die before someone sees to it they are baptized.

My mom realized this but nevertheless took great comfort that my sister was indeed baptized hours or minutes before she died.

The Baptism Rite

38 The Baptism rite involves water being poured over the head or complete immersion of the entire body into water. With the pouring or the immersion the words "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy spirit, Amen" are said. This is the minimum for a baptism.

This was the rite given my sister in the hospital

39 The actual rite is more formal

- There is a formal welcome into the community during mass
- Parents, child and god parents are asked to reject Satan and all his works
- Parents, child and god parents are asked to proclaim belief in the trinity and the catholic church
- The water is then blessed
- Then the pouring of the water and then the words mentioned above

40 the child is anointed with oil, as a sign of receiving the Holy Spirit.

The child is also to have god parents in the event the natural parents are taken away and the child is orphaned.

God parents pledge to bring the child up in the Christian faith. It is an honor to be chosen as godparents for a child.

41 a white garment (symbolizing purity) is given to the child symbolizing putting on Christ

42 a candle is lit from the Easter candle symbolizing the baptized person now has the light of Christ within him or her

Normally a bishop, priest or deacon baptizes but if near death anyone can baptize a person

near death, which symbolizes all Christians share in the priesthood of Christ.....as was the situation for my sister.

43 The parents are given a baptismal certificate which is on file at the church where you were baptized.

So, go home today and ask your parents if you can see your baptismal certificate!

44 Confirmation

Think of the wind, you can't see it, but you can see its effects, you can hear it and you can feel it.

This is very much like the Holy Spirit and this is why the wind is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Ask, what do you think of when you think of wind?

45 Gentle cool breeze

46 Mighty hurricane or gale or tornado

47 Shape shoreline and rock formations

48 Wind can change the world we live in

49 Wind is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. This is the primary gift we receive in confirmation:

- The spirit can affect us powerfully like this tree. We can't avoid it.
- We can feel the spirit acting upon us and we can hear him speak to us.
- If you have ever ridden a bicycle or a motorcycle in a stiff wind you would know what it feels like to be affected and moved by the wind. The Holy Spirit moves us in a new direction in a similar

way, a way we can't see but definitely feel and hear.

50 The spirit can soothe our souls and bring us comfort in difficult times much like a gentle breeze

51 A vigorous breeze can empower us to do good things much like the Holy spirit can move us to do great things in the eyes of god....but, not necessarily in the eyes of other people.

In both of the above ways, soothing and powerful, does the Holy Spirit help us grow closer to the Lord.

52 Even when we feel very distant from him the spirit can slowly and gently bring us closer by reminding us how much he cares for us.

Remember we are his creation, unique creation, and he does not turn his back on what he has created.

53 Even when we are drawing closer to god the holy spirit will inspire us to do something every day to lead us even closer to god

- To pray to him in the morning ride to school.
- To pray to him before you close your eyes at night
- To thank him for your family and home, whatever that arrangement may be.
- To thank him for keeping you from harm
- To encourage you to ask for his help, in your school work or family life or social life.

- To encourage you to ask for healing when you are sick
- To ask him to watch over and protect the things that are valuable to you, like you pets

54 How close does god want us to be to him? He wants us to be one with him.

He wants us to live inside of him much like he lives inside of us through the Holy Spirit and Communion.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

55 We dwell on the Holy spirit in Confirmation even though the Father and Jesus both participate.

In confirmation we have a new life in the church and a new life in the Lord

Perhaps we'll feel more incline to go to mass and participate in the mass more fully.

Perhaps we'll feel more inclined to pray to god more often and at times throughout the day to be in touch with him

If you do not feel this way perhaps you did not receive the Holy Spirit because you really did not care.

He gave you a free will and will let you alone if you wish

But in my opinion you have to be a massive jerk to walk away from this magnificent help in life.

Confirmation is necessary for the completion of the baptismal grace which welcomed us into the body of Christ's followers

56 Like moving on in a soccer league or from JV to the varsity team **57**

If you want to move on in life and be a quality person who leads a moral life wouldn't you naturally want to move on and progress in life?

Or would you be content to stay where you are in your childhood and not move on and be a JV player all your life even when you are a grown adult?

If you answer that's OK with me to this question then good luck, you'll need it.

A Short History of Confirmation

Let's take a short look at the history of confirmation

58 In the Old Testament the spirit of the Lord came upon prophets to empower them to preach the goodness of the Lord to his people.

Remember before Jesus came there was no Bible or teachings of Christ and how god spoke to his people were through the prophets.

59 Jesus said the same of himself when he began his ministry

Jesus began his 3 year ministry in going to the temple and reading from the Old Testament scriptures where it predicted the coming of the messiah.

He finished reading and said to everyone," in this reading you have just heard the scriptures have been fulfilled", meaning he himself was this messiah.

