

# Sharing Our Stories of Faith

## Baptism, the beginning...



Parents: Share with others in your group stories of Baptism, either your own or that of your child preparing to be confirmed. Hopes & dreams... What baptizing your child meant to you... God-given gifts you have seen in your child...

Candidates: Imagine your baptism...you might have seen pictures of that moment. How do you think your family felt about your baptism? What hopes and prayers did they have for you? What difference has being baptized made in your life?

One of the most common symbols of the Holy Spirit is a **dove**. It comes from the story of Jesus' baptism, when Jesus saw "the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him." (Mark 1:10) The other three Gospel writers use similar wording to describe the event (see [Matthew 3:16](#), [Luke 3:22](#), and [John 1:32](#)).

**Fire** is another popular representation of the Holy Spirit. The fire that appeared on Pentecost ([Acts of the Apostles 2:3](#)) was reminiscent of the burning bush on Mount Sinai from which God spoke to Moses. ([Exodus 3:2](#)) During the Exodus, the people of God were led by a pillar of fire at night. ([Exodus 13:21](#)) Fire calls attention to the strength and force of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is also represented by **wind**. In fact, the original Hebrew and Greek words for "Spirit" can be translated as "wind." The wind that appeared on Pentecost ([Acts of the Apostles 2:2](#)) was reminiscent of the wind that blew over the waters at the beginning of Creation. ([Genesis 1:2](#)) The wind calls attention to the Holy Spirit breathing life into the Church.

## Holy Ground, Holy Spirit....



Where is your most "holy ground" where you can be with God?

Which symbol do you most identify with? Dove, Fire, Breath?

As you prepare for Confirmation, ask the Holy Spirit for Guidance. Take time to pray. Even if prayer is just quiet time to "catch your breath".

## Community of Saints....



What saint are you choosing for your confirmation name?

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## Confirmation, a new beginning...



What is important or special to you about the Sacrament of Confirmation?

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire of your love.  
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.  
And you shall renew the face of the earth.**

**Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit  
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.  
In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always to  
rejoice in your consolation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
All: Amen.**