



Ten ways to Celebrate your Child's Confirmation

Your child's sacramental experience begins at home. Here are some ideas for enveloping your child in an atmosphere of faith and love as Confirmation day approaches. The suggestions are not just for parents. Aunts, uncles, grandparents, older siblings, godparents, neighbours and all who care for the children in their lives have an important role to play in passing on the great gift of faith.

1. Prayer plus!

Build a bonfire in the backyard (okay, a raging fire in the fireplace or a collection of candles may be more realistic) and sing Holy Spirit songs. Invite members of the family to lay hands on your child, praying for the Holy Spirit to come upon him/her.

2. Mealtime magic

Invite family members to toast the Confirmation candidate: "A toast to [name] because he/she brings [name the gift] to this family!"

Also, pray for the candidate when you say grace before meals.

Table topic: Take one gift of the Holy Spirit and ask each other: Who do we know that displays this gift? Identify the many gifts alive in the community.

3. Gifts galore

Arrange seven candles or tea-lights in a tray of sand. Each represents a gift of the Holy Spirit. Light one for each day leading up to the Confirmation ceremony. On the night after the ceremony, light all seven candles and rejoice in all these wonderful gifts!

4. Saints and heroes

Read bedtime stories about the saints and heroes of our religious ancestry. Or hire a video that depicts the life of an inspiring Spirit-filled person. Obtain a statue, picture or medal associated with your child's 'name' saint and place it at your family's sacred site.

5. Stories to inspire

At family prayer time, read a bible story about a young person who was called and sent by the Spirit; e.g., the prophet Jeremiah; Mary mother of Jesus.

6. Extended faith family

Fill your home with the gift of the body of Christ. Invite some wonderful people of faith to your home—family or friends who will take an interest in your child and his/her Confirmation. Perhaps you could team up with the family of another Confirmation candidate

7. Simply special

Shout your child to a special treat—an ice cream, an outing, a favourite meal. Keep material gifts in perspective. While generosity is certainly a sign of the Spirit, Confirmation is not just an excuse for presents!

8. Remember when...

Share Confirmation memories. What was Confirmation like for Grandma? Dad? Older sisters and brothers? Impart to your child a sense of family, faith family, Catholic tradition.

9. Sacred symbols

As a family, write a special prayer or blessing for the Confirmation candidate. Decorate, frame and present it as a gift. Let the symbol express the love ablaze in this home!

10. Mission moments

Encourage your child to undertake a mini-mission for the church; e.g., raise money for a charity, offer his/her services to the parish, reach out to a child on the fringes of the class, make a prayer commitment. The Holy Spirit moves with power through the young, so don't underestimate your child!

Come, Holy Spirit!

*Renew the hearts of your people.
Rekindle in us the fire of your love.*

Helpful Hint

If you don't already have one, establish a 'sacred site' in your home—a focal point for gathering, praying and displaying symbols of our Catholic faith. Your sacred site might be a small table or shelf displaying a bible, candle and crucifix. It can be suitably decorated during the year to mark special feast days, seasons and celebrations.

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