How did they respond? They threw him out of town

This is where the Holy Spirit descended more strongly upon him than at Baptism

The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus at Baptism by welcoming him into the followers of God.

But at this reading in the synagogue the Holy Spirit descended upon him more fully, to be one with him and to empower him to begin and act out his ministry.

Like for us when we receive confirmation we will more fully act out our faith in God by the increased strength given to us by the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist said Jesus would baptize persons in the Holy Spirit and also...

60 Jesus would send the Holy Spirit to his apostles to comfort and guide them

The Roman and Jewish authorities would hate the apostles for the work of preaching they would do and the apostles realized they needed a special strength that only the Holy Spirit could provide

61 Today the Catholic Church emphasizes the communion of the fully initiated Christian with the Holy Spirit through the bishop or the descendant of the apostles, by anointing the person receiving confirmation with the chrism, perfumed oil that has been consecrated. Explain slide 18.

The Effects of Confirmation

62 A person's bond with the church is strengthened. Explain slide 62.

There are all kinds of different people in the church and you will be united with them in your love for God.

63 Person is enriched to overflowing with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Explain slide 63

You'll have this feeling of wanting to do more for and with God than the bare minimum.

You'll want to spend more time with him in prayer and contemplation.

64 Through Confirmation we are united more firmly with Christ.

There becomes an inner desire to live out our lives in unison with the commandments and the teachings of Jesus.

65 A person identifies more with Jesus and one begins to understand the significance and meaning of what Jesus said about life and to take his words very seriously and very joyfully.

This relationship with Jesus affects our relationship with our family, our friends and society in general

When faced with a decision we stop and ask ourselves what would Jesus do and we ask for his guidance through prayer.

66 Confirmation challenges you to have the world see you as a reflection of Jesus and for you to enjoy this life in so doing

Would a Christian participate in a parade or protest favoring abortion?

Would a Christian participate in a gay pride parade promoting the gay lifestyle? Expand.

67 Confirmation will cause us to want to have a deeper participation in the Church

- ❖ We receive a desire to participate in our church's masses and activities
- ❖ We are not afraid of what others think when we do so
- ❖ We actually enjoy worshipping with others
- ❖ To defend our church when it is put down and ridiculed

68 We will be strengthened to spread our faith even if it is with our closest family member or our closest friend.

This doesn't necessarily mean we go out on some street corner with a megaphone and broadcast our faith to the world.

We'll not be afraid to share our faith with others so that others may perhaps learn and benefit from us which will be the working of the Holy Spirit through us.

Indeed, this is how the lord works in our lives, by working through other people, having his people help him and do for him things like he has so often done for us. This is a wonderful thing, to be used of god to help someone.

69 As we've mentioned before we will receive gifts from the Holy Spirit

- Receive more deeply these gifts to bring us even closer to our lord
- Help us to live holy, happy and healthy lives
- Confirmation brings a sacramental character that always remains. Once you

are confirmed you cannot be confirmed again, no need

70 confirmed people have a better discernment as to what choices to make in life since they know they are guided by the Holy Spirit

- ❖ Discernment in the big things and little things
- ❖ What vocation to take
- ❖ What spouse to choose
- ❖ Whether or not to continue or discontinue a friendship
- ❖ Where to live
- ❖ How many children to have
- ❖ How to wisely spend your money
- ❖ Where to send your children to school
- ❖ How should I raise my children
- ❖ Millions of life decisions

Explain how you love this slide

71 The Confirmation Rite

72 to be confirmed requires one to be of the age of reason and to understand why you are being confirmed. Read slide 72 first.

You must be baptize and fully confirm the catholic faith

State of grace, with no mortal sins

You must want to be confirmed and stand up for your faith

May be confirmed with others who have been preparing for confirmation

73 At mass you process in and after the bishop's homily the actual rite begins

- ❖ You will renew baptismal vows
- ❖ You will be asked to reject satin

❖ You will be asked to profess your belief in the holy trinity and the church

74 Bishop extends his hand over you and recites a prayer that you will receive the Holy Spirit and that the holy spirit will descend upon you and remain with you forever as a helper and guide

75 After the prayer the candidates come forward and kneel or stand before the bishop with the candidates sponsor standing behind them with one hand on their shoulder.

The bishop then anoints the forehead of the candidate with the sacred chrism or oil and says “be sealed with the gift of the holy spirit”

76 Then the bishop may offer a handshake or a hug welcoming the person into full membership of the church

The words and the laying on of hands are essential symbols of the sacrament of confirmation

In confirmation you do not become an adult catholic, you become a fully initiated catholic with the in-living Holy Spirit guiding you appropriately according to your age and the need for guidance for your age

It is the true beginning of your life in Christ as a Christian